SAMPLE

Tabuk: The Last March

The Expedition of Hardship — The Muster, the Excuses, the Bargain, and the Three Who Told the Truth

Aira Aurora

Free sample: Introduction & Chapter 1

putrabooks.github.io

Buy the full book:

Carousell carousell.sg/p/tabuk-the-last-march-1465889420

Gumroad

Ko-fi

ElevenReader

Payhip

Contents

Disclaimer

Introduction: The March That Audited an Ummah

Chapter 1: The Setting — The Frontier and the Heat

Chapter 2: "Go Forth, Light and Heavy" — The Muster's Theology

Chapter 3: The Excuse-Files — The Leaves and the Liars

Chapter 4: The Slandered Volunteers — The Two Date-Baskets

Chapter 5: The Forerunners' Rank — 9:100's Highest File

Chapter 6: The Bargain — 9:111

Chapter 7: The Three Left Behind — The Boycott and the Repentance

Chapter 8: Masjid al-Dirar — The Harm-Mosque

Chapter 9: The Mockers' File

Chapter 10: The Funeral at the Grave's Edge — 9:80

Chapter 11: The Sad Ones Who Wept — The Seven Without Mounts

Chapter 12: The Legacy — The Last March's Charter

Chapter 13: The Hour of Difficulty — The Mercy-File of the Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions

Glossary

This free sample contains the Introduction and Chapter 1. The complete book contains the full contents above.

Introduction: The March That Audited an Ummah

Tabuk — the expedition of hardship (the tradition's own name: jaysh al-'usrah) — was the Prophet's last march: the long trek to the Byzantine frontier in the summer's heat, ~9 AH, with the harvest ripe in the palms and the hypocrites' quarter calculating in Madinah's shade. The Quran answered the march with Surah At-Tawbah's central passage (9:38-127): the muster-theology ("go forth, light and heavy" — 9:41), the excuse-files audited, the volunteers slandered and defended, the forerunners ranked (9:100), the bargain struck (9:111), the three truth-tellers boycotted and forgiven (9:118), the harm-mosque refused (9:107-110), and the stayers commissioned (9:122).

The event is unique among the campaigns: the fighting never came (the frontier's armies never engaged; the treaties were made and the march returned), and the campaign's real battlefield was the community's own heart — the muster as the ummah's audit: who marched, who wept at staying, who lied to stay, and who built a mosque to avoid the march at all. The Book's file on Tabuk is therefore the mobilization's eternal psychology: the economics of the volunteer, the anatomy of the excuse, the rank of the forerunner, and the patience of the truth-teller.

This book reads the passage and the event (the tradition labeled throughout, by the series' method) in twelve chapters: the setting (1), the muster (2), the excuse-files (3), the slandered volunteers (4), the forerunners (5), the bargain (6), the three (7), the harm-mosque (8), the mockers (9), the funeral's edge (10), the weeping stayers (11), and the legacy (12) — extended by three closing-registers at the file's end.

Chapter 1: The Setting — The Frontier and the Heat

The tradition preserves the march's frame (the biography-files): the reports of the Byzantine empire's massing at the northern frontier (the tradition's account: the vassal allies already moving through the Syrian borderlands, the rumored muster of the empire's armies), and the Prophet's decision — against the season, against the distance, and against the era's custom of announcing no destination — to march north with the whole community. The stakes were the ummah's north: the frontier's tribes (the tradition's files: the Ghassanid allies and the empire's Arab vassals) were the hostile bloc the treaty-map had never settled, and Tabuk — the garrison-town half-way to Syria — was the demonstration's stage.

The march's numbers the tradition records: the largest army the Prophet led (the files: thirty thousand's frame — the whole ummah's mobilization against the precedent campaigns' hundreds), the season's hardship (the summer's heat, the harvest's week — the palms ripe and the march leaving the dates on the trees), and the provision's scarcity (the tradition's details: the shared mounts, the borrowed dates, the army of "two and two on one camel" — the tradition's image of the hardship the Book itself names: "no year of drought" the tradition's note on the era's economy).

The Quran's own account of the season is the surah's central block: "O you who believe, what is with you that when it is said to you: go forth in the cause of Allah, you cling heavily to the earth? Are you content with the life of this world over the hereafter? But the enjoyment of this world compared to the hereafter is nothing but a little" (9:38) — the march's whole temptation named at the verse's center: the earth's clinging (the harvest's week: the dates, the shade, the trade) priced against the hereafter's account. And the geography's verse: "go forth, light and heavy, and strive with your wealth and your lives in the cause of Allah; that is better for you, if you knew" (9:41) — the mobilization's universality (the light and the heavy: the poor and the rich, the mounted and the walking, none excused by the economics of the march).

The setting's facts hold the event's meaning: the march that never fought was the ummah's mirror — the frontier's threat summoned the community to the road, and the road sorted the hearts with a precision no battle ever matched. The chapters that follow read the sorting's files: the marched and the wept, the lied and the slandered, the forerunners and the three — Tabuk's whole campaign fought on the terrain of the intention, and the Book's passage is the campaign's complete after-action report.

The march's hardship earned the tradition's own title (the jaysh al-'usrah — the expedition of hardship), and the Quran's neighboring chapter names the era's economy: "the year of drought" (the tradition's setting of 9:28's frame — the surah's own season: the late-9th year's scarcity), and the scholars' note on the timing's pedagogy: the Owner chose the hardest season for the largest muster — the test's own calibration (the easy march tests the legs; the hard march tests the ledger of the heart), and the Book's own commentary on the season's temptation: 9:38's earth-cling is the harvest-week's own photograph — the dates on the trees worth the season's whole year, and the command's price named at the exact week of the maximum cost.

The tradition records the march's own novelty: the Prophet announced the destination (against the custom of the undisclosed march — the tradition's file: "this time we face a great force" the era's calculus of the informed muster: the hardship-season demanded the informed consent, and the era's spies would inform anyway) — and the announcement's honesty worked the audit's own exposure: the hypocrites' quarter could not claim the surprise (the liars had to lie against the known facts), and the marched signed the known contract (the frontier, the empire, the heat — all disclosed at the door). The scholars' standing note on the informed muster: the Tabuk-model is the standing charter for every community's hard call — the leader's own disclosure (the cost named at the outset) as the respect's own form, and the follower's own choice made at the informed table, not at the tricked one.

End of free sample. The full book is available at putrabooks.github.io

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Aira Aurora is an independent researcher and writer specializing in Quranic studies. Her work focuses on close reading of the Quranic text, exploring its themes, narratives, and moral framework with attention to both the original Arabic and the broader human context.

The NurOne master series is her primary project -- a multi-sub-series exploration of the Quran covering prophets, people, places, events, lessons, commands, signs, the unseen, the hereafter, and everyday life. Each book is a close reading of the Quranic verses on a specific topic, presented in clear, accessible language.

Her work is published under the pen name Aira Aurora.

Read the rest

TABUK: THE LAST MARCH

The full book continues past this sample.

Get it here:
https://ko-fi.com/s/9ec411dd1e

Pay what you want, S$1.90 or more. No account needed. Instant PDF + EPUB.