

## Surah 60. Al-Mumtahana

Asad: O Prophet! Whenever believing women come unto thee to pledge their allegiance to thee,<sup>18</sup> [pledging] that [henceforth] they would not ascribe divinity, in any way, to aught but God, and would not steal,<sup>19</sup> and would not commit adultery, and would not kill their children,<sup>20</sup> and would not indulge in slander, falsely devising it out of nothingness,<sup>21</sup> and would not disobey thee in anything [that thou declarest to be] right - then accept their pledge of allegiance, and pray to God to forgive them their [past] sins: for, behold, God is much-forgiving, a dispenser of grace.

Malik: O Prophet! When the believing women come to you to take the oath of allegiance, take their pledge: that they will not commit shirk with Allah, that they will not steal, that they will not commit adultery, that they will not kill their children, that they will not give any cause for scandal which they may invent between either their hands or legs (a woman accusing another woman of having an illicit relationship with a man and spreads such stories - or - a woman carrying an illegitimate child and makes her husband believe that it is his), and that they will not disobey you in any just matter, then accept their allegiance and pray to Allah for the forgiveness. Surely Allah is Oft-Forgiving, most Merciful.

Pickthall: O Prophet! If believing women come unto thee, taking oath of allegiance unto thee that they will ascribe nothing as partner unto Allah, and will neither steal nor commit adultery nor kill their children, nor produce any lie that they have devised between their hands and feet, nor disobey thee in what is right, then accept their allegiance and ask Allah to forgive them. Lo! Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

Yusuf Ali: O Prophet! when believing women come to thee to take the oath of fealty to thee that they will not associate in worship any other thing whatever with Allah that they will not steal that they will not commit adultery (or fornication) that they will not kill their children that they will not utter slander intentionally forging falsehood and that they will not disobey thee in any just matter then do thou receive their fealty and pray to Allah for the forgiveness (of their sins): for Allah is Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful. <sup>5427</sup>  
<sup>5428</sup>

Transliteration: Ya ayyuha alInnabiyyu itha jaaka almuminatu yubayiAAanaka AAala an la yushrikna biAllahi shayan wala yasriqna wala yazneena wala yaqtulna awladahunna wala yateena bibuhtanin yaftareenahu bayna aydeehinna waarjulihinna wala yaAAaseenaka fee maAAroofin fabayiAAahunna waistaghfir lahunna Allaha inna Allaha ghafoorun raheemun

Khatab:

O Prophet! When the believing women come to you, pledging to you that they will neither associate anything with Allah ?in worship?, nor steal, nor fornicate, nor kill their children, nor falsely attribute ?illegitimate? children to their husbands,<sup>1</sup> nor disobey you in what is right, then accept their pledge, and ask Allah to forgive them. Surely Allah is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

### Author Comments

18 - This connects with verse {10} above, and particularly with the words, "examine them...and if you have thus ascertained that they are believers...", etc. (see note [11]). Thus, after having "ascertained" their belief as far as is humanly possible, the Prophet - or, in later times, the head of the Islamic state or community - is empowered to accept their pledge of allegiance (bay'ah), which concludes, as it were, the "examination".

It should be noted that this pledge does not differ essentially from that of a male convert.

19 - In this context, according to Razi, the term "stealing" comprises also all acquisition of gains through cheating or other unlawful means.

20 - Sc., "as the pagan Arabs often did, burying their unwanted female offspring alive" (see also note [147] on [6:151](#)).

21 - Lit., "between their hands and their feet": i.e., by their own effort, the "hands" and "feet" symbolizing all human activity.

29974 -

lit., nor come up with a falsehood they have forged between their own hands and legs.

5427 - Now come directions as to the points on which women entering Islam should pledge themselves. Similar points apply to men, but here the question is about women, and especially such as were likely, in those early days of Islam, to come from Pagan society into Muslim society in the conditions discussed in notes 5422 and 5423 above. A pledge on these points would search out their real motives: (1) to worship none but Allah; (2) not to steal; (3) not to indulge in sex outside the marriage tie; (4) not to commit infanticide; (the Pagan Arabs were prone to female infanticide); (5) not to indulge in slander or scandal; and (6) generally, to obey loyally the law and principles of Islam. The last was a comprehensive and sufficient phrase, but it was good to indicate also the special points to which attention was to be directed in those special circumstances. Obedience was of course to be in all things just and reasonable: Islam requires strict discipline but not slavishness. A) "That they will not utter slander intentionally forging falsehood". Literally, "...nor produce any lie that they have devised between their hands and feet,". These words mean that they should not falsely attribute the paternity of their illegitimate children to their lawful husbands thereby adding to the monstrosity of their original sin of infidelity.

5428 - If pledges are sincerely given for future conduct, admission to Islam is open. If there is anything in the past, for which there is evidence of sincere repentance, forgiveness is to be prayed for. Allah forgives in such cases: how can man refuse to give such cases a real chance?

[View Page](#)

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