

# Conditions of the *Sulh*

According to historians such as al-Tabari, Mu'awiyah sent a blank paper with his stamp of approval at the bottom and wrote to the Imam (a) saying, "stipulate any conditions that you wish to on this paper that I have stamped the bottom of, it is for you."

The entire *sulh* with all its conditions has not been mentioned in one place, rather different historical sources have narrated different parts of the overall conditions. Shaykh Radi Aali Yaseen in his book *Sulh al-Hasan* explains how all of the conditions mentioned cannot be considered authentic. For example, conditions that are not in the favour of Imam al-Hasan (a) must be disregarded since it only makes sense he stipulate conditions in his own favour.

Based on the research of Shaykh Aali Yaseen, the *sulh* consisted of five conditions. Read the conditions mentioned below and answer the following Questions

- Note the exact wording of the first condition. Does this wording recognize that Mu'awiyah rightfully deserves the caliphate? Does it indicate that the Imam (a) agreed to pledge allegiance to him?
- What was the age difference between Mu'awiyah and the Imam (a)? Was it expected that Mu'awiyah would live for long?
- The title "amir al-mu'minin" was used to represent the true caliph of the Prophet (s). Who is allotted this title in the conditions below? What does this indicate?
- Why would the Imam (a) need his own source of income, as guaranteed to him in condition four? Keep in mind that later Imams were also guaranteed a source of income by the system of khums.
- One by one Mu'awiyah betrayed every single condition below. How would this have made him look in the eyes of the Muslims at that time and throughout history? What did the Ahlul-Bayt (a) stand to gain by this judgement of the masses?

The Conditions (as per Shaykh Aali Yaseen in the book *Sulh al-Hasan*):

1. The government will be handed over to Mu'awiyah on the condition that he acts according to the book of Allah, the sunnah of the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him and his family), and the *sirah* of the righteous caliphs.
2. After Mu'awiyah the government will be for al-Hasan. Should anything happen to him, then it will be for his brother al-Husayn. Mu'awiyah does not have the right to appoint anyone as his successor.
3. Mu'awiyah must stop insulting Amir al-Mu'minin and cursing him in the *qunut* of prayer. 'Ali must not be mentioned except with a goodly manner.
4. The public treasury of Kufah that amounts to five million dirhams are an exception; they will not be handed over to the government. In addition, Mu'awiyah must give two million dirhams every year to al-Husayn and prefer the Banu Hashim over the Banu Umayyah

with regards to endowments and gifts. Lastly, one million dirhams must be distributed amongst the children of the martyrs who died alongside Amir al-Mu'minin in the battles of Jamal and Siffin, and this must be taken from the taxes of Darabjard<sup>1</sup>.

5. All people are to be safe and secure in the land of Allah, regardless of whether they reside in Sham, Iraq, Hijaz or Yemen. The black-skinned and the red-skinned are to be safe. The mistakes of the people are to be tolerated by Mu'awiyah. No one is to be taken to account for previous mistakes. The people of Iraq must not be mistreated out of resentment. The companions of 'Ali wherever they may be are to be safe and secure. None of the Shi'ah of 'Ali may be mistreated. The companions of 'Ali and his Shi'ah must not be afraid of their lives, their property, their honour, and their children. No one will pursue them, no one will harm them. The right of everyone who is entitled, will be fulfilled. The property of the companions of 'Ali will not be seized from them. No assassination attempts will be made -- secretly or openly -- against the life of al-Hasan ibn 'Ali, nor against his brother al-Husayn nor against any one of the family of the Messenger of Allah. They will not be threatened, regardless of where in Muslim world they may reside.

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<sup>1</sup> Darabjard was an Iranian city close to Ahwaz.