

Four Muslim nobles who could not grow a beard

Ibn Khallikan (608 هـ-681 هـ) mentioned: "There were four from the Muslim nobles who did not have beards. Beards would not grow on their faces and their hair would not grow".

1. **Shuraih ibn al-Hârith** (He embraced Islam before the death of the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم but was living in Hadhramaut Yemen and was unable to visit him, therefore he is considered from the second generation. He was a judge in Kufa and a scholar.)
2. **Al-Ahnaf Ibn Qays** (His name was ad-Dhahhak but he was called al-Ahnaf due to his clubbed feet. He embraced Islam before the death of the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم but did not meet him therefore he is considered from the second generation. Al-Ahnaf said: "I was performing Tawaf around the Kaba during the Caliph of Uthman when a man from the tribe of Layth grabbed my hand. He said 'shall I give you glad tidings?' I said 'yes'. He said 'do you remember when the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ sent me to your people, so I presented Islam to them. Then you said to your people 'he is calling you to good, he is commanding you to good.' I informed the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ of what you said and he said: "O Allah forgive al-Ahnaf". Al-Ahnaf said: "There is no deed I hope for more than this.'" (Collected by Ahmad graded Hassan)
3. **Abdullah ibn az-Zubayr** the noble companion (his mother is the noble companion and scholar Asma the daughter of Abu Bakr. His father is the noble companion Az-Zubayr ibn Al-Awam may Allah be pleased with them.)
4. **Qays ibn Sa'd ibn Ubādah** the noble companion (he is the son of the noble companion Sa'd ibn Ubādah may Allah be pleased with them)

Ibn Khallikan said: These Muslim nobles could not grow beards. Thus knowledge is not within beards and it is not inside hair. Rather it is a gift from Allah the Exalted upon whomever He wills from His slaves. (وفيات الأعيان وأنباء أبناء الزمان)

Translator's note: These men did **not** shave; rather they were unable to grow facial hair.