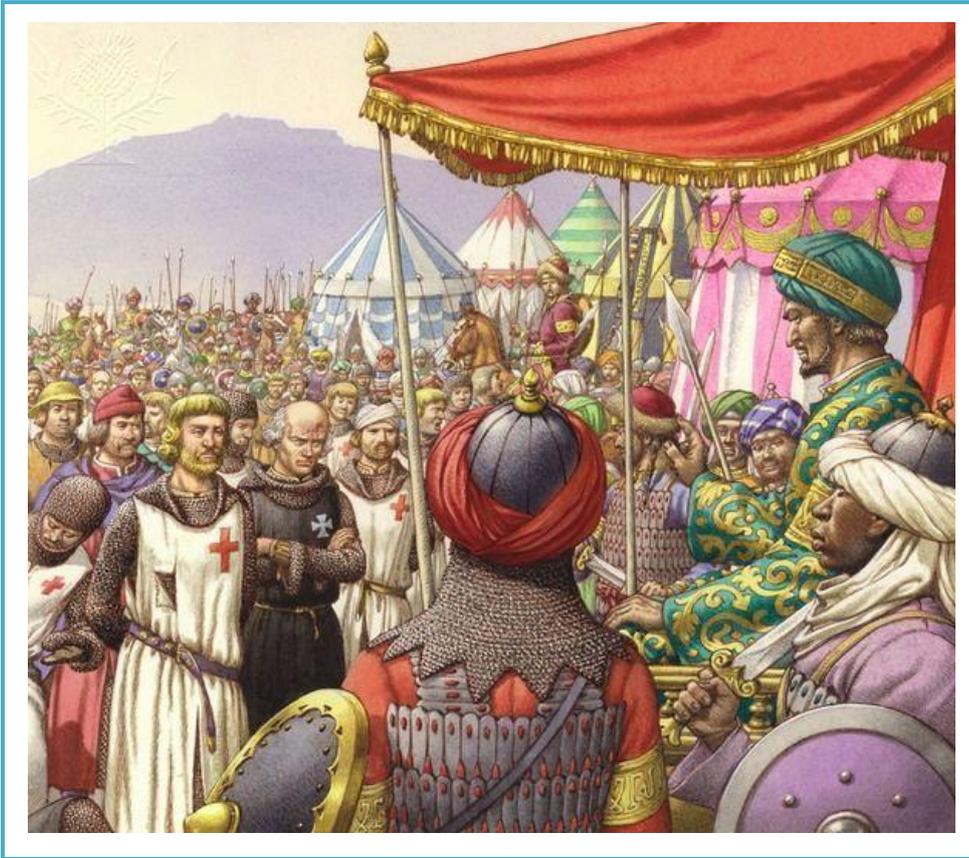


Look carefully at this picture. Can you work out what is happening?

Source 1



Think:

- Who is in charge?
- Who are the crowd of men on the left of the picture?
- What has happened to them?
- What do you think is going to happen next?

Read the two primary sources about Saladin and answer the questions below.

Source 2: by Baha al-Din (1145-1234). Baha al-Din trained as a lawyer and found a job working for Saladin, the great Sultan of Egypt and Syria. He advised Saladin on matters of discipline in the army and compiled notes about what he saw which he later published as a biography of Saladin.

A scout came to us with a sobbing Christian woman who had travelled with the Crusaders from France. 'Yesterday some Muslim thieves entered my tent and stole my little girl to sell into slavery'. I cried all night and our commanders told me: "The King of the Muslims is merciful".

Saladin was touched and tears came to his eyes. He sent someone to the slave market to look for the girl. Less than an hour later, a horseman arrived, bearing the girl on his shoulders. Thus was her daughter returned.

Source 3: by William Newburgh (1136-1198). Newburgh was an English monk from Bridlington in Yorkshire who wrote a *History of English Affairs* about the years between 1066 and 1198. He did not travel very much so he had to make use of other people's stories and notes to help him compile his book.

That bloodthirsty tyrant Saladin determined to attack our troops in every way; and he nearly cut them all to pieces. Almost the whole of the Christians were either killed or made prisoners, very few escaping by flight.

The Knights of the Temple and of the Hospital, whom the sword had not destroyed on the field of battle, were separated from the other captives, and Saladin ordered them to be beheaded in his presence, and delighted his eyes with this long-coveted enjoyment. The tyrant displayed his personal hatred against that most Christian man Reginald de Chastillon: he slew him with his own hand, thinking that much of his pleasure would be lost, if anyone else but himself should shed such precious blood.

Tasks

1. Use Source 3 to make a glossary of *specialist historical vocabulary* relating to this crusades topic.
2. Highlight old-fashioned words like 'slew' and use a dictionary to make sure you know what they mean.
3. In pairs, draw up a list of similarities and differences in these two different accounts of Saladin's personality. What is the main difference between these two interpretations?
4. Can you suggest why these two interpretations of Saladin are different? Come up with a list of 'maybes ...'
 - e.g. 'Maybe Baha al-Din wanted to keep working for Saladin so wrote nice things about him...'
5. Which of these two different interpretations is likely to more accurate? Can you explain why you think that?
6. What would you need to know to help you decide which is more accurate?
7. Can you come up with an explanation in which **both** sources are accurate even though they say different things about Saladin's personality?

Teaching notes

A PowerPoint presentation accompanies this resource (for subscribers only).

The image in Source 1 is labelled 'The Muslim Sultan of Egypt & Syria, the famous warrior-king Saladin (1137-1193) is pictured here ordering the execution of 200 super-Crusaders: knights from the medieval military warrior groups the Hospitallers and the Knights Templar'. Each condemned Crusader was about to be lined up, and one-by-one, a Muslim warrior would select one to execute until 200 Arabic fighters had killed 200 Crusaders.

Source 3 is a paraphrase of William Newburgh adapted from legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/williamofnewburgh-intro.asp

Image credit

Saladin orders the execution of 200 Templars and Hospitallers (gouache on paper) / Credit: Private Collection / Look and Learn / Bridgeman Images / Copyright © Bridgeman Images / For Education Use Only. This and millions of other educational images are available through Britannica Image Quest. For a free trial, please visit www.britannica.co.uk/trial