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THE ORIGINS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE
BEING A TRANSLATION FROM THE ARABIC
ACCOMPANIED WITH ANNOTATIONS
GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC NOTES OF THE
KITAB FUTUH AL-BULDAN

or

al-Imam abu-l 'Abbas Ahmad ibn-Jabir nl-Baladhuri

By

PHILIP KHURI HITTI, B. A.

On the permanent staff of the Syrian Protestant College, Beirut, Syria
Gustav Gottheil Lecturer in Columbia University

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Mu'awiyah besieges Kaisdriyah. Muhammad ibn-Sa'd from al-Wakidi: — When 'Umar ibn-al-Khattab made Mu'awiyah governor of Syria, the latter besieged Kaisariyah until he reduced it, the city having been under siege for seven years. Its conquest took place in Shauwal, year 19.

Muhammad ibn-Sa'd from 'Abdallah ibn-'Amir:— Mu'awiyah besieged Kaisariyah until he lost all hope of reducing it. Previous to this, the city had been besieged by 'Amr ibn-al-'Asi and his son. When Mu'awiyah at last took it by storm, he found in it 700,000 [sic!] soldiers with fixed stipends, 30,000 Samaritans and 20,000 Jews. He found in the city 300 markets, all in good shape. It was guarded every night by 100,000 men stationed on its wall. The city was reduced in the following way:—A Jew named Yusuf came to the Moslems at night and pointed out to them a road through a tunnel the water in which would reach a man's waist; in consideration for which information, safety was guaranteed him and his relatives. Mu'awiyah sanctioned the conditions [made to Yusuf] and the Moslems entered the city by night, calling "Allah is great!"

(p. 244) CHAPTER XIV

THE SAMARITANS

The terms made by abu-'Ubaidah. Hisham ibn-'Ammar from Safwan ibn-'Amr: — Abu-'Ubaidah ibn-al-Jarrah made terms with the Samaritans in the provinces of the Jordan and Palestine, who acted as spies and guides for the Moslems, stipulating that they pay tax on their persons but nothing on their lands. When Yazid ibn-Mu'awiyah, however, assumed power he assessed kharaj on their lands.

The tax imposed by Yazid. I was informed by certain men well versed in the conditions of the Jordan and Palestine that Yazid ibn-Mu'awiyah assessed kharaj on the lands of the Samaritans in the Jordan, and levied on every man two dinars as poll-tax. He also assessed kharaj on their lands in Palestine and levied five dinars on every man.

Sects. The Samaritans are Jews and are divided into two classes, one is called ad-Dustan [Dositheans] and the other al-Kushan.¹

Their lands become crown-land. There was in Palestine in the early part of the caliphate of ar-Rashid a devastating plague which in some cases would attack all the members of a household. As a result, their land was rendered waste and useless. Ar-Rashid put it in charge of some who cultivated it and [by gifts] attracted the farmers and tenants into it, thus making it crown domains. In these places the (p. 245) Samaritans lived. One of those villages called BaitMama, which lay in the district of Nabulus and whose inhabitants were Samaritans, made a complaint in the year 246 to the effect that they were poor and unable to pay the five-dinar kharaj, upon which al-Mutawakkil gave orders that it be reduced again to three.

Mu'awiyah spares the hostages. Hisham ibn-'Ammar from Safwan ibn-'Amr and Sa'id ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz:— The Greeks made peace with Mu'awiyah with the stipulation that he pay them a certain sum of money. Mu'awiyah took hostages from them and held them in Ba'labakk. The Greeks proved perfidious to Mu'awiyah, but still the Moslems did not consider it legal to put the hostages in their hands to death; and so they set them free, saying, "Loyalty against perfidy is better than perfidy against perfidy." According to Hisham, al-Auza'i, among other authorities, maintains the same view.

Comments on this section from the Editor of theSamaritanUpdate.com

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¹ Cf. Al-Makrizi, *al-Khitat*, vol. iv, p. 371; *The Jewish Encyclopaedia*, s. v. "Samaritans"; J. A. Montgomery, *History of Samaritans*, p. 253seq.; De Sacy, *Chrestom.* vol. i. pp. 305, 341-344.