

Abû Bakr ؓ said, “When you leave a place do not cause the men difficulty in marching. Do not punish your men harshly. Consult them in every matter. Do not abandon justice and stay far from injustice and tyranny because no tyrant nation has ever obtained success nor been victorious over another nation. Act upon the Qurân’s dictate:

إِذَا لَقِيتُمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا زَحَفُوا زَحْفًا فَلَا تُوَلُّوهُمُ الْأَدْبَارَ وَمَنْ يُوَلِّهِمْ
يَوْمَئِذٍ دُبُرَهُ إِلَّا مُتَحَرِّفًا لِقِتَالٍ أَوْ مُتَحَيِّزًا إِلَىٰ فِئَةٍ فَقَدْ بَاءَ
بِغَضَبٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ

When you meet those who disbelieve in a battlefield, never turn your backs to them (i.e. flee). And whoever turns his back to them on such a day – unless it be a strategy of war, or a retreat to (his own) troops – has indeed drawn upon himself the wrath of Allâh... [8:16-17]

That is to say, when you encounter the army of Disbelievers then do not flee for whoever flees, loses the battle. When you have obtained victory do not slay any small children, old people, women or pre-adolescents. Do not approach the harvests of trees. Crops should not be burnt nor fruit trees cut. Do not slaughter any animal which is impermissible. Do not break any agreement which you make with the enemy and after peace do not tear up your treaties. Remember that you will also meet such people who have undertaken monasticism in their monasteries, thinking this to be for the sake of Allâh. Do not interfere with them for as long as as they choose this isolationism – do not destroy their monasteries and do not kill them.

You will also meet such a Satanic people who worship the Cross. They shave their heads in the middle to expose their skulls. Cut off their heads until they accept Islâm or pay Jizyah disgraced. Now I place you in Allâh’s hands, may He protect you.”

He then shook hands and embraced Yazîd ؓ and then shook hands with Rabî’ah ؓ saying, “Rabî’ah bin ‘Amir, show your bravery and intelligence in fighting the Romans. May Allâh fulfil all your desires and forgive us all.”