

Muhammad ibn al-Qasim

Muhammad bin Qasim al-Thaqafi ([Arabic](#): محمد بن قاسم) was an [Arab](#) general of the [Islamic Umayyad Caliphate](#) who attacked the [Sindh](#) and [Punjab](#) regions along the [Indus River](#) (now a part of [Pakistan](#)). The conquest of [Sindh](#) and [Punjab](#) began the [Islamic](#) era in [South Asia](#) and continues to lend the Sindh province of [Pakistan](#) the name *Baab-e-Islam* (The Gateway of Islam). Muhammad bin Qasim defeated Raja Dahir, the last [Hindu](#) king of [Sindh](#) and killed him at the banks of the Indus River in Sindh near modern day [Nawabshah](#). Dahir's body was beheaded and his head was sent to [Baghdad](#) to be shown to the Umayyad governor of Baghdad, Al-Hajjaj ibn Yusuf. After defeating Raja Dahir, Muhammad bin Qasim conquered and annexed [Sindh](#) and the city of [Multan](#) in southern [Punjab](#) into the [Umayyad Caliphate](#). Thus, he had captured the entire Sindh and also [Multan](#). Sindh and South [Punjab](#) became the easternmost provinces of the [Umayyad Caliphate](#) and remained in Arab Muslim hands until the conquests of [Mahmud of Ghazni](#).

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