

SHĪ'AH WOMEN TRANSMITTERS OF ḤADĪTH

A COLLECTION OF BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WOMEN
WHO HAVE TRANSMITTED TRADITIONS

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*In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful
All Praise is due to Him.
May God send His blessings upon Muḥammad and his Household.*

A PREFACE BY THE TRANSLATOR

The book you are now studying is a collection about the women who have transmitted traditions in history with a short description of their biographies. Also included are some of their outstanding merits, quotes from scholars about them, who they have transmitted traditions from, and who transmitted traditions from them. It shows us the great number of women who have transmitted traditions and helped in conveying them to later generations. It is hoped this book can be a reference for further research on Muslim women.

In Islam we know there is no difference in position between men and women before God. The only difference in people's worth is based on their piety. As it is written in the Holy Qur'ān, *"O you mankind, surely We have created you of a male and a female, and made you tribes and families that you may know each other. Surely the most honorable of you with God is the one among you most careful (of his duty, or most pious). Surely God is Knowing, Aware."*¹ On the other hand the best role model for women can be other women. Therefore, this collection can be used as a starting point in understanding the role of women and for a deeper investigation and discussion of how women can reach their completion in God's plan.

Furthermore, in Qur'ān two women are mentioned as role models for all of mankind. We read in The Chapter: The Prohibition in verse 11, *"And God sets forth an example to those who believe the wife of Pharaoh..."* then in verse 12 it continues, *"And Marium, the daughter of 'Imrān, who guarded her chastity..."*²

There could be no better role model than the close companions of the Holy Prophet (ṣ) and the Pure Imams ('a). These were people who were in close contact with them, learned from them, and were thus able to transmit traditions from them. The peak of these women was Lady Fāṭimah Zahrā' ('a), the daughter of the Prophet (ṣ). As the Holy Prophet (ṣ) has said, "... my daughter, Fāṭimah, is the best of women in both worlds (this world and the next) from the

¹ The Holy Qur'ān, Sūrah al-Ḥujurāt, 13.

² The Holy Qur'ān, Sūrah al-Tahrim, 11 and 12.

first to the last.”³ Her name and biography is the first in this collection. God willing we will be able to be among her followers for whom she will intercede on the Judgment Day.

One of the biggest difficulties involved in this translation was trying to maintain consistency in the way the many names of people and books were transliterated throughout the book due to the large number included. Because of this complexity the translation took over three years for its completion. In working on this translation every effort has been made to convey the correct meaning of the traditions from the Holy Prophet (s) and the Pure Imams (‘a) which have been given as samples of narrations from these transmitters. This is the largest collection about Shi’ah women transmitters of traditions compiled and translated. 210 women have been introduced in this book. There is a list of the 154 references used in making this compilation at the end of the book.

I would like to thank Dr. Nahla Gharavi, a friend of many years, for her work in writing this book and her suggestion for its translation. I would also like to appreciate Judith (Maryam) Ṭabāṭabā’i for her efforts. My family’s patience and support during this time are dearly treasured.

In the end, I ask the readers forgiveness for any lacks in this translation, and would like to invite their comments for corrections and improvements. Your prayers are deeply appreciated.

We pray for the return of our savior, Imam al-Mahdī (May God hurry his return), accompanied by the Holy Prophet Jesus Christ (May God’s peace be upon him) who will establish peace and justice in the world after it has been filled with injustice and oppression.

Engr. Gail D. (Mahjubah) Babst

Tehran, Iran

Aban 15, 1389 AHS

November 6, 2010 AD

³ *Amālī Shaukh al-Sadūq*: pp. 393 and 394; *Rihāṭ al-Anwār*: vol. 43: pp. 24 and 25