



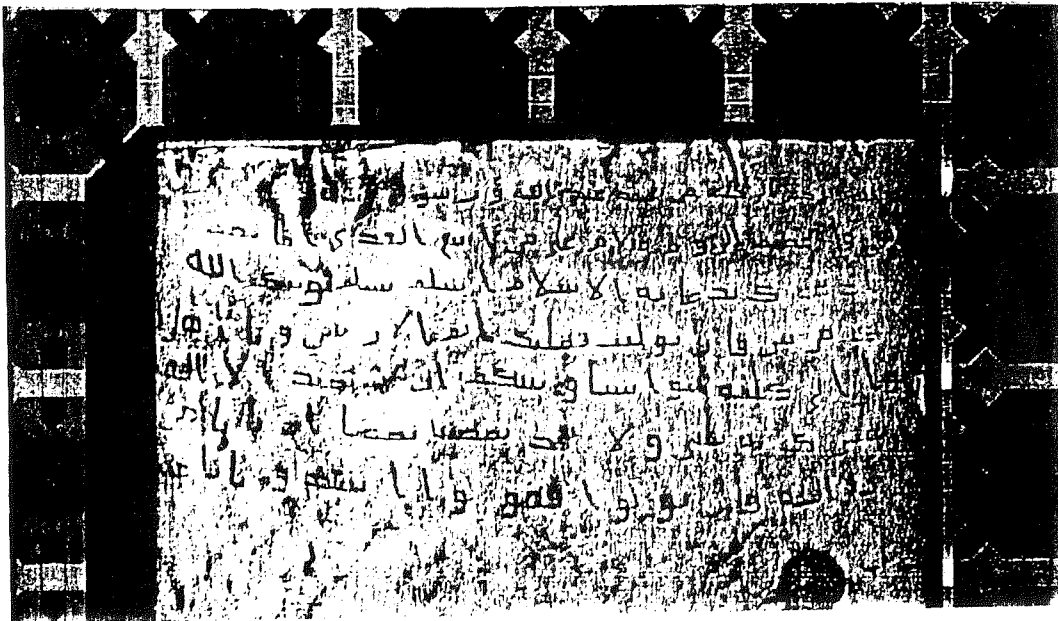
Ubade b. Nusayy (9-12) (K. poset)

Proceedings of the Second Symposium

on the
History of Bilād al-Shām During The
Early Islamic Period Up to 40 A.H./640 A.D.

The Fourth International Conference
On the History of Bilad al-Sham.

(English and French Papers)



Letter of Prophet MOHAMMAD to

Edited

by

Muhammad Adnan Bakhit

Vol. I

7841-2

Amman

1987

Tasniif No. : 956.3

The IVth International Conference on Bilad al-Sham

slightly more "historical" in character, none of these materials would qualify Khâlid b. Ma'dân as anything but a traditionalist. We also find, however, a collection of about twenty accounts on Khâlid's authority in al-Tabarî's *Ta'rikh*, most of them dealing with the conquest of Syria by the Muslims³⁴. Khâlid's close ties to the Umayyad authorities in Syria may well have put him in a position to consult both official documents and individuals that could have told him much about the conquest of Syria, and so the presence of such a body of accounts may seem quite persuasive evidence of Khâlid's interest in historical matters. These accounts are, however, so different in character from others bearing Khâlid's name, and the transmission of them is so problematic (they are all purportedly conveyed via unknown authorities to the Iraqi author Sayf b. 'Umar), that we must remain skeptical about their validity until further research clarifies the question of Sayf's sources, or turns up more accounts of this kind traced from Khalid via transmitters other than Sayf.

Ubada b. Nusayy

Our third figure from this early generation of traditionists is 'Ubâda b. Nusayy al-Kindî (d. 118A.H.); he evidently served as judge in Tiberias under 'Abd al-Malik, and then was appointed governor (i.e., military governor?) of Jordan (al-Urdunn) by 'Umar b. 'Abd al-Azîz³⁵. He is presented in the biographical sources as fearless in his criticism of the morals of the caliphs--when the news of Hishâm's mutilation and execution of Ghaylân al-Dimashqî reached him, he supposedly vowed to write the caliph that he disapproved of such a violation of custom and justice; he is also portrayed (in a very pro-Kindite tradition) as a bulwark against Islam's enemies³⁶. He evidently transmitted *hadîth* from many companions and had a great

34. The accounts in question are Tab. 1/2086-89; 1/2090-95; 1/2095-2100; 1/2100; 1/2101; 1/2147; 1/2147-48; 1/2150-55; 1/2395-96; 1/2396-98; 1/2404; 1/2405-07; 1/2407; 1/2820; 1/2821; 1/2824 (all dealing with the conquest of Syria); 1/2867 (governors in Syria). Some of these are also found in *TMD I* (Munajjid), e.g.p. 484, 513-519, 529.

35. Khalîfa, *Tabaqât* 11/794 (no. 2939); I.S. VIIB, 162; *Tahdhîb* 5/113-114; Khalîfa, *Ta'rikh* 2/516; *TMD VIII*, fol. 272b, lines 16-24; fol. 273a, lines 27-30 (in charge of *jund al-Urdunn*); fol. 273b, lines 12-14, Abû Zur'a, *Ta'rikh* 339 (no. 671), Khalîfa, *Ta'rikh* 1/465 ('*Amil al-Urdunn*); *TMD VIII*, fol. 273b, lines 14-16. Khalîfa (*Tabaqât*) calls him a *Himṣî*; Ibn 'Asâkir, a Jordanian (*TMD VIII*, for. 272b, line 16). Cf. *TMD VIII*, fol. 273a, lines 35-40, and al-Basawî, 2/329 (...Abû Mushîr-s-Kâmil b. Salama), where he is called *sayyid ahl al-Urdunn*, whereas Amr b. Qays is *sayyid ahl al-Himṣ*; cf. Abu Zur'a, *Ta'rikh* 249 (no. 307), 711 (no. 2253).

36. Ghaylân: *TMD VIII*, fol. 273b, lines 30-34 (...al-Haytham b. Khârija-no-'Abdullâh b. Sâlim al-Himṣî-na-Ibrâhîm b. Abî 'Abî), cf. Abû Zur'a, *Ta'rikh* 370 (no. 800). **Kindite tradition**: fol. 273a, line 40-fol. 273b, line 15 (...Abû Mushîr-hi-Mughîra b. Mughîra al-Ramlî-q-Maslama b. 'Abd al-Malik); Abû Zur'a, *Ta'rikh* 337 (no. 662), 711 (no. 2254).

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the same Hishâm b. al-Ghâz to al-Wâqidi, recounts a Byzantine raid on the Muslims in 35A.H., the destruction of the Byzantine fleet in a storm, and the subsequent fate of the Byzantine emperor Constantine IV in Sicily⁴⁴. A fourth, traced through the Medinese scholar Sa'îd b. 'Amir al-Khazrajî to al-Madâ'ini, recounts a sermon of Mu'awiya⁴⁵. A fifth, transmitted by a scholar of Mosul, relates details of the early conquest of northern Mesopotamia and Samosata (Sumaysât) in northernmost Syria⁴⁶.

In addition to the five already described, moreover, there are any more accounts about the early history of Syria that are ascribed to 'Ubâda: about twenty, all dealing with the conquest of Syria, are found in al-Tabarî's history. Most of these accounts, however, pose the same problem as al-Tabarî's accounts from Khâlid b. Ma'dân--they come via unknown transmitters to Sayf b. 'Umar⁴⁷. Like Sayf's accounts from Khâlid b. Ma'dân noted above, these accounts from 'Ubâda are remarkably consistent in their content; all describe the early stages of the conquest of Syria. In this case, however, we may wish to view them more charitably than we did Khâlid b. Ma'dân's accounts, since they are not very different in character from the historical accounts transmitted from 'Ubâda via authorities other than Sayf. Because of the problematic nature of their transmission, however, we must for the present disregard them as possible evidence of 'Ubâda's historical interests.

Even disregarding such problematic accounts, however, the more secure historical accounts transmitted from 'Ubâda--all of which deal with the early history of Syria during Mu'awiya's governorship or caliphate--are sufficient to suggest that 'Ubâda b. Nusayy was especially concerned with collecting materials on this theme. What his own sources for this information may have been is less clear. Al-Balâdhurî, after quoting one of 'Ubâda's accounts, says that "the same authority (i.e., 'Ubâda?) says, 'I read in the book of *Maghâzî Mu'awiyah*...that Mu'awiyah in the year 31 led

44. Tab. 1/3086-87 (Waq <Hishâm b. al-Ghâz <'Ubâda b. Nusayy).

45. Bal. *Ansâb IVA* (ed. Kister/Scholessinger), p.34 (=ed. 'Abbâs, p. 44-45) (Al-Madâ'ini <Sa'îd b. 'Amir al-Khazrajî <'Ubâda b. Nusayy). On Sa'îd b. 'Amir, see *Tahdhîb* 4/69.

46. Khalîfa, *Ta'rikh* 1/131, sub anno 18A.H. (ha-a man <al-Mughîra b. Ziyâd al-Mawsilî <'Ubâda b. Nusayy)..

47. The following accounts in al-Tabarî's *Ta'rikh* have Sayf receiving material from 'Ubâda via unknown authorities: Tab. 1/2084-85; 1/2086-89; 1/2090-95; 1/1295-2100; 1/2100; 1/2147; 1/2150-55; 1/2395-96; 1/2396-98; 1/2404; 1/2405-07; 1/2407; 1/2576-77; 1/2584-87; 1/2820; 1/2821; 1/2821-22; 1/2824-25; 1/2825-26. (See also note 35 above.) In the great majority of cases, the unknown intermediary is either Abû 'Uthmân Yazîd b. Asîd al-Ghassânî or Abû Hâritha Muhriz al-'Abshamî. Only one account lists a different intermediary: Tab. 1/2821 bis (...Sayf <Muhammad b. Sa'îd <'Ubâda b. Nusayy <Junâda b. Abî Umayya al-Azdî), on Mu'awiya raiding Cyprus.