

In The Name of Allaah, The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy.

The conquests of Alp Arslan [may Allaah have mercy upon him] angered Romanos Diogenes, the Emperor of the Romans, so he resolved to make a countermove to defend his empire. His forces engaged in skirmishes and many battles with the Seljuk forces, the most important of which was a battle in 463 AH. Imaam Ibn Katheer [may Allaah have mercy upon him] stated that at this battle the Roman king Romanos arrived with a great multitude and was well armed. He was accompanied by 35000 commanders, 200,000 knights, 35000 Franks, 15000 raiders who lived in Constantinople, 1000 excavators and diggers, 1000 clay workers, 400 wheeled carriages carrying shoes and nails, 1000 wheeled carriages with weapons, saddles, bow and arrows, catapults, and one of the catapults was prepared with several thousand (missiles) and accompanied by 200 men, and all who were determined to annihilate Islam and its people.

Sultan Alp Arslan [may Allaah have mercy upon him] - with his army of nearly 20000 - met Romanos at a place called Zahwa, on Wednesday, the fifth of Dhu al-Qi'dah, and he was afraid of the large number of Romans. So, the jurist Abu Nasr Muhammad Bin Abdil Malik Al-Bukharee [may Allaah have mercy upon him] indicated to him that the time for the encounter should be on Friday when the Khateebis are supplicating for the Mujahideen. When that time arrived, the two parties stood up for battle and faced each other; then the Sultan descended from his horse, performed Sujood to Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic] with his face slathered with soil, invoked and sought Allaah's help. Allaah granted victory to the Muslims and they killed many, and their king Romanos was captured.

When Romanos was summoned, Alp Arslan hit him three times with his hand and said, "If I was a captive in your hands, what would you do?" Romanos said, "Every ugly deed". Alp Arslan said to him, "What do you think of me?" He said, "Either you kill and humiliate me in your country, or you pardon, take a ransom and return me". He said, "I have not made any other firm decision other than to pardon and take ransom". Then he subtracted thousands from the ransom - five hundred thousand dinars. Romanos stood before Alp Arslan, exaltation and honored him. Alp Arslan gave him 10000 dinars to make preparations, released a group of commanders with him and sent an army with him to protect him until he reached his country.

The victory of Alp Arslan's [may Allaah have mercy upon him] army, which did not exceed fifteen thousand fighting men, against the army of Emperor Romanos, which reached over two hundred thousand, was a major event and a turning point in Islamic history. That is because it facilitated the weakening of the influence of the Romans in most regions of Asia Minor, which were the important areas that were the building blocks and pillars of the Byzantine Empire, and this gradually helped to eliminate the Byzantine state at the hands of the Ottomans.

(1)

**Read:**

**<https://www.abukhadeejah.com/are-we-in-a-period-similar-to-the->**

## **prophet-in-makkah-as-it-relates-to-fighting-jihad/**

**<https://www.abukhadeejah.com/weakness-in-the-ummah-jihad-of-evidence-and-speech-in-defense-of-islam/>**

**<https://salaficentre.com/2021/02/17/some-causes-of-weakness-in-the-presence-of-the-enemy-sound-knowledge-obedience-to-allaah-and-his-messenger-and-an-independent-defense-industry-needed-by-imaam-abdul-azeez-bin-baaz/>**

**<https://www.abukhadeejah.com/salafi-shaikh-fawzaan-on-jihaad-in-our-times-and-the-guidelines-of-jihaad-according-to-islam/>**

**<https://www.abukhadeejah.com/treaties-with-the-non-muslims-do-they-necessitate-allegiance/>**

**<https://www.abukhadeejah.com/the-life-of-the-muhammad-in-madinah-treaties-conquests-and-his-death/>**

---

**[Ref 1: An Except from Ad Dawlah Al-Uthmaaniyyah Awaamil An-Nuhood Wa Asbaab As-Suqoot 28-29. Slightly paraphrased]**