

### **The role of mothers vis-à-vis their children**

(At the time of the Jāhiliyya, after she had married ʿUmayr b. Wahb ... and gave birth to Ṭulayb [It is related that], she married Arṭā b. Shuraḥbīl, with whom she gave birth to Fāṭima. She then embraced Islam and migrated to Medina. It is told that her son, Ṭulayb, embraced Islam, after which the following dialogue took place between him and his mother Arwā) He said to her: “I have followed Muḥammad and surrendered before God.” His mother said to him: “the one you followed and assisted is the worthiest, your uncle’s son. By God, if we could do what the men are able to, we would have followed him and defended him.” Ṭulayb said: “What prevents you, mother, from embracing Islam and following him, for your brother Ḥamza had embraced Islam?” She said: “I shall see what my sisters will do, then I shall be one of them.” Ṭulayb said: “I ask you only that you go to him (the Prophet?) and embrace Islam by him and trust him, and testify that there is no god but Allah and Muḥammad is Allah’s apostle.” She said: “I shall testify that there is no god but Allah and that Muḥammad is God’s messenger.” Then she supported the Prophet in her words and encouraged her son to support him and perform his command.

Ibn Saʿd, *Kitāb al-ṭabaqāt* - Arwā bt. ʿAbd al-Muṭṭalib: