HEROES OF ISLAM • SERIES 19

Alp Arslan

"If Allāh should aid you, no one can overcome you; but if He should forsake you, who is there that can aid you after Him? And upon Allāh let the believers rely."

— Surah Ali 'Imran 3:160

On a Friday in 463 AH, on the plain of Manzikert, Sultan Alp Arslan put on white garments and said: "If I am killed, this is my shroud." By evening the Byzantine emperor was his captive — and he pardoned him. This book tells of the rise of the Seljuks, the Nizamiyya madrasas, the Battle of Manzikert that opened the gates of Anatolia, and his end after a moment of pride in his strength. The exaggerated army figures are treated honestly; every lesson rests on the Qur'an and authentic Hadith.

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