

## Ghazāli Joins Forces with Solṭān Solaymān to Fight Nur ‘Ali Khalifeh, Who is Killed by the Anatolians

Ghazāli set off with Solṭān Solaymān and the Anatolian army and headed toward Ādharbāyjān. A spy brought this news to Nur ‘Ali Khalifeh. Nur ‘Ali Khalifeh selected a hundred men and appointed Ṣufiyān Khalifeh as his lieutenant and deputy and said to him, “I pledge my daughter to you; if I am killed or captured in this battle, be a manly successor to me.” Then he drew up his last will and testament, gathered his men, and set off.

They had been on the road for twenty days when they encountered Ghazāli and Solṭān Solaymān. A great battle broke out. Ghazāli was astonished, saying, “I have never yet seen anyone as manly as these Qezelbāsh!”

During the fighting, Nur ‘Ali Khalifa’s horse stumbled. Some Anatolian came up and dealt him a mortal wound, and he fell writhing from his horse. Ghazāli ran up and killed that man, then took Nur ‘Ali’s head and cradled it in his lap. “Gallant hero,” he said, “tell me whatever you desire or wish, and I will grant it with a grateful heart.”

Nur ‘Ali Khalifeh said, “I longed to do battle with you; praise be to God that I have been martyred, but a hundred times alas! that I will bring my wish to the grave without witnessing your battle with the Perfect Guide. As my last request, I ask you not to enter this citadel, and if the Anatolian army brings you there, not to fight the inhabitants, but to let them leave the citadel and go to His Majesty.” Ghazāli agreed to this. Then Nur ‘Ali Khalifeh surrendered his pure soul to God. Ghazāli was most sorrowful as he ordered Khalifeh’s men to take his body back to Ādharbāyjān.

Then Farhād Pāshā said, “We must now take the citadel and retrieve the treasuries of Solṭān Salim that Nur ‘Ali Khalifeh had seized.”

“Nur ‘Ali was a chivalrous man,” replied Ghazāli, “and he entrusted me with a last wish, to which I agreed, that I would leave his people alone and not attack their fortress. Even if there are a hundred treasuries in his fortress, I am leaving this place. Besides, the Qezelbāsh have sworn that Nur ‘Ali Khalifeh sent the treasuries on to Shāh Esmā‘il, and that none remain inside the citadel.”

Ghazāli then left for Āmāsyeh, whence he sent this news on to Solṭān Salim. When Solṭān Salim was informed that Nur ‘Ali Khalifeh had been killed, he felt reassured about the invasion of Iran, so he again commanded Solṭān Solaymān and Ghazāli to take fifty thousand men and march to Diyārbakr, saying that he himself would follow behind them.