

## Research Paper

# Reviewing Some Narrations about the Revelation of Verse 37 of Surah Al\_Ahzab(The Marriage of the Prophet (PBUH) to Zainab bint Jahsh)

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## Abstract

The cause of revelation is narrations narrated from the infallibles companions and followers, all of which do not have the same value. One of the ways to trust these narrations is to be confirmed by the verses, to be in line with the context of the verses and to be valid in their document and text. The narrations regarding verse 37 of surah Al\_Ahzab which are related to marriage of the Prophet (PBUH) to his adopted son's ex-wife, Zainab bint Jahsh are of two categories. The first group considers the reason for this marriage to be divine revelation and the second group considers it due to the Prophet(PBUH)'s love for Zainab. The content of these two groups of narrations causes conflict and differences of opinion about the ambiguity of the phrase "And you were concealing in your heart what Allah was going to reveal, and you were fearing people, while Allah is more entitled to be feared by you" is mentioned in the verse. In this study, the narrations were prepared according to the date of the first narrators' death and considering the characteristics of the source, document, Text, context of verses and historical evidence it was found that the narrations of the second group (Ten Haddiths) did not appear in the first hand sources. In terms of document, it faces weaknesses such as weak or unknown narrators, interruption and submission of document. In textual studies, the scattering of texts, contradictions and lack of explicitness weakens these narrations. In addition the context doesn't conform it, and the available evidence reinforces the theory that these hadiths are fabricated.

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## Extended abstract

### 1. Introduction:

A number of verses of the Holy Quran were revealed on different occasions and following some incidents. It is clear that knowing the revelation reason removes the ambiguity of the verse, completes its meaning, and makes it easy for the audience to understand. Regarding verse 37 of Surah Al-Ahzab, we face narrations that are mentioned as "occasions of revelation", and the commentators have tried to explain the ambiguity of the phrase "And you were concealing in your heart what Allah was going to reveal, and you were fearing people, while Allah is more entitled to be feared by you." According to the content of the hadiths about the occasions of the revelation of this verse, it can be placed in two distinct groups. The first group includes the prophet (PBUH) being informed through revelation that Zayd ibn Haritha would divorce his wife and Zaynab bint Jahsh would marry the prophet (PBUH). The narrations of the second group include the Prophet's (PBUH) interest in Zainab would lead to the divorce of this couple. It is clear that accepting one group will change the meaning of the said phrase; the supporters of the first view believe that what the Prophet (PBUH) tried to hide was the Prophet's knowledge of the marriage with Zainab, and those who support the second viewpoint believe that the Prophet (PBUH) hid his interest in Zainab. This article is trying to examine the narrations of the second group, which caused disputes, disagreements, and accusations against the Prophet (PBUH), and answer the question "to what extents are the narrations of this group acceptable and reliable in terms of authenticity and content? How much does the context of the verses and historical evidence confirm these narrations?"

### 2. Research method:

The current study was carried out through the descriptive-analytical method and the data collection was done through the library research method.

### 3. Results:

Narrations about the revelation of verse 37 of Surah Al-Ahzab about the explanation of the meaning of the phrase "And you were concealing in your heart what Allah was going to reveal, and you were fearing people, while Allah is more entitled to be feared by you." are divided into two groups. The first group is the narrations that consider the reason for this marriage to be a divine revelation, and the second group (ten hadiths) refers to the narrations that consider the reason for this marriage to be Prophet's (PBUH) interest in Zainab. In this research, the narrations of the second group were examined and the following results were obtained:

1. None of these hadiths have been found in the four Books of Shia and the six Books of Sunni, which are the most important hadith sources of these two branches. Furthermore, the authors of these hadiths' sources have not acknowledged the authenticity of all the hadiths in their books, and others have challenged the authenticity of all their narrations.

2. The authenticity of these hadiths has some issues, and in general, the weak and unknown narrators, lack of connection in some cases, and interruption of them have caused mistrust.

3. The text of narrations has distress and sometimes even contradictions. In addition, in expressing the connection of the phrase "And you were concealing in your heart what Allah was going to reveal, and you were fearing people, while Allah is more entitled to be feared by you", there is

no clarity in the verse in question and the content of the hadiths.

4. In addition to authenticity and textual problems, the context of the verses and the shreds of evidence in them did not confirm the contents of these narrations and on the contrary, supported the opposing narrations.

5. According to historical evidence, these narrations are faced with serious problems. Therefore, even if the authenticity and textual problems are ignored, these hadiths are not acceptable as the reason for the revelation of verse 37.

#### **4. Conclusion:**

In this study, the narrations were prepared according to the date of the first narrator's death, and considering the characteristics of the source, document, text, context, and historical evidence of verses, it was found that the narrations of the second group (ten hadiths) did not appear in the first-hand sources. In terms of the document, it faces weaknesses such as weak or unknown narrators, interruption, and submission of the document. In textual studies, the scattering of texts,

contradictions, and lack of explicitness weaken these narrations. In addition, the context doesn't conform to it, and the available evidence reinforces the theory that these hadiths are fabricated. As a result, this group of narrations about the reason for the revelation of verse 37 of Surah Al-Ahzab is not reliable and cannot be used to clear the ambiguity, interpretation, and explanation of the said verse.

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This article was written by Dr. Soheila Jalali Kondori, the corresponding author, and Maryam Noori, the second author.

#### **7. Conflict of interest:**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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