

Aktham b. Şayfi b. Riyāḥ b. al-Ḥārith b. Mukhāshin, Abū Ḥayda (or Abu 'l-Ḥaffād, *Ansāb*; the verse quoted there is, however, attributed in *K. al-Mu‘ammarīn*, 92, to Rabi‘a b. ‘Uzayy, also of Usayyid) of the clan of Usayyid, a branch of the tribe of Tamīm, was one of the judges of the *djābiliyya*. The biography of Aktham consists mostly of legendary stories. Numerous traditions tell of missions by kings and chiefs to ask advice from him. The utterances of Aktham contain wise sayings about life, friendship, behaviour, virtue, women, etc. His personality as reflected in these sayings may be compared with that of Luḡmān to whom some of the wise sayings attributed to Aktham are actually attributed in other traditions.

Aktham is famous as one of the *mu‘ammarūn*. Muslim tradition tries to bring him into relation with the person of the Prophet and stresses that Aktham approved of Islam; he is even said to have spurred on his people to embrace Islam and to have died as a martyr on his way to the Prophet, but these traditions are certainly spurious.

Aktham is said to have had descendants in al-Kūfa, particularly the *ḵāḍī* Yaḥyā b. Aktham.

(M. J. Kister)

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