

## Berbers of Tunisia embrace Islam after Companion speaks to animals

Explained by

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Summary translation

As for the story of ‘Uqbah ibn Nāfi’; authors have mentioned that when the Muslims entered Africa; and they were many companions and Muslims with them. He (‘Uqbah ibn Nāfi’) admonished them with the commands of the Quran and its prohibitions. They wanted to choose a place to build a community so the locals who had embraced Islam would have a safe place to reside. Because the indigenous Muslims that remained amongst their people were harmed and thus they would return to their previous religion. Thus he wanted to establish a community where the indigenous Muslims could remain upon Islam and they could spread the religion of Islam.

‘Uqbah ibn Nāfi’ found a plateau that was suitable for this purpose. The people of Tunisia said to him: “That place is filled with snakes, scorpions, wild animals, jungle and trees which make it uninhabitable”.

When the sun rose ‘Uqbah ibn Nāfi’ proceeded to this plateau. The Muslims were with him, and the Berbers came along. There were a large number of people with him. When he reached the plateau he stood and began to deliver a sermon. He said: “O beast of prey O snakes leave us; for indeed we are from the companions of the Messenger of Allah--may Allah exalt his rank, and indeed we are going to settle here. Those of you we see here after today, we are going to kill.”

He did not complete his speech, before they saw the beast of prey carrying their young, and the snakes carrying their young on their backs.

Over twenty thousand people who witnessed this embraced Islam. They cut the trees and took residence on this land. This was in the city of Kairouan.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee