

# Bay'ah

---

*Bay'ah* (Arabic: بَيْعَة, "Pledge of allegiance"), in Islamic terminology, is an oath of allegiance to a leader. It is known to have been practiced by the Islamic prophet Muhammad. *Bay'ah* is sometimes taken under a written pact given on behalf of the subjects by leading members of the tribe with the understanding that as long as the leader abides by certain requirements towards his people, they are to maintain their allegiance to him. *Bay'ah* is still practiced in countries such as Saudi Arabia and Sudan.<sup>[1]</sup> In Morocco, *bay'ah* is one of the foundations of the monarchy.

## Contents

---

### In Islamic history

#### In the Qur'an

History

#### Content of the bay'ah

#### See also

#### References

## In Islamic history

---

The tradition of *bay'ah* can be traced back to the era of Muhammad. From the beginning bay'ah was taken by Muhammad as an oath of allegiance. Anybody who wanted to join the Islamic community did so by reciting the basic statement of the faith expressing his faith in the oneness of God and the prophethood of Muhammad. However, this differed from the proclamation of faith necessary to simply become a Muslim. In addition to this the prophet formally took bay'ah from the people and tribes. Through this formal act they entered the Islamic community and showed their willingness to follow and obey Muhammad. The wordings of the oath differ in different traditions but it contains the shahada and prayers of repentance.

It is reported that at the occasion of annual gatherings outside Mecca, Muhammad met people from Yathrib, later to be renamed Medina, who accepted his call towards Islam. Muhammad then took *bay'ah* from them.<sup>[2]</sup>

## In the Qur'an

---

After the Pledge of the Tree, which led to the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, the following was revealed in the Qur'an commemorating and appreciating the pledge and those who made it:

Certainly Allah was well pleased with the believers when they swore allegiance to you under the tree, and He knew what was in their hearts, so He sent down tranquillity on them and rewarded them with a near victory,

— Sura Al-Fath, Ayah 18, Quran 48:18 (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A2002.02.0003%3Asura%3D48%3Averse%3D18>) (Translated by [Shakir](#))



Play media

Bay'ah Ceremony of the Commanders of Islamic Revolution Committees with Ali Khamenei, 8 June 1989

## History

The *bay'ah* of Rizwan, a collective initiation of thousands of Muslims at the hand of Muhammad, is mentioned in the Qur'an. The tradition was continued by the [caliphs](#).

In subsequent ages, it was associated with [Sufi](#) orders, and spiritual masters would initiate their followers. The practice still exists in Sufi orders around the world.

## Content of the bay'ah

The Bayah usually consists of a relatively standardised formulation such as the following:

I give my allegiance to .... to hear and obey in times of difficulty and comfort, in hardship and ease, and to endure being discriminated against, and not to dispute about rule with those in power, except in case of evident infidelity regarding that which there is a proof from Allah,”

## See also

- [Bay'ah \(Ahmadiyya\)](#)
- [Bay'ah Mosque](#)



Bay'ah to Abu Bakr as the first Muslim caliph after 632 CE

## References

1. Lesch, Ann M. (March 22, 2001). "THE IMPASSE IN THE CIVIL WAR" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20071109235847/http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc.aspx?id=1G1:77384488>). *Arab Studies Quarterly*. Archived from the original (<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G1-77384488.html>) on 9 November 2007. Retrieved 14 December 2019 – via [Encyclopedia.com](#).
2. Desker, Barry (2015). *Perspectives on the Security of Singapore: The First 50 Years*. p. 243.

Retrieved from "<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bay%27ah&oldid=930770287>"

**This page was last edited on 14 December 2019, at 20:38 (UTC).**

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.