

## **Amr ibn al-Aas, the conqueror of Gaza and the rest of Palestine and Egypt**

He is Abu Abdullah Amr bin Al-Aas Al-Sahmi Al-Qurashi Al-Kanani. He was born in Mecca in the year 43 before the Hijra, which corresponds to the year 664 AD.

He is a companion and a military leader, one of the four leaders of the Islamic conquest of the Levant, the leader of the Islamic conquest of Egypt, and the first Muslim governor of Egypt after its conquest.

Amr was one of the masters of Quraish in pre-Islamic times. His father was Al-Aas bin Wael Al-Sahmi. He was a professional trader, and he used to travel with his trade to the Levant, Yemen, Egypt, and Abyssinia.

He converted to Islam in Abyssinia at the hands of the Negus in the eighth year of the Hijra.

He took a ship heading to Medina in order to convert to Islam. On the way, he met Khalid bin Al-Walid and Uthman bin Talha. The three entered Medina in the month of Safar in the year 8 AH, declaring their conversion to Islam. At that time, the Messenger, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said: ((Mecca has delivered to us pieces of its liver.))

After his conversion to Islam, the Prophet sent him in a troop to Dhat al-Salasil in Jumada al-Akhirah in the year 8 AH, and then in

another troop to demolish the idol of Suwa in Ramadan in the year 8 AH, after the conquest of Mecca.

**Abu Bakr** used him as a military commander in the Apostasy Wars, then directed him to conquer **Palestine** at the head of six or seven thousand fighters.

He participated with **Khaled bin Al-Walid** in the **Battle of Ajnadayn**, participated in the **Battle of Fahal** and the Siege of Damascus, and was at the head of the right in the **Battle of Yarmouk**. Then he conquered **Sebastia, Nablus, Lydda** and its environs, **Yabna, Emmaus, and Beit Jibreen**, then he descended south and conquered **Rafah and Ashkelon**.

He conquered **Gaza** during the reign of Abu Bakr, besieged **Caesarea**, and began the siege of **Jerusalem**. Then **Abu Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah** joined him, and he came under the leadership of Abu Ubaidah. When Abu Ubaida was injured in the plague of Emmaus, he was the emir of **the Levant**.

He asked Caliph **Omar bin Al-Khattab** to conquer **Egypt**, so he marched to it and conquered **Al-Arish**, until he reached **Al-Farma** (Port Said), then he marched to **Belbeis**, where he conquered it and asked Omar to send him supplies, so he sent him a squad led by **Al-Zubayr bin Al-Awwam**, and then they took control of **the Fayoum** region. He camped in **Ain Shams**, and the Battle of Ain Shams took

place. He besieged the **Babylon Fort** until he conquered it on Rabi' al-Akhir 21, 20 AH, and gave the people of Egypt safety. Then he went to conquer **Alexandria**, besieged it and concluded a peace agreement. The Byzantines left it on Muharram 1, 21 AH, and gave its people safety.

Amr became the first Muslim ruler of Egypt, established **the city of Fustat**, and built the first mosque in Egypt, known as the **Amro Ibn Al-Aas Mosque**.

He died, may Allah have mercy on him, on the night of Shawwal 1, 43 AH / 664 AD.

