

Amir ibn Tufayl, The Great Arab Warrior Against Islam

Amir ibn Tufayl was born 57 years before the prophethood. He was 17 years older than the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). He was from amongst the great warriors and champions of the battlefield of the pre-Islamic, *Jahiliyya* era. He was also a very renowned poet and politician. The Arabs respected him very much and valued his advice and opinions.

In the battlefield, any army that he would lead would be led to victory and the enemies would be utterly defeated. He was also known to be openhanded and charitable. He would have a person announce in the marketplace of `Ukaz that:

IS THERE ANYONE WHO NEEDS A RIDE THAT WE SHOULD HELP HIM GET TO HIS DESTINATION?!

IS THERE ANY MAN WHO IS HUNGRY THAT WE SHOULD FEED HIM?!

IS THERE ANY PERSON IN FEAR THAT WE SHOULD GIVE HIM REFUGE AND SAFETY?

The Evil Qualities of this Warrior

Inspite of all the above qualities, Amir ibn Tufayl was not blessed with the bounty of Islam. Rather he became one of Islam's staunchest enemies and vowed enmity against the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

It has been mentioned in Sahih al-Bukhari that when Amir ibn Tufayl came to the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) with his partner in crime, Arbid ibn Qays, he haughtily walked to the Prophet sat in front of him with pride and arrogance and rudely said, "O Muhammad! What are you going to give me if I accept Islam?"

Amir was making a deal with the Prophet as if he wanted to do business, not accept Islam.

So the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) answered, "(If you accept Islam) you will get what the Muslims get and whatever is binding on them to give you will also have to give..."

So when Amir heard this statement it did not please him at all, so he asked again. "O Muhammad, will you make me the leader of the Muslims in your place after you die?"

The Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) answered: "This is not for me to decide. Rather, Allah Ta`ala grants authority to whom he wishes."

Amir made yet another deal and said: "Will you make me the ruler of the Bedouins and you remain the ruler of the city people?"

The Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "No."

So Amir said, "Then what are you going to give me?"

The Prophet said: "I will give you the reigns of the horses and you can be the champion of the battlefield in the path of Allah."

Amir rudely answered: "I am already the champion of the battlefield!!!"

In one narration Amir ibn Tufayl gave the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) three options:

- 1.) Give me control of the Bedouin land and you could have rulership over the city dwellers.
- 2.) I will become your Caliph after your pass away.
- 3.) If you do not agree to the above 2 options then I will join forces with the Ghatfan tribe fight you with a hundred thousand troops."

When the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) refused his arrogant offer he was furious and planned to kill the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).... *To be continued....*

