SANKORE'



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بسمْ اللَّه الرَّحْمَن الرّحيم وَصلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَي سَيِّدْنَا مُحَمَّد وعَلَى آله وَصَحْبه وَسَلَّمَ تَسليما

Chapter Twenty-Five

On Mentioning of the Battle of Mani

mong its events was that when we returned from seeking after our necessities, we regrouped and took mutual counsel regarding our affairs. Our opinions were in agreement that if possible, the army should make preparations to go out against the enemy forces at Mani. Consequently, the army set out until it dismounted at the waters near Matankara. At that time we received the news that a cavalry contingent from the enemy forces had made a raid upon the outlying areas of our land, in which they killed many and took captives. This attack took place not too far from our armies was camped, so we immediately set out following their tracks until their forces reached a place called Kawta. When they saw the Muslim armies, most of them fled heading in the direction of Makada. That same day our armies followed after them until we reached Makada, while their cavalry dismounted near a place called Karaari. The next morning our armies set out immediately to encounter the enemy; following the road until we reached Karaari where the enemy had gathered, so we sent out a reconnaissance team to scout their position.

The Muslim armies dismounted near the lake of Karaari and watered their horses and camels. During this time some of our cavalry and foot soldiers followed after the enemy until they caught up with them at the base of a mountain. The enemy forces launched a firm attack against the Muslims for about an hour where the hypocrite Thanba Kanbasha absconded on his charger. When the enemy forces saw Thanba fleeing, some of the cavalry of the idolaters became emboldened and directed their attack against our cavalry and foot soldiers. Consequently, they vanquished our forces and a large number of *Qur'an* reciters and righteous men from our *Jama`at* attained martyrdom. The remainder of our vanquished retreated until most of them reached the main army of the Muslims. Then the general of the Muslim army, Ali Jeddo, prepared the main forces and readied themselves for the enemy forces. They set out against them and fought them in small skirmishes defeating them until they reached the main battlefield. There the Muslim army drove them off scattering them from the battlefield.

Then our armies crossed the river to Mani and dismounted during the daylight hours, where they set up camp and divided the spoils of war. Due to these small victories over the enemy the Muslims were able to enjoy enlarged provisions. When the idolaters heard that the Muslim armies had crossed the river, they dispatched messengers to their ruler seeking reinforcements. As a result he sent all the men who remained in the towns as reinforcements. During these days when they were awaiting reinforcements, the Muslim army relaxed their vigilance. The enemy forces received innumerous reinforcements whose true number only Allah knew. The next morning

the enemy with their reinforcements launched an attack against our army causing us to retreat.

They followed our tracks and saw that we had moved from our original camp and were moving towards our land. When we set out, we divided our forces into three groups. One group was led by the hypocrite, Thanba, who led his forces in the direction of the south towards his land. The people of Aydar, whose forces were led by al-Faqih Aghaal, took their forces in the direction of the north heading towards his lands in Aydar. While the main Muslim army, led by the chief general, Ali Jeddo took the middle road heading towards Gudu. When the enemy forces reached our original camp, they then set out following the tracks of the main Muslim armies. They eventually caught up with the Muslim forces in the late morning where they launched an attack against us from three directions, from the south, the north and the west, up until the noon hours. However, their attacks caused no harm and the Muslim armies, led by Ali Jeddo, were able to prevent the enemy from having any successes. Each time the enemy forces would reach the Muslims, our foot soldiers, would plant their feet and fight bravely causing the enemy to be frustrated. The Muslims fought so well that the enemy forces turned back broken and disappointed. As a result our forces were able to journey in a state of security until they reached Gudu.



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