CHAPTER X.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ’AZĀRIQA.

Second period - 68 A.H.

Before the end of the year 67, Muṣṭāb was dismissed from al-Baṣra where he was succeeded by ʿAbdullāh b. al-Zubair’s own son, Ḥamza (1). Muṣṭāb still retained his position at al-Kūfā (2) but he was ordered by ʿIbn al-Zubair to send back the people of al-Baṣra who happened to be with him to join Ḥamza. Accordingly, al-Muhallab was recalled from al-Mauṣil just within a month or two of his appointment and ʿIbrahim b. al-ʿAṣhtar was appointed to succeed him on behalf of Muṣṭāb (3).

Al-Muhallab was now at the disposal of Ḥamza. In the meantime the ’Azāriqa advanced as far as ʿAmāhurmuz and al-ʿAwāz while ʿUmar b. ʿUbaidullāh had left for ʿIṣṭakhr. In response to public clamour, Ḥamza again commissioned al-Muhallab to command the campaign against them although he let ʿUmar b. ʿUbaidullāh continue in the governorship of Fārs. Al-Muhallab successfully pushed the ’Azāriqa back to ʿIṣfahān (4).

(1). Tab. 2/751.
(2). Anon. 114. It is expressly denied that Ḥamza was appointed to the governorship of al-Kūfā as well.
(3). Anon. 114.
(4). Ibid. Kam. 646. Tab. does not mention al-Muhallab’s recall from al-Mauṣil and his appointment to the leadership of the campaign against the ’Azāriqa by Ḥamza.