

## CHAPTER SIX

### FROM THE LOINS OF FIGHTERS

LET US pass to our subject," writes Beha ed-din, one of the foremost of the learned men of Islam, intimate companion of Saladin at the height of his career, and chief among his biographers, "and write of that Prince strong to aid, who re-established the doctrine of the true faith, struck to earth the worshippers of the Cross, and raised the standard of justice and benevolence; he who was the prosperity (Salah) of the world and of the faith (ed-din), the Sultan of Islam and of the Moslems, the warrior who delivered the Holy City from the hands of the polytheists, the servant of the two Sanctuaries, Abu el-Mozaffer Yusuf."

Abu el-Mozaffer Yusuf or Salah ed-din Yusuf ibn Ayub was his real name, but to the European world Saladin.<sup>1</sup> Saladin was a Kurd, one of that aloof, proud, independent, warring race of mountaineers, who occupied the highlands beyond Armenia, and who resembled not a little the Highland Scots in their clannishness and readiness to possess themselves

<sup>1</sup> It was the custom of the Occidentals to simplify the high sounding appellatives of the Saracens. Nur ed-din, for example, became Noradin, and Beha ed-din was changed to Bohadin.