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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَي سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا

Chapter Eight

The Seven Hausa Kingdoms

Near the region of Katsina and Gobir there are seven kingdoms which are all inclusive of the seven following Hausa kingdoms: [1] Zamfara; [2] Kebbi; [3] Yauri; [4] Nupe; [5] Yoruba; [6] Gurma; and [7] Borgu. Over each kingdom there is an *Amir* like the others.

The Kingdom of Zamfara

As for the kingdom of **Zamfara**, the origin of its people, based upon what they claim, is that their father was originally from Katsina and their mother from Gobir. They embarked upon independent government after the disintegration of the political power of the kingdom of Kebbi. There emerged from among the people of Zamfara a leader named Yaqub ibn Babba, who sacked the lands of Kebbi. As a result he was able to take political control of most of the regions of Kebbi. He then rose up against Katsina and was able to take control of only some of its lands. Eventually the power of Zamfara became debilitated.

This resulted in the emergence of the ruler of Gobir, **Baaba Rai**, who rose against the kingdom of Zamfara and destroyed their lands. Consequently, his descendants ruled these regions for fifty years until this *jihad* of ours was established against them.

The Kingdom of Kebbi

As for the kingdom of **Kebbi**, their origin, based upon what they claim, is that their father was from Katsina while their mother was from Songhay. Kebbi is a land full of rivers, forestry and extensive deserts. Self-government issued for them during the time of Kanta. It is said that he was originally among the slaves of the Fulani.

He rose and overpowered the region, seizing control of its outlying remote regions as well as its administrative centers. It is said that he eventually took political control over the kingdoms of Katsina, Kano, Gobir, Zakzak, Ahir and parts of the Songhay kingdom. He also made military raids into the lands of Bornu. The reasons for these military raids against the lands of Bornu, based upon what has been reported, is that the governor of Bornu, **Mai Ali** sought the help of the governor of Ahir against the ruler of Kebbi. This was due to the severity of his authority over them. Consequently, **Mai Ali** rose up from Bornu and launched military expeditions. In these wars he journeyed through the roads of Suusibaa Koi until he traveled through northern Daura and Katsina and through the southern regions of Gobir. He eventually reached the lands of Kebbi and traveled until he came to the fortress called Surayma. There he encountered the ruler of Kebbi during the morning of the *Eid* where a severe battle took place between the two armies. The governor of Bornu routed the ruler of Kebbi and drove him towards the west. He then remained behind attempting to seize

the fortress, however this proved difficult for him. Consequently he ordered a retreat returning to his land. On the return trip, he traveled south until he reached the lands of Gandu. He took control of this land and continued the journey to his country.

The vanquished ruler of Kebbi, **Sultan Kanta**, then assembled a fresh army and followed in the footsteps of the army of Bornu until he reached a place called Anguru. There he encountered the Barabir who vanquished at least seven squadrons from his forces and seized much booty from them. He then retreated returning to his regions until he reached a place called Dugul, in the vicinity of Katsina. In this land there were a band of brigands who attacked his army fiercely until he was shot with an arrow. The sultan of Kebbi then ordered a retreat until they reached a place called Jirwu, where he died. His armies carried his body and buried him in his palace in his fortress in Surayma.

There were three regions under his sovereignty. The oldest being Gungu, then Surayma, then Leeka. The kingdom of Kebbi was well established. In fact, in the past, there could not be found a government greater in power than it. This was their history. There has not been seen the like of it in these lands. A full century passed since the destruction unleashed by the people of Bornu. Thus, the government of Kebbi remained for one hundred years after Kanta. And their power did not really weaken until there rose up against them the rulers of Gobir, (**Muhammad ibn Sharuuma**), the ruler of Ahir, (**Agaba ibn Muhammad al-Mubaarak**), and the governor of Zamfara. Each ruler seized control of the lands of Kebbi, which bordered his lands. The governor of Zamfara took political control of the greater part of the lands of Kebbi. It was he who seized the three regions of Kebbi as was mentioned previously.

The Kingdom of Yaura

As for the kingdom of **Yaura** it is a land full of mountains and deep valleys, and is located on the shores of the river, they call the Nile. The people who reside in this land among the Blacks are the uncivilized whose intellects are jaded. There eventually arose among them a just ruler known as **Suuta**, who directed them from disbelief to the religion of Islam and from rebellion to guidance. By reason of him the religion of Islam spread among them. This is what we found in the book of the **Professor Muhammad** the chief trusted advisor, who composed the book because of Suuta.

The Kingdom of Nupe

As for the kingdom of **Nupe** it is a land full of rivers, forestry, barren lands and on its southern and northern flank there are mountains. The people who inhabit this region are the uncivilized among the Blacks. It is said that they are originally from Katsina. It is true that they are a mixture of the people of Katsina, Zakzak, Kano and others as well. They speak a tongue different from the language of Hausa. The people of this land are excellent craftsmen and they possess amazing industry and admiral manufacturing capability. As a result the people of this land developed exquisite handcrafts and oddities.

The people of this land were originally an offshoot from the lands of the Rif. In by gone times they were ruled by a just ruler named **Jibril**. The religion of Islam became disseminated among them as a result of him. However, his people became distraught with him due to the depth of his commitment to the affairs of the religion and they deposed him. They then placed in authority over them those who would conform to them in their madness.

The Kingdom of Yoruba

As for the kingdom of **Yoruba** it is an extensive land, full of rivers, forestry, grasslands and mountains. Amazing narratives and strange tells are related about them. To their south are the ports of the ships of the above-mentioned European Christians. The people of the lands of Yoruba are from the remnants of the people of the **Banu Kan'an** who were the tribe of **Nimrod**. The reason for their dwelling in the west, based upon what has been narrated, is that **Yu`arab ibn Qahtan** drove them out from Iraq towards the west. They then journeyed between the lands of Egypt and Abyssinia until they reached the lands presently known as Yoruba. In every land in which they passed, they left behind a group of their people in that land. It is said that the indigenous Blacks who reside in the mountains (of Nuba) in this region is from them. Likewise are the people of Yauru from them. The people of this region resemble the people of Nupe. In their lands are imported this green bird which speaks. There are many strange and amazing stories about the people of this land. These were mentioned by **Muhammad ibn Massana**, the author of the *Tuhfat 'l-'Anbariyya*, in his book called *Azhaar 'r-Ribba Fi Akhbaar Yoruba*. *The people of this region capture (Muslim) freemen from our own lands and sell them to the above-mentioned European Christians. I mention this affair to you that you will not be among those who sell Muslims as slaves to those who seize them. This blameworthy situation of selling slaves to the European Christians has become prevalent in these lands.*

The Kingdom of Borgu

As for the kingdom of the **Borgu** it is a land of forestry and grasslands. The people who inhabit this region are among the uncultured among the Blacks. It is said that they originate from the slaves of the Fulani who were left on that side of the river when the main body of the Fulani crossed the river. They thus spread extensively in this land. These Blacks who are wild and rebellious have many sorcerers. It is said that the just ruler **Askiyya Muhammad**, when he took political control over these regions, he fought them, but was unable to gain any advantage over them. The war proved to be very difficult for him.

The Kingdom of Gurma

As for the kingdom of **Gurma** it is an extensive land, full of rivers, forestry, grasslands and mountains. The people of this region resemble the people of Borgu. They are renown for thievery and corruption. Their land is extremely spacious, more so than the country of Borgu. Bordering it is an extensive land called Musanu, full of forestry and rivers. The people who inhabit this region are among the uncultured among the Blacks. In there land are many gold mines.

