

The Biography of the Prophet ﷺ I

**Ibn Sa‘d’s
Kitab at-Tabaqat al-Kabir
Volume I**

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Glossary **407**

Concerning the presence of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ at the demolition and reconstruction of the Ka'ba

Muhammad ibn 'Umar ibn Waqid al-Aslami reported to us from 'Abdullah ibn Yazid al-Hudhali from Sa'id ibn 'Amr al-Hudhali from his father, 'Abdullah ibn Yazid al-Hudhali related to us from Abu Ghatafan from 'Abbas, and Muhammad ibn 'Abdullah related to us from az-Zuhri from Muhammad ibn Jubayr ibn Mut'im, their accounts blending together, that there was a ridge overlooking Makka. A flood entered from its upper part until it entered the House which cracked, and they were afraid that it would collapse and that the gold jewellery and gazelles which contained pearls and gems and which were placed on the ground would be stolen.

At this time there was a ship in the sea containing Greeks under the captaincy of Baqum who was a builder. The wind blew it to ash-Shu'ayba, a harbour for ships before Jidda. The ship was wrecked and al-Walid ibn al-Mughira went with a group of Quraysh to the ship and purchased its wood. They spoke to Baqum the Greek and he went with them. They said, 'We should build the House of our Lord.' They ordered stones to be collected and sorted them. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ carried stones with them. He was thirty-five at that time. They were putting their waist-wrap-pers on their shoulders when carrying the stones. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ did that, but he fell to the ground and there was a call, 'Your nakedness!' That was the first call he heard. Abu Talib said to him, 'Nephew, put your waist-wrapper on your head.' He replied, 'What happened to me was due to my overstepping.' After that, the nakedness of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was not ever seen.

When they gathered to demolish it, one of them said, 'Only put your wholesome earnings in its construction. Do not cut off your kin and do not wrong anyone in it.' Al-Walid ibn al-Mughira began to demolish it. He picked up a pickaxe and then began to throw down stones, saying, 'O Allah, it is not to be feared. We only desire good.' He demolished it and Quraysh did so with him.

Then they began to rebuild it. They marked out the House and drew lots for it. 'Abd Manaf and Zuhra got what is between the Black Stone corner and the Hijr corner, in front of the House, Banu Asad ibn 'Abd al-'Uzza and Banu 'Ad ad-Dar ibn Qusayy got what is between the Hijr corner and the other corner, Taym and Makhzum got what is between the other corner to

the Yemeni corner, and Sahm, Jumah, 'Adi and 'Amir ibn Lu'ayy got what is between the Yemeni corner to the Black Stone corner.

They rebuilt it, and when they reached where the Black Stone was to be placed in the House, each tribe said that they were more entitled to put it in place. They disagreed until they feared that it would lead to fighting. Then they agreed that the first person to enter through the gate of the Banu Shayba would be the one to place it. They said, 'We agree and submit.' The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was the first to enter through the gate of the Banu Shayba. When they saw him, they said, 'This is the trustworthy one. We are content with what we decided.' Then they informed him about the business.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ took his cloak and spread it on the ground and placed the Stone on it. Then he said, 'Let a person from every quarter of Quraysh come. 'Utba ibn Rabi'a was in the corner of the Banu 'Abd Manaf, Abu Zam'a was in the second quarter, Abu Hudhayfa ibn al-Mughira was in the third quarter, and Qays ibn 'Adi was in the fourth quarter. Then the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, 'Let each man take one of the corners of the cloth and then lift all together.' They lifted it and the Messenger of Allah ﷺ put it in that place with his own hand.

Then a man from the people of Najd came forward to give the Prophet ﷺ a stone to reinforce the Black Stone. Al-'Abbas ibn 'Abd al-Muttalib said, 'No,' and pushed him aside. Al-'Abbas handed a stone to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and he reinforced the Black Stone with it. When he was pushed aside, the Najdi man became angry. The Prophet ﷺ said, 'None but us will build this House with us.' Then the Najdi man said, 'How extraordinary! A people of a house of nobility, intelligence, age, and wealth depend on the youngest of them and the one with the least wealth and make him their leader in their honour and sanctuary as if they were his servants. By Allah, he will gain superiority over them and divide their portions and fortunes between them.' It is said that this was Iblis.

Abu Talib then said:

Its beginning and end are ours
in judgement and justice which is not denied.
We strove to erect it
and we erected the best and largest of it.
If there is a right,
then it is mostly for us.

Then they built it until they reached the place of wood (i.e. the roof). There were fifteen beams for the roof of the House. They built it on six columns and removed the Hijr from the House.

Muhammad ibn ‘Umar reported to us from Ibn Jurayh from al-Walid ibn ‘Ata’ from al-Harith ibn ‘Abdullah ibn Abi Rabi’a that ‘A’isha said that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, ‘Your people reduced the size of the Ka’ba. Were it not for the fact that they were so recently idolators I would have restored to it what they left out of it. If it seems right to your people after me to build it, then come and I will show you what they left out of it.’ He showed her about seven cubits in the Hijr. ‘A’isha said, ‘The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “I would have kept two doors for it, placed them on the ground, on the east and the west. Do you know why your people raised its door?” I answered, “No, I do not know.” He said, “For the sake of self-exaltation, so that only those they wished could enter it. When there was a man whom they disliked for him to enter it, they would leave him until he was about to enter it, and then push him so that he fell.”’

Muhammad ibn ‘Umar reported to me from ‘Abdullah ibn Yazid al-Hudhali from Sa’id ibn ‘Amr that his father said, ‘I saw Quraysh opening the House during the Jahiliyya on Mondays and Thursdays. The gatekeepers would sit at its door. A man would climb up and if they did not want him to enter it, they would push him and he would fall. Sometimes he would perish. They did not enter the Ka’ba with shoes out of esteem for it and put their sandals under the steps.’

Muhammad ibn ‘Umar reported to us from Abu Bakr ibn ‘Abdullah ibn Abi Sabra from Khalid ibn Rabah from al-Muttalib ibn ‘Abdullah ibn Hantab that Ibn Marsa, a freedman of Quraysh, said that he heard al-‘Abbas ibn ‘Abd al-Muttalib say that in his *hajj* the Messenger of Allah ﷺ covered the House with striped Yemeni cloth.

Concerning the prophethood of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ

Isma’il ibn Ibrahim ibn ‘Ulayya reported to us from Khalid al-Hadhdha’ that ‘Abdullah ibn Shaiq said, ‘A man said, “Messenger of Allah, when did you become a Prophet?” People exclaimed, “Shush! Shush!” The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Leave him. I was a Prophet when Adam was still between the spirit and the body.”’