

The Women of Madina

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

**Translated by
Aisha Bewley**



Ta-Ha Publishers Ltd.

Contents

Preface	vii
Chapter One: The Manner in which the Messenger of Allah Received Women's Allegiance	1
Chapter Two: Khadija bint Khuwaylid ibn Asad	8
Chapter Three: The Daughters of the Messenger of Allah	12
Chapter Four: The Paternal Aunts of the Prophet	26
Chapter Five: The Daughters of the Uncles of the Messenger of Allah	30
Chapter Six: The Wives of the Prophet	34
Chapter Seven: The Women the Prophet Married without Consummating the Marriage, and those he Divorced and why he Divorced them	86
Chapter Eight: The Women to whom the Prophet Proposed but did not Marry and those Women who Offered Themselves to the Prophet	93
Chapter Nine: Various Topics Concerning the Prophet's Wives	101
Chapter Ten: Qurayshi Women, their Allies, their Clients and Foreign Arab Women	135
Chapter Eleven: Non-Qurayshi Emigrant Muslim Women	168
Chapter Twelve: The Muslim Ansar Women of Aws	192
The Names of Women of the Banu 'Abdu'l-Ashhal	192
The Women of the Banu Haritha ibn al-Khazraj, Descendants of Malik ibn al-Aws	198
The Women of the Banu Zafar, Descendants of Malik ibn al-Aws	204

The Women of the Banu ‘Amr ibn ‘Awf ibn Malik ibn Aws	208
The Women of the Banu ‘Ubayd ibn Zayd ibn Malik ibn ‘Awf	210
The Women of the Banu Khatma ibn Jusham	212
From al-Ja‘adira, who are the Banu Sa‘id ibn Murra, part of the Banu ‘Abdu’l-Ashhal	214
The Women of the Banu’s-Salm ibn Imru’l-Qays	214
Chapter Thirteen: The Names of the Women of Khazraj	215
The Women of the Banu Sa‘ida ibn Ka‘b	221
The Women of the Qawaqila, the Banu ‘Awf ibn al-Khazraj	223
The Women of Balhabla – ‘al-Habla’ is Salim ibn Ghanm ibn ‘Awf	227
The Women of the Banu Bayada ibn ‘Amr	229
The Women of the Banu Zurayq ibn ‘Amir	230
The Women of the Banu Habib ibn ‘Abd Haritha	233
The Women of the Banu Salama ibn Sa‘d	233
The Women of the Banu Udi ibn Sa‘d	242
The Women of the Banu’n-Najjar	242
The Women of the Banu ‘Adi ibn an-Najjar	247
The Women of the Banu’d-Dar ibn an-Najjar	255
The Women of the Banu Malik ibn an-Najjar	256
Chapter Fourteen: Women who did not Relate from the Prophet, but Related from his Wives and Others	269
Hajja bint Qurat and her Daughter	291
Glossary	292
Index of Listed Entries	295

Chapter One

The Manner in which the Messenger of Allah Received Women's Allegiance

'Amir ash-Sha'bi said, "When the Prophet ﷺ received allegiance (*bay'a*) from women, his hand was covered with a cloth."

Ash-Sha'bi said that when the Prophet ﷺ received allegiance from women, he first placed a Qatari cloak over his hand. He said, "I do not shake hands with women."

'Urwa said that the Prophet ﷺ did not shake hands with women when he received their allegiance.

Umayma bint Ruqayqa said, "I went to the Messenger of Allah with a group of women to offer him our allegiance. We said, 'We will give you allegiance, Messenger of Allah, on the basis that we will not associate anything with Allah nor steal nor commit fornication nor kill our children nor bring a lie that we forge between our hands and feet, and that we will not disobey you in anything correct.' The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, 'Inasmuch as you are capable and able.' We said, 'Allah and His Messenger are more merciful to us than ourselves. Come and receive our allegiance, Messenger of Allah!' The Messenger of Allah said, 'I do not shake hands with women. My word to a hundred women is like my word to one woman.'"

Umayma bint Ruqayqa said, "I went to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ with a group of women to give him allegiance. He imposed on us the preconditions from the Qur'an that we should not steal nor commit fornication nor kill our children nor forge a lie. Then he said, 'Inasmuch as you are capable and able.' I said, 'Allah and His Messenger are more merciful to us than ourselves.' He said, 'I do not shake hands with women. My word to one woman is like my word to a hundred women.'"

'A'isha said that the Prophet ﷺ never shook hands with a woman.

Ibrahim said that the Prophet ﷺ shook hands with women with a cloth covering his hand.

Qays ibn Abi Hazim said that when women came to offer allegiance to the Prophet, he laid his cloak over his hand and received their allegiance through the cloak. He sent some women away without receiving their allegiance since they were apprehensive about the preconditions, and he received the allegiance of other women through his cloak. He said, "Some of you are in the Garden," and he clenched his fingers together as if to indicate it was few of them.

Asma' said, "I went to the Messenger of Allah with a group of women to offer him allegiance. The Messenger of Allah stated the preconditions to us, and a niece of mine stretched out her hand to take that of the Messenger of Allah. She was wearing a gold bracelet and gold rings. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ withdrew his hand, saying, 'I do not shake hands with women.'"

Tariq at-Taymi said, "I went to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ while he was sitting in the sun wearing a yellow garment and he had his head pulled down inside it. Then he stood up and went to a room where there were six women. He greeted them and received allegiance from them with the yellow garment covering his hand."

Umm 'Atiyya said, "When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ came to Madina, he gathered the women of the Ansar together in a house. Then he sent 'Umar ibn al-Khattab to them. 'Umar came to the door of the house and greeted us, saying, 'Peace be upon you,' and we returned the greeting to him. He said, 'I am the messenger of the Messenger of Allah to you.' We said, 'Welcome to the Messenger of Allah and the messenger of the Messenger of Allah!' He said, 'Give allegiance on the basis that you do not associate anything with Allah nor steal nor commit fornication nor kill your children nor bring a lie which you forge between your hands and feet.' We said, 'Yes.' He put in his hand from outside the house and we extended our hands from inside the house. Then he said, 'O Allah, bear witness!' He commanded us to go out to the 'Eids, both mature girls and menstruating women. Jumu'a was not obliged for us. He forbade us to follow the funeral procession."

Isma'il said, "I asked my grandmother (Umm 'Atiyya) about the words of Allah, *nor disobey you in respect of anything correct* (60:12), and she said, 'He forbade us to wail.'"

Usayd al-Barrad said that one of the women who gave allegiance said, "Part of the basis on which we gave allegiance to the Messenger

of Allah ﷺ was that we should not disobey him in anything that was correct. This meant we should not scratch our faces nor tear our garments nor pull out our hair nor cry out shrieking.”

‘Ubada ibn as-Samit said, “The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said to us, ‘Will you give allegiance to me on the same basis that the women do? That you will not associate anything with Allah, steal, commit fornication, kill your children nor bring a lie which you forge between your hands and feet, and that you do not disobey me in anything correct?’ We said, ‘Yes, indeed, Messenger of Allah.’ So we gave allegiance to him on that basis. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, ‘Whoever commits a wrong action afterwards and is punished for it, that is its expiation. If he is not punished for it, then his affair is left to Allah. If He wishes, He will forgive him, and if He wishes, He will punish him.’”

It is related that Umm Salama al-Ansariyya was one of the women from whom the Messenger of Allah ﷺ received allegiance.

Her maternal aunt was with her, and she related more than one hadith from the Prophet ﷺ. She said, “One of the women said, ‘Messenger of Allah, what is the “correct” in which we must not disobey you?’ He said, ‘Do not wail.’”

Umm ‘Atiyya said, “The oath of allegiance - or part of it - was that we should not wail. That was only fulfilled by five women among us: Umm Sulaym, Umm al-‘Ala’, the daughter of Abu Sabra, the wife of Mu‘adh, the mother of Mu‘adh, and another woman.”

Mus‘ab ibn Nuh said, “I met one of our old women who was one of those who gave allegiance to the Prophet ﷺ. She went to him to give him allegiance. She said, ‘Part of what he enjoined on us was that we should not wail.’ An old woman said, ‘Messenger of Allah, some people lamented with me over a loss which I sustained, and they have sustained a loss and so I want to go and lament with them.’ He said, ‘Go and lament with them.’ She went and then came back to him and gave allegiance.

“She said, ‘This is the “correct” to which Allah refers when He says, *nor disobey you in respect of anything correct* (60:12).’”

Abu’l-Mulayh al-Hudhali said, “A woman came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ to give him allegiance. He recited this ayah to her. When he said, *nor disobey you in respect of anything correct* (60:12), he said, ‘Do not wail.’ She said, ‘Messenger of Allah, a woman lamented with me, should I lament with her?’ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ did not say

anything until she had repeated it two or three times. Then he granted her a respite. Then she agreed and then he received her allegiance.”

Bakr ibn ‘Abdullah said, “The Messenger of Allah ﷺ received allegiance from the women on the basis that they would not tear their clothes nor wail nor scratch their faces nor speak unseemly language.”

Ash-Sha‘bi was heard to mention that when the women gave allegiance, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Give allegiance on the basis that you do not associate anything with Allah.” Hind said, “We say that.” “Nor should you steal.” Hind said, “I took something from Abu Sufyan’s property.” Abu Sufyan said, “What you took of my property is lawful for you.” He said, “You should not commit fornication.” Hind said, “Does a free woman fornicate?” He said, “You should not kill your children.” Hind said, “You have killed them.”

Maymun ibn Mahran reported that some women, including Hind, the daughter of ‘Utba ibn Rabi‘a and the mother of Mu‘awiya, came to the Prophet ﷺ to give him allegiance. When he said, “Do not associate anything with Allah and do not steal,” Hind said, “Messenger of Allah, Abu Sufyan is a stingy man. Is there anything held against me if I take some of his food without his permission?” The Messenger of Allah ﷺ sanctioned that in fresh food but did not sanction it in dry food. He said, “Do not fornicate.” She said, “Does a free woman fornicate?” He said, “Do not kill your children.” She said, “Have you left us a child that you did not kill at Badr?” He said, “Do not disobey me in anything correct.”

Maymun said, “Allah did not grant His Prophet obedience from them except in what is correct, and what is correct consists of obedience to Allah Almighty.”

Salma bint Qays said, “I went to the Prophet with some of the women of the Ansar to give allegiance to him. Part of what he enjoined on us was that we should not cheat our husbands. When we left him, we said, ‘By Allah, we should go back to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and ask him what “cheating our husbands” means.’ We went back and asked him and he said, ‘It is that you do not give their property to someone else.’”

‘Ata’ al-Khurasani said that part of what the Messenger of Allah ﷺ enjoined on the women is that they should not wail nor go off alone with men.