

The Story of Islam's
First Naval Forces

THE CONQUEST OF CYPRUS



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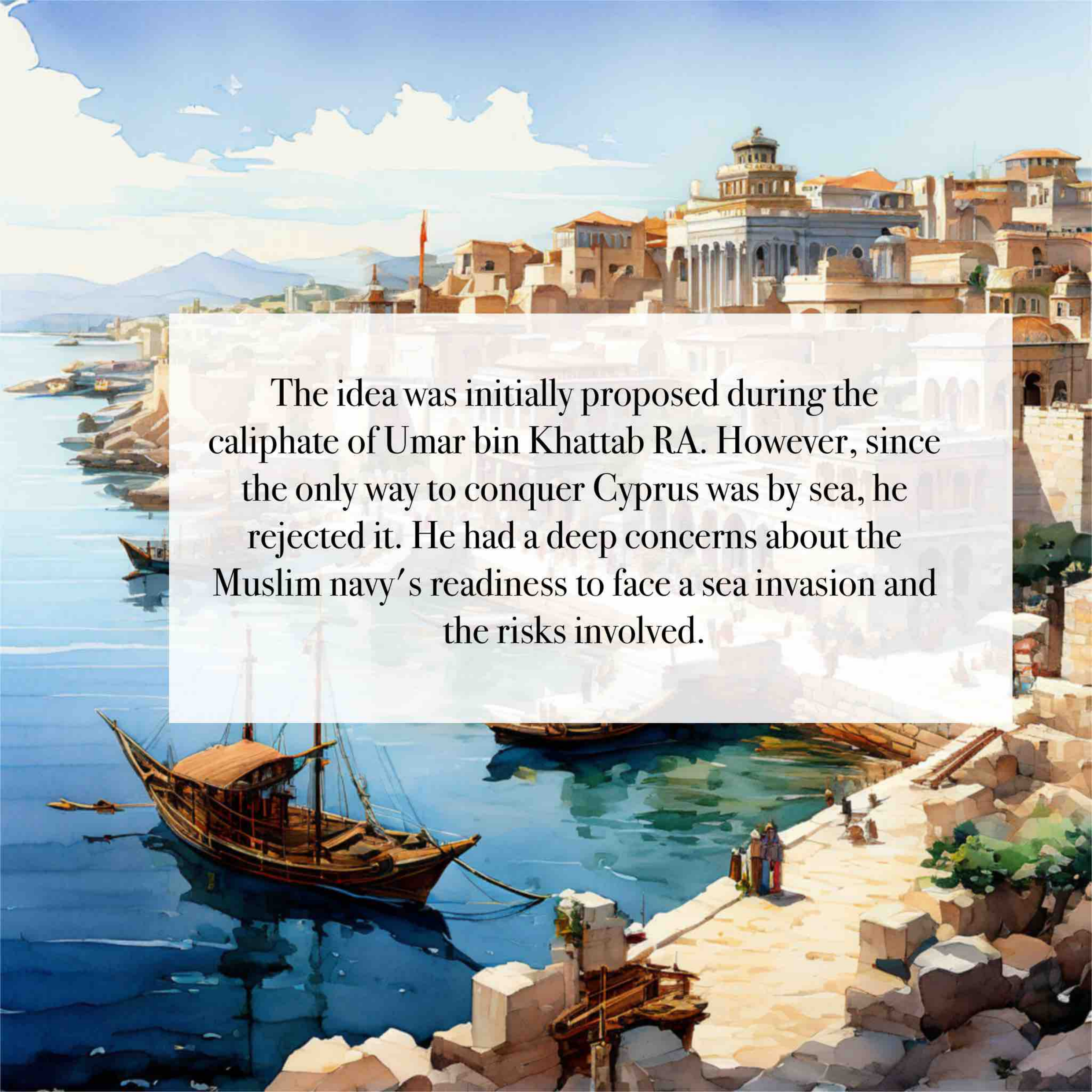
PROOF READ BY NANDYKA YOGAMAYA

The era of the caliphates was one of the most glorious periods in Islam. There were many conquests that took place, including the phenomenal conquest of Cyprus by the Muslims.





Cyprus, with its strategic position, was used by the Romans as a transit point for attacking their enemies. Such facts have led Muawiyah RA to come up with the idea to invade the island.



The idea was initially proposed during the caliphate of Umar bin Khattab RA. However, since the only way to conquer Cyprus was by sea, he rejected it. He had a deep concerns about the Muslim navy's readiness to face a sea invasion and the risks involved.

Muawiyah was persistence with the idea and proposed it again during the reign of Uthman RA. Uthman agreed, under certain conditions - Muawiyah had to bring his wife on the invasion and could not force Muslims to join the army.





Muawiyah agreed to the conditions and brought his wife, Fakhitah binti Qurdzah, on the invasion. Despite not being able to force Muslims to join, many volunteered to be part of his army, including some senior Sahabas.

Among them was Ubadah bin Shamit, who brought his wife, Ummu Haram binti Milhan. Ummu Haram had been prayed for by Rasulullah PBUH to be one of those who would engage in jihad in the cause of Allah by ship.





The prophet PBUH once said,
"Some people of my ummah were shown to me (in my dream) campaigning for the sake of Allah, sailing on the green sea like kings on thrones."



Ummu Haram asked the Prophet to pray for her so she can be one of them. Rasulullah then fulfilled Ummu Haram's request. Finally, the Prophet's prayer was answered some time later.



The Muslim fleet set sail from the fort of Akka on the coast and arrived in Cyprus. They sent a message to the people of Cyprus, offering them the choice to either convert to Islam or pay the jizya for peace.

When they refused both options and decided to defend their capital, the Muslims moved towards Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. Upon arrival, they laid siege to the city. Eventually, the people of Cyprus requested peace from the Muslims, leading to the submission of Cyprus and a glorious victory for the Muslims.

