

RICHARD THE LION-HEARTED (1157 – 1199)



Richard was noted for his good looks, charm, courage, grace—and ruthlessness. When he heard that Jerusalem had fallen to the Muslims, he was filled with religious zeal. He joined the Crusades, leaving others to rule England in his place.

Richard mounted a siege on the city of Acre in the Middle East. Saladin's army was in the hills overlooking the city, but it was not strong enough at this point to defeat the Crusaders. When the city finally fell, Richard had the Muslim survivors—some 3,000 men, women, and children—slaughtered. The Muslim army watched helplessly from the hills.

SALADIN (1138 – 1193)



Saladin was the most famous Muslim leader of the 1100s. His own people considered him a most devout man. Even Christians regarded him as honest and brave. He was so chivalrous that when he heard that his worst enemy, Richard the Lion-Hearted, was ill, he sent his personal physician and a gift of snow and peaches.

He wished to chase the Crusaders back into their own territories. He said:

I think that when God grants me victory over the rest of Palestine, I shall divide my territories, make a will stating my wishes, then set sail on this sea for their far-off lands and pursue the Europeans there, so as to free the earth from anyone who wages violence against the followers of Allah, or I shall die in the attempt.

ANALYZE THIS!

What differences and similarities do you see in the characters of these two leaders? (use back for more space!)