



Biography of Umar Ibn al-Khattab

The Muslim intellectual tradition has a long history of producing biographies. This genre was known as the genre of *Tabaqat*. Muslim biographers wrote books collecting the biographies of different people. Sometimes they focused on the Companions, sometimes on scholars of a certain discipline, and sometimes on people who lived in a particular city. These were books that often had hundreds, if not thousands, of entries on different men and women who shaped the history of Islam in a particular way. During the medieval period, some scholars even devoted entire volumes to a single figure, such as Umar Ibn al-Khattab.

Modern historians give many reasons for why the *Tabaqat* genre emerged. In this exercise, you shall revive this tradition by writing your own biography of Umar Ibn al-Khattab. When you are done, think of what this exercise meant to you and why biographies are valuable for history, but also for us as Muslims.

Some things to include in Sayyidna Umar's biography:

Full name

Date of birth and date of passing.

Place of origin

Physical description

Character traits

Important events and actions

Significant sayings