

Such was the status of Sheikh Tameem Al-Adnani in Sheikh Abdullah Azzam's eyes that he dedicated an entire book to him, titled *At-Tood Ash-Shaamikh* (The Lofty Mountain), which many believe was the last book written by Sheikh Abdullah Azzam before he himself was martyred a few weeks later.

We are pleased to present this first edition, which has never before been published in the English language, either on paper or electronically. Translated jointly by Umm Salamah Al-Ansariyyah and *Shaheed* Suraqah Al-Andalusi, this book was compiled and translated over two years. It comprises three parts of which the biography of Sheikh Tameem Al-Adnani is Part I.

Part II contains a unique first-hand account of the Battle of the Lion's Den which took place in Jaji, Eastern Afghanistan, in May 1987. This encounter was perhaps the most decisive battle that took place between the Mujahideen and their enemies in the 20th Century. Led by Usama Bin Ladin, a group of only 50 Arab Mujahideen held off a ground and air assault by several battalions of Soviet (including Spetsnaz Special Forces) and Communist forces, consisting of thousands of well-armed soldiers. The account given in this book has been translated from various sources and includes first-hand accounts of the battle from Usama Bin Ladin himself as translated from interviews conducted with an Arab journalist in both Afghanistan and Jeddah, Arabian Peninsula. This material has never before been published in the English language.

Part III contains the biography and last testament of Azzam Publications Correspondent, *Shaheed* Suraqah Al-Andalusi, who was one of the translators of this book and was martyred in the Battle for Tora Bora against American forces in Afghanistan, on 14 December 2001.

May Allah reward the sister, Umm Salamah Al-Ansariyyah, for her countless hours spent in translating and checking the material and for her patience with our never-ending requests. May Allah reward with Paradise and the ranks of martyrs, the other brothers and sisters who helped in publishing this book: the people may not know them but Allah knows them. As for Suraqah, we hope that he is in a better place than us and not in need of our supplications; nevertheless we pray