

Leaders of Islam

Three great, forgotten heroes

Part 1: Salah Al Deen Al Ayyubi

h.motala

Salah al Deen Yusuf Ibn Ayyub ibn Shadi, a Sunni Shafi, was born in Tikrit (modern-day Iraq). He was born in 1138/7 and was a great Sufi and poet. His family was most likely of Kurdish ancestry, and had originated from the city of Daween near Tiflis.

He was a brave and young man who fought endless battles and became his uncle's deputy from 1154-1174 at the tender age of 17. He was a pious and just leader who led a very ascetic life.

He took part in three different campaigns against Shias, became the Lieutenant of Egypt eventually took control of it. He became vizier of the Fatimid ruler and the Fatimid caliphate tasted death to his success in 1171, but Salah al din only gained control in 1174. His **main achievements were unity, success** at the battle of Hattin and the **recapturing** of Jerusalem.

Most important Madaris were Al salahiyah and Khanqah salahiya In Cairo and Jerusalem.

He was an extraordinarily merciful leader and all accept this his fair rule...

“ In contrast to the Frankish slaughter in 1099, Saladin showed mercy to the Christians in Jerusalem, allowing them to leave in safety for a ransom.

bbc.com

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“ Gradually his reputation grew as a generous and virtuous but firm ruler, devoid of pretence, licentiousness, and cruelty.

Britannica.com

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He protected Monks and other minorities in his caliphate. He ordered that they should be no interference in *Fiqh* between muftis and holy monks. He paid pension even to the non-Muslims. When the crusaders captured Jerusalem they killed all the Muslims (10,000)*. Yet he allowed for them to be ransomed for 10 Dinars for each man, 5 for each woman and 1 for each child with a 40 day grace period. But after that thousands who could not pay were excused, and all proceeds collected were distributed among the population not least among the army, jurists, Mashaikh, old, and masses, etc. Jerusalem was taken back on **2nd October 1187. (583) A. H.**