
Encyclopaedia of Islam, Second Edition

Ubayy b. Ka' b

al-Anṣārī al-Madanī, a member of the Banū Ḥudayla of the Medinan clan of al-Nadjdjār, secretary to Muḥammad in Medina and early collector of the Qur'ān; his date of death may have been anywhere between 19/640 and 35/656, according to *Ibn al-Djazarī, Ṭabaḳāt*, no. 131. Known as *sayyid al-ḳurrā'* and renowned for his memory (he was able to recite the entire Qur'ān in 8 nights), Ubayy is said to have collected his own copy of the Qur'ān prior to the collection commanded by 'Uthmān, while also having been involved in the latter's collection. Both the contents and the *sūra* order of his text are reported to have been different to some extent from the later authoritative version (e.g. *Fihrist*, 27; al-Suyūṭī, *al-Itḳān fī ulūm al-Ḳur'ān*, ed. M. Abu 'l-Faḍl Ibrāhīm, Cairo 1967, i, 181-2); al-Bukhārī cites 'Umar as declaring Ubayy's text to be defective (*Faḍā'il al-Ḳur'ān*, *bāb* 8). Ubayy's version was accepted by the Syrians until it was displaced by the 'Uthmānic text [see KUR'ĀN, 3 b]. As secretary to Muḥammad, he is said to have memorised portions of the Qur'ān upon their revelation in order to recite them back to Muḥammad "for guidance and instruction", as well as to have written out various treaties according to various reports in Ibn Sa'd.

(A. Rippin)

Bibliography

Ibn Sa'd, iii/2, 59-62 (Cairo 1957, iii, 498-502)

Nöldeke-Schwally, *Gesch. des Qor.*, iii, 83-97

A. Jeffery, *Materials for the history of the text of the Qur'ān*, Leiden 1937, 114-81, with other biographical references.

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