

المرحلة الثالثة

النص 1

الجزء 1

Baghdad in Islamic History

In 634 CE., the newly- created Muslim Empire expanded into the region of Iraq, which at the time was part of the Persian Empire. Muslim Armies, under the command of Khalid ibn Waleed, moved into the region and defeated the Persians. They offered the mostly-Christian residents two choices: embrace Islam or pay a jizyah tax to be protected by the new government and excluded from military service.

The caliph Omar ibn Al-Khattab ordered the foundation of two cities to protect the new territory: Kufah

(the new capital of the region) and Basrah (the new port city).

Baghdad only came into importance in later years.

The city's roots date back to ancient Babylon, a settlement as far back as 1800 BCE. However, its fame as a center for commerce and scholarship began in the 8th century CE.

Meaning of the Name "Baghdad"

The origin of the name "Baghdad" is under some dispute. Some say it comes from an Aramaic phrase that means "sheep enclosure". Others contend that the word comes from ancient Persian: "bagh" meaning God, and "dad" meaning gift: "The gift of God". During at least one point in history, it certainly seemed so.