

Arab Rule in Pakistan

(A Historical Study of the Rashideen and Umayyad Eras)

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Abstract

In the aftermath of the advent of Islam, the Arabs emerged as “empire builders” and started expanding their state in every direction, from the Atlantic to the Indus and from the Caspian to the Nile. As they conquered Iranian Empire in the Caliphate of Hazrat Umar, their next target should have naturally been the land of Sindh (now called Pakistan) which was made by the Iranians as western boundary of their Empire. But it took decades to establish political hold of the Arabs in the Sindh.

The Arab conquerors stepped in the land of current Pakistan through the province of Sindh in 92 A.H., and established their first ever state, under the marvelous leadership of Muhammad bin Qasim, and, thus, a dream of the Arabs for the last few centuries for having a complete and direct contact between the Arab Caliphate and the sub-continent came true.(1)

The great warrior Muhammad bin Qasim and his regiment were not the first to tread on the land of Sindh and to make it their dwelling place, because the trade relations, by sea and land simultaneously, have been established between Arabia and India long ago. It is said that the Prophet Solomon used to get gold, silver, ivory and peacocks imported from “Sindh and Hind” (India). To facilitate their commercial enterprises they also established big colonies on ports and coastal cities. They usually stayed the Indian ports like the ports of Tez in Makran, Debul in

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Sindh, Thana, Khambait, Sobara and Jaihur in the region of Gujrat, and Kolam, Malibar and Raskumari in the Province of Madras. Thence they moved forward to the ports of Bengal and Indian islands and, then, to the port Cameroon in the region of Asaam till they reached their final destinations, the ports of China. The sea which has been a wide and long barrier between Arabia and India proved to be a connecting link also.(2)

The Arabian and European goods with which the Arab traders landed on the coasts of India generally comprised tanned leather, flour, Arabian dates and horses, Egyptian emerald and Iraqi wine. On their way back, they exported local products like clothes, ivory, swords, gold, silver, spices, sugar, rice, musk, coconut etc. to Arabia and even to Europe through Egypt and Syria.(3)

The link of the sub-continent to the land of Arabia was established by both the sea and land routes. The sea route consisted of two ways; the first way was through the Mediterranean which had, by then, come under the control of the Arabs. The second way was through Arabian (or Persian) Gulf. Most of the Arab traders used to export, by this way, their products to the beach-cities and sea ports of the sub-continent, and returned their homes by this very way.(4)

As to the land route, that was, in fact, three routes basically. The first route started from the region of Sindh to the city of Qandhar in Afghanistan and thence to Khurasan. The second route began from Sindh to the region of Makran in Baluchistan and thence to Iran and thence to the Arabian lands. The third route employed by the Arab trade caravans was that they moved from Iraq and reached Kirman in Iran. From there, they moved towards Makran and different parts of the interior Sindh.(5)

Early Arab Attempts to conquer the land of Pakistan

After the mergence of Islam in the Arab Peninsula, the map of the world changed within a span of years, and the trade relationships between the sub-continent and Arabia got a new impetus. During the years of the caliphates of Hazrat Abu Bakr (633-34 A.D.), the Arabs conquered Syria and Iraq, and in the reign of Hazrat Umar (634-45 A.D.), they penetrated into Iran

and occupied the Arabian Gulf which was a great Iranian trade hub as well as a harbour of trade-ships leaving for the sub-continent, China and Alexandria in Egypt. (6)

This geographical change not only encouraged the Arab Muslim to further strengthen their trade relations with the people of Sindh, but also caused the opening up of the political relations between the sub-continent (Pakistan) and Arabia which culminated, at last, in the conquest of Sindh by the Arabs.

So, since the year 15 A.H., some Arab commanders started attacking the sub-continent without obtaining the consent of Hazrat Umar. The maneuverings continued even in the reigns of Hazrat Usman and Hazrat Ali until they succeeded in capturing the Province of Makran in the south-west of Baluchistan.

Here below, we review all early attempts by the Arab armies to conquer the land of Sindh before their final victory in the year 92 A.H.

Early Arab raids on Sindh

Year 15 A.H.: This year saw the first Arab army attacking on the land of Pakistan under the command of Usman bin Abil aas Al-saqafi, the governor of Oman and Bahrain, in the reign of Hazrat Umar.

Governor Usman Al-Thaqafi deputed three units of his navy for the adventure. The first unit went, under the command of his brother Hakam bin abil Aas, to the city of Bharoaj in India, and reached its target. The second deployment which was under the leadership of his youngest brother Mugheera bin abil Aas, moved to the city of Debul near Karachi. But the commander Mugheera was killed by the army of “Chach” the king of Sindh at that time. The third unit was led by Usman himself which attacked the city of Thana in India and returned Oman safely. (7)

Interesting it is to note here that the whole campaign was accomplished without the permission of the Caliph Umar. That is why when it came to the notice of the Caliph, he rebuked Usman for his act of bravado.(8)

Year 23 A.H.: Seven years later, four Arab generals, namely Hakam al-Taghlibi, Shihab al-Mazni, Suhail bin Adi and Abdullah bin Utbah, again marched on Makran and captured it.

When they tried to enter the land of Sindh, they were stopped by a Hindu commander Raasil who resisted fearlessly on the bank of Indus River. After getting rid of Raasil, they planned to cross the river, but were called back again by the Caliph Umar.(9)

Year 29 A.H.: Another expedition was sent under the command of Hakeem bin Jablah by the Governor of Iraq to survey the land and people of Sindh as instructed by the Caliph Usman (24-35 A.H.). The fact finding mission achieved its objective successfully. (10)

Year 39 A.H.: During the Caliphate of Hazrat Ali, the Arabs had to face a big threat from the people of the city of Kalat in Baluchistan. A force of 1000 men was sent to quell the rebellion. The mission was completed successfully.(11)

Year 42 A.H.: The people of Kalat again started posing threats to the Arab state. A commander namely Haris Al-abdi along with his regiment was sent to tackle the problem. But he was killed and the Arab army had to retreat.

Year 44 A.H.: To avenge the killing of Haris al-Abdi, Muhallab bin Abi Sufrah was appointed new governor of Makran who severely attacked on Kalat and subdued the populace. He was the first Muslim general who had entered the sub-continent through the Pass of Khyber. His army is said to have reached the city of Bannu in the Province of Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa and the city of Lahore. (12)

Year 46 A.H.: The people of Kalat never ceased to be rebellious. They killed Abdullah bin Sawwar, the new governor of Makran, who came to fight them and repulsed the Arab army.(13)

Year 51 A.H.: The region of Kalat was rapidly going out of the hands of the Arab administration. A new governor, namely Rashid bin Amr Al-Hadeedi was appointed to renew the attack on Kalat. He kept on fighting for whole year. On his returning back to Makran in 53 A.H., he was killed by the Meds near the city of Sehvan Sharif in the province of Sindh. (14)

Year 56 A.H.: Now it was the turn of Sinan bin Salma to attack Kalat. But he, too, was killed. (15)

Year 59 A.H.: The eyes of the Viceroy of Iraq now fell on Munzir bin Jarood al-Abdi for the post of governor. After

encountering stiff resistance, the new governor was, at last, able to establish a regular cantonment in Kalat. Besides this, he conquered the cities of Buqan and Khuzdar in Baluchistan and annexed them. (16)

Year 75 A.H.: The moving of Hajjaj bin Yousuf up to the position of viceroy-ship of Iraq and Eastern Provinces happened to be turning point in the history of the region. It was he who had re-opened the issue of the Sindh after it had been put into cold storage in the reign of Abdul Malik bin Marwan (65-75 A.H.). Had there not been the threat of “ Allafi Brothers”- the enemies of the Umayyad Dynasty who had fled to the land of the Sindh, collected a band of supporters and got the protection of Raja Dahir-, Hajjaj would have left the issue of the Sindh un-attended. But he was determined to settle it once for all. He sent Saeed bin Aslam Al-kilabi to fight them, but they got him killed and started growing stronger and stronger, and, by the year 80 A.H., occupied the whole Province of Makran.(17)

Year 85 A.H.: For years Hajjaj had been burning with anger over the treacherous attitude of the “ Allafis”. At last, in 85 A.H., he deputed Majaah bin Misar to teach them the lesson. No sooner had he reached Makran than the enemies fled away and took refuge in the court of Raja Dahir.(18)

Year 90 A.H.: This year, the first direct naval attack on Debul from Iraq with a special army under the command of Abdullah Al-Sulami took place. (19) The apparent cause of the attack was the “incident of Debul” which so gravely affected the Arab Umayyad politics that Hajjaj had to conquer the whole province of the Sindh now called Pakistan. According to the Hindu historian K. S. Lal, “the king of Ceylon had sent to Hajjaj bin Yousaf Sakafi, the governor of the eastern provinces of the Caliphate, eight vessels filled with presents, Abyssinian slaves, pilgrims and the orphan daughters of some Muslim merchants who had died in his dominions, but the vessels were attacked and plundered by pirates off the coast of Sindh. Hajjaj sent a letter to Dahir demanding reparation, but Dahir replied that the pirates were beyond his control and he was powerless to punish them.”(20) Besides this, there are some facts which can not be ignored. They are:

* The lower strata of the Hindu society, like Jats and Medes, were hostile to the Hindu ruler because they suffered humiliation by their government. They had been forbidden to ride in saddles, wear fine clothes and to uncover the heads.

* The Bhuddists which formed the bulk of the population were “averse to fighting and were always eager to make submission to the invader without even a show of resistance.”

* The king of Sindh, Raja Dahir, was unpopular and was considered to be a usurper’s son because after the death of the last Shudra King, Sahasi, his throne was seized by Chach, the father of Dahir.(21)

The reaction of Hajjaj was that he sent his army to fight the culprits, but they were defeated and a lot of Arab warriors including their commander were killed. (22)

Year 91 A.H.: Hajjaj was not ready to digest the defeat so easily. Next year he sent another well-supported army under the command of Budail bin Tahfah Al-bajli, but, too, was severely punished by the son of Raja Dahir. The commander of the Arab army was mercilessly killed.(23)

An Organised Arab Conquest of the Area of Pakistan

Year 92 A.H.: The consecutive defeat of the Arab army at the hands of the Hindus shook the policy-making circles in the Umayyad administration. Hajjaj sent to the Caliph a detailed report of the events demanding permission for a full-fledged military operation to conquer the Sindh. Caliph Waleed bin Abdulmalik, after showing reluctance initially, approved the plan. So a huge army, with 6000 Syrian horse, 6000 men, a camel corps of 3000 and a baggage train of 1500 camel, was sent, under the command of Muhammad bin Qasim, a cousin and son-in-law of Hajjaj, to close the chapter of the turbulent Sindh for ever.(24)

An Overview of the Arab Strategy

The Arab military establishment exercised a marvelous multi-pronged strategy to occupy the land now called Pakistan. Before we move to the causes of the conquest, let us have quick look on the major two phases of the military operation.

A. The Arab Conquest on the Western Side of the Indus River:

Muhammad bin Qasim landed on Makran in 92 A.H. with a force of six thousand cavalry, another six thousand infantry and three thousand camels and started occupying the cities situated on the western bank of the Indus. (25)

The first major victory achieved was in 93 A.H. when the city of Debul was occupied after a protracted fighting and all the Arab prisoners including women were released.(26) Next came the turn of the city of now Hyderabad which was captured without any resistance. (27) The Arab army then advanced to the city of Sahvan Sharif which was subjugated after a complete siege of seven days.(28) Before crossing the River, the Arab Conquerors also took the cities of Boodhia and Bhakkar.(29)

B. The Arab conquest on the Eastern Side of the Indus River

The crossing of the Indus by the Arab army proved to be decisive step in the ensuing war between the Arab Muslims and the Hindus. Had Raja Dahir stopped the Arabs at the bank of the River, the situation would have been quite different. He let the Arab army cross the river easily which proved fatal not only for him but also for his kingdom. The Arabs made him the first victim of their onslaught. They besieged his city of Rawar for days and a bloody war continued between the armies till he was killed in the holy month of Ramazan, 93 A.H.(30)

After the death of Raja Dahir, all other citadels of the Sindhies, like Alwar, Brahmanabad, Harawar, Basmand and swandhri, were no more than a wall of sand. They all were occupied one by one in 94 A.H.(31)

The Arabs in Punjab

After the conquest of Alwar, headed with a huge army of fifty thousand men, towards the then capital of the Punjab, Multan. On his way, he had to subdue a number of other cities the most prominent of them was the city of Uch Sharif. At Multan, the Arab army had to counter a big Hindu force which fought bravely but succumbed to the strategical superiority of the Arabs who occupied the city. (32)

Ibn Qasim's Expedition to Kashmir

After establishing the writ of the Arab state in Multan, the Arab commander came to know that some Hindu princes

along with the Allafi Brothers had taken refuge in the region of Kashmir. As he was reaching near the border of Kashmir, he had to come back under the Caliph's order and was arrested and then sent back enchained to Iraq where he miserably died in a prison in 96 A.H.(33) Thus, one of the greatest generals of Arab-Islamic history fell prey to the palatial politics as the new Viceroy of Iraq under the new Caliph Sulaiman bin Abdul Malik (95-99 A.H.) was determined to replace all officers appointed by Hajjaj, a crony of the previous Caliph Walid bin Abdul Malik, with his own people.

Causes of the Arab Conquests

The speed with which the Arab forces penetrated into the territories of the Sindh, Punjab and Kashmir has left many historians of the sub-continent astonished. They tried their hard to find the causes which enabled them to conquer the area of Pakistan so fast and so easily.

After analyzing the events of the conquests, all the causes may be summarized into two major causes: first, the splendid strategy of the Arabs, and, second, the blatant operational blunders on the part of Raja Dahir and his men.

1. The Splendid Arab Strategy

For the conquest of the area of Pakistan, the Arabs adopted such an excellent strategy devoid of any militaristic fault as their enemies could not counter them. Let us discuss some major planks of the strategy:

A. Well-planned Victories

The conquest of the Sindh was not a sudden adventure in its nature. It was a planned operation precede by a series of border raids – since the time of Hazrat Umar up to the days of Walid bin Abdul Malik – which aimed at finding necessary information of the area along with acquiring sufficient experience of the hard job.

B.The Establishment of Makran as a Central Base

In contrast to the previous experiences, the Arab strategists have now made Makran in the south-west of Baluchistan as a central base for further maneuverings. The base was equipped with all facilities where army brigades from Basra,

Kufa and Syria were stationed. The level of preparation at the time of Hajjaj was so perfect that the provision of smallest things like sowing-needles and threads was not ignored. Similarly a method of courier system was devised whereby the communication from Sindh to Baghdad would reach within 7 days. Ibn Qasim was supposed to convey every move to Hajjaj and act according to the instructions received from him.(34)

C. Arming the Army with Modern Weaponry

The local Hindu army was no match for the Arab forces at armament. The Arabs, on one hand, were armed to the teeth. They, on the other, were also equipped with lethal as well as latest weapons like the catapult called “Aroos” which was operated by five hundred men. The Hindus had no answer for this.

D.The Courage and Endurance of the Arabs:

The Arab armies were imbued with the belief that they were fighting for the cause of Islam. This emotion filled them with valour, courage and endurance throughout their testing times. Suffice it is to give reference to the poor health and psychological conditions of the Arab forces at the eve of crossing the Indus River. They had to bear paucity of food, fodder and livestock for fifty days, but their resolve could not be shaken. Raja Dahir once had offered them peace in case they retreated, but the Arab commander refused to budge and said that he would not leave the land of the Sindh unless he sent the cut-off head of Dahir to Hajjaj in Iraq. V.D. Mahajan, a Hindu historian has rightly said:

“The spirit of adventure and fanaticism also helped them to win. They were inspired to fight harder as they felt that they were fighting for the cause of Islam”(35)

E. Penetration into the Ranks of the Enemy:

One of the main causes which sped up the Arab operation of the conquest was that they used to treat the peaceful local population very leniently and mercifully. Moreover, they got them appointed for various local jobs like policing and revenue-collection etc. It might, perhaps, be reason of Arab leniency that

the number of the Arab army at Multan had touched fifty thousand mark, but only tenth of it was the Arabs.(36)

1. Operational Blunders of Raja Dahir

Raja Dahir can not be absolved of the responsibility for the total defeat he along with his forces had to taste on the hands of the Arabs. He, defending his soil, committed military blunders prominent of them are:

- (a) On hearing the arrival of the Arab army at Makran, he did not come out to stop them there. He remained in his capital waiting for them to come. He had been deluding himself that he would crush them as he did with the previous invaders.
- (b) He let the Arab army cross the Indus freely ignoring the advice of the Allafi Brothers to stop them at any cost.

A Review of Post-Ibn Qasim Umayyad Era

After the removal and then death of Muhammad bin Qasim, the Arabs, though, kept on ruling the area now called Pakistan, but the majority of the governors appointed after Ibn Qasim could not achieve much, nor they could further expand the area of the Umayyad Caliphate. They, however, remained busy quelling the rebellions and riots caused by some Hindu war-lords who had fled away during Ibn Qasim era, but now returned and reoccupied some regions of the Sindh. All this tumbling and deterioration on the part of the Arabs was for two reasons, firstly, with the emergence of many an opposition parties of the Umayyad Dynasty, the political structure of the Arab state underwent prominent changes which diverted the attention of the strategists to some other activities, thus, the process of expansion came to a halt. Secondly, the tribal feuds between the Umayyad aristocracy contributed a lot in restricting the Arab forces only to the area captured during Ibn Qasim reign. Had there not been tribal clashes, the Arab army would have advanced further and further.

After Ibn Qasim demise till the end of Umayyad period in 132 A.H., there arrived ten governors from Iraq to oversee the administrative and political affairs of the region. Here below we

shed some detailed light on their periods of governorship to gauge the true nature of the control of this region.

In the Caliphate of Sulaiman bin Abdul Malik (95-99 A.H.)

(1) Yazeed Al-Saksaki (96-96 A.H.)

Yazeed bin Abi Kabsha Al-Saksaki was the first governor of this area appointed by Caliph Sulaiman. But he died just after eighteen days of his arrival at the Sindh. The solitary work to his credit was that he had arrested Ibn Qasim and sent him to Iraq.(37)

(2) Habib bin Muhallab (97-99 A.H.)

When Habib bin Muhallab bin Abi Sufrah, the brother of Yazeed bin Muhallab, the Viceroy of Iraq and Khurasan, joined his duties as the governor, he found the region in chaotic situation. The ex-rulers of the region had recovered from the early loss, taken some of their cities, like Alwar and Brahmanabad, back from the Arab and forced them to leave the place.

The new governor had to restart his efforts. He, though, re-conquered the city of Alwar, but could not reach Brahmanabad due to short of time, since he was removed, by the Caliph Umar bin Abdul Aziz, from service just after two years on accusation of being involved in the conspiracy against the Caliphate.(38)

In the Caliphate of Umar bin Abdul Aziz (99-101 A.H.)

(3) Amr bin Muslim Al-Bahli (99-101 A.H.)

Amr bin Muslim was the brother of the renowned Arab general, Qutaibah bin Muslim. His stint of governorship was distinctive by two ways, firstly, he, on account of his political sagacity, brought peace and stability to the region by curbing political cum military disturbances as well as re-conquering the lost area. Secondly, he, on the advice of Caliph Umar bin Abdul Aziz, invited many Hindu leaders and lords to accept Islam. His offer was positively received and a large number of the Hindu nobility including a son of Raja Dahir, Jasiah, embraced Islam. Amr bin Muslim, too, was removed, just after the death of Umar bin Abdul Aziz on political grounds.(39)

In the Caliphate of Yazeed bin Abdul Malik (101-105 A.H.)

(4) Hilal bin Ahwaz Al-Tamimi (101-105 A.H.)

Hilal bin Ahwaz has been governing the region for five peaceful years. Nothing noticeable of his era has been recorded except the brutalities he committed against Muhallab family which had run away to the region of Makran and become a threat for the state of the

Umayyads. It is reported that Hilal killed six brothers and a son of Yazeed bin Muhalab and arrested some other members of the family. In 106 A.H., Caliph Hisham bin Abdul Malik dismissed him.(40)

In the Caliphate of Hisham bin Abdul Malik (105-125 A.H.)

(5) The Governorship of Junaid Al-Murri (107-111 A.H.)

Junaid bin Abdul Rehman Al-Murri, whose governorship lasted only for four years, stepped on the land of this region with a vision to bring power and authority back to the Arabs as it was at the time of Muhammad bin Qasim. To achieve his objective, he planned military operations first against quasi-independent regions to bring them under the full Arab control and then against the new areas which had hitherto not recognized Arab authority. His military campaign against Brahmanabad, where a Muslim son of Raja Dahir, namely Prince Jaisia, was administering the affairs, has raised controversies. Al-Bladhuri, the writer of the book "Futuhul Buldan" is of the view that it was the apostasy of Jaisia which had compelled Junaid to launch a military campaign against him. The other view is that the Arab governor had, in fact, maltreated innocent Jaisia.

Dr. Al-Tirazi, however, thinks that the real cause of the fighting was trust deficit between the parties. It was Jaisia who started suspecting Junaid of planning to kill the former. That is why he did not let the Arab governor enter the city of Brahmanabad, whereas Junaid on his part suspected the Prince of abandoning the Arabs in their fight against the trouble-makers. So, the real cause was political not religious.(41)

The result of the battle was evident as the inferior had to be defeated. Prince Jaisia along with his brother was killed.

After establishing his hold in the interior Sindh, Junaid headed towards the State of Gujrat in India and occupied many cities there. "He was, writes Ijaz ul Haq Quddusi, "courageous and brave man. He, by his extra-ordinary skills, crushed the rebels, maintained the dignity of the government and expanded the areas of the Islamic State. In the time of Junaid the land up to Kashmir in north, the Rivers Bias and Ravi in east, the Arabian sea in west and Malwa in south was under his full control."(42) In 118 A.H., he was transferred to the Province of Khurasan.(43)

(6) Tamim bin Zaid Al-Utbi (111-112 A.H.)

The period of the governor Tamim, though, was very short, hardly one year, but he contributed a lot in losing much of the Arab pride and power in the region. He was greatly responsible for fanning

the flames of tribal differences between the Yemenites and Mozarites by siding with the former. Resultantly, the fabric of the government was threatened as the riots across the region had been erupted. At last, the governor had to sacrifice his life to pay the price for his inefficiency and weakness in 112 A.H.(44)

(7) Hakam bin Awanah Al-Kalbi (112-121 A.H.)

When Hakam reached the Sindh, the whole region was in chaos due to the mismanagement of the affairs by the previous governor. But he, during eight years of his governorship, brought the region right back on the track removing all the tribal animosities as well crushing the riots.

The credit of his success goes to two major initiatives he took. First, he appointed a son of Muhammad bin Qasim, namely Amr who was a great general and respected by the tribes, as his deputy and, thus, created a balance of power, since he himself was a Yemenite and his deputy was from Hijaz. Second, he built, in 113 A.H., a new garrison city, called Al-Mahfuza, on the eastern side of the Indus River and made it his capital. This was the first big city established by the Arabs on the land of Pakistan. (45)

(8) Amr bin Muhammad bin Qasim (121-125 A.H.)

After the death of Hakam bin Awanah, in the battle against the rebels, the son of Ibn Qasim, Amr, stepped into his shoes. In administering the local affairs, he took some very distinctive measures. One of them was to remodel the Arab forces on scientific lines. He was the first who felt the need for making a powerful central army as well as establishing a special commando force for extraordinary situations. His initiatives brought peace, though, for a temporary period. Another distinguished step was that he, following the pattern of the city of Al-Mahfuza, built, in 121 A.H., another cantonment city, namely Al-Mansoorah, on the western side of the Indus River and declared it as his new capital.

Despite the incessant efforts, Amr could not overcome tribal clashes and sectarian riots and, consequently, had to fall a prey to them. He committed suicide in 125 A.H. to escape the torture of Yazeed bin Irar, a new Yemenite governor appointed, in his place, by the Caliph Walid bin Yazeed.

In the Caliphate of Walid bin Yazeed (125-126 A.H.)

(9) Yazeed bin Irar Al-Kalkbi (125-127 A.H.)

As the Caliph Walid bin Yazeed sat on the throne, the Yemenite group took the helm of affairs. Mansoor bin Jahm Al-Kalbi became the new Viceroy of Iraq and he appointed his relative Yazeed

bin Irar as new governor of the Sindh. He remained on the seat for two years but could not contribute significantly.(46)

In the Caliphate of Marwan bin Muhammad (127-132 A.H.)

(10) Mansoor bin Jumhoor Al-Kalbi (129-132 A.H.)

Mansoor bin Jumhoor was the first governor of Sindh who rose in revolt against the Umayyad Caliphate. He was the viceroy of Iraq since the time of Caliph Walid bin Yazeed, but he, first, joined in an attempt to assassinate the Caliph and then was involved in a conspiracy of Sulaiman bin Hisham to overthrow Caliph Marwan. Failing to achieve his ulterior motives, he had no option but to run away to the land of Sindh where his relative Yazeed was ruling. While at Sindh, he conspired against the sitting governor and snatched his seat. He remained ruling the land of Sindh independently for three years. At last, he was killed by Musa bin Kab, the first Abbaside governor of the region, in 132 A.H.(47), and, thus, the Umayyad era in Sindh came to an end.

Fall of the Umayyads in Sindh

Though many factors are said to contribute to the demise of the Umayyad power in this region, ranging from lack of zeal, lethargic system of governance to palatial intrigues and bad socio-economic situations, but all these factors converge on one major factor, that is, tribal enmities and infighting between the Arabs. Mohan Gehani rightly observes: "In Sindh also, the infighting between different Arab groups was reflected. The initial power of Islam which wielded various tribes and clans speaking different languages into a formidable force was seen to be cracking at that point of time. Power became driving force instead of religion. All this was reflected in Sindh also and Sindh was witness to internecine wars of Arab".(48)

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