

Topic: **History and Importance of Hadith.**

Sub Topics: **Stages of Compilation of Hadith.**

**(a) Trace the main stages from the lifetime of Holy Prophet (PBUH) till the compilation of six authoritative books. [10]**

### Structure of Answer

- Para 1 = Compilation during the lifetime of Holy Prophet (PBUH).
- Para 2 = Compilation during the age of companions (11 A.H till 100 A.H)
- Para 3 = Compilation during the age of Successors of Companions (100 A.H till 200 A.H)
- Para 4 = Compilation during the age of Successors of Companions (200 A.H till 300 A.H)

### Points to be Covered

- Quran declares Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the best role model and excellent pattern for humanity:  
📖 Ref: “There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often.” [33:21]
- Sayings, actions and silent approvals of Prophet (PBUH) were meant to be compiled so this compilation can be the ultimate guide for humanity till the day of judgement.
- At first, Prophet (PBUH) stopped companions from writing Hadiths so it does not get mixed with revelation of Quran. He drew their attention towards memorization and verbal teaching. Only treaties and letters can be found as written record of early and mid-years of Islam.
- Companions who went an extra mile to memorize and narrate Hadiths were Ayesha (RA), Anas bin Malik (RA), Abdullah bin Abbas (RA), Abdullah bin Umar (RA), Jabir bin Abdullah (RA), Abu Hurairah (RA) and other members of Suffah (first school of Islam).
- When revelation and writing of Quran reached near completion, he allowed his companions to make written compilations of Hadith.
- Some of the written compilations include Kitab-us-Sadaqah about the rules of Zakat, was written on Prophet’s (PBUH) orders, Booklet of Amr bin Hazm containing rules of Prayer, Zakat, purification and administrative laws, Saheefa-e-Sadiqah written by Abdullah bin Amr (RA) and Booklet of Anas bin Malik. Some of them were even checked and endorsed by Prophet (PBUH).
- Soon after the demise of Holy Prophet (PBUH) companions put their maximum efforts to spread the teachings of Quran and Sunnah and travelled across the Arab and even beyond. They set up different centers of learning and teachings of Hadith. Some of them were Makkah, Madinah, Koofa, Busra, Damascus etc.
- Wives of Holy Prophet (PBUH) and other female companions also took part in these efforts to spread the message of Allah and Prophet (PBUH) everywhere. Ayesha (RA) set up a school at her place and loads of students would come and learn Hadiths of Prophet (PBUH) from her. A lot of compilers of Hadith were students of Ayesha’s (RA) students.
- The famous written compilation of this era include Booklets of Abdullah bin Abbas (RA), Ubadah bin

Samit (RA), Samrah bin Jundub (RA), Jabir bin Abdullah (RA) and Booklet of Abu Hurairah (RA).

- So far the work of compilation of Hadith was done on individual basis. Umar bin Abdul Aziz (RA) a great Umayyad ruler wrote a letter to governor of Madinah and asked him to gather scholars of Madinah and make compilations of Hadiths. Imam Zuhri (RA) was the biggest scholar of Madinah who along with help of other narrators, compiled tons of books and sent them to Damascus where they were copied and distributed in Islamic world.
- Other compilers were Hasan Basri, Urwah bin Zubair, Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Malik, Sufyan Thauri, Sufyan bin Uyainah and Ahmed bin Hanbal. All these scholars made written compilations of Hadith and played major role in the mission of preservation of Hadith.
- This age is considered the golden age of compilation of Hadith as successors of successors took this matter very seriously. They did not only make some excellent compilations but paid special attention about differentiating between strong, weak and fabricated Hadiths. The six authoritative books of Hadith (Sihah-e-Sittah) were also compiled in this era. The first book among six authoritative books and most authentic book after the Holy Quran is Saheeh Bukhari written by Muhammad bin Ismail Bukhari which contains 7257 Hadiths. Saheeh Muslim is written by Muslim bin Al-Hajaj that contains 9200 Hadiths. Sunan Abu Dawud written by Imam Abu Dawud contains 4800 traditions. Jami' Tirmizi written by Imam Tirmizi contains 4400 Hadiths. Sunan Nasai written by Abu Abdulrahman Al Nasai contains 5700 Hadiths and last one is Sunan Ibn-e-Majah that contains 4341 Hadiths.
- This was the finest work could possibly be done by any community to preserve the life and sayings of their Prophet. Finally, Muslims were able to preserve the sayings, actions and silent approvals of Holy Prophet (PBUH) so they can get guidance from it till the day of judgement.

**Q (b) What was the significance of Prophet (PBUH) not allowing the written compilation of Hadith in early days of his Prophethood?**

**Points to be Covered**

- Prophet (PBUH) wanted to establish Islam and make sure his sayings were not mixed up with the words of the Qur'an which was still being revealed.
- Prophet (PBUH) motivated them to focus on verbal teaching and memorization.
- As soon as the revelation of Quran reached near completion and Prophet (PBUH) was certain that his companions would be able to distinguish between the Hadiths and the words of the Qur'an he encouraged them to write down the Hadiths to pass them down to others.

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## Topic: History and Importance of Hadith

### Sub Topics: Methods of Examination of Hadith.

Q (a) Explain the importance of Isnad (Chain of transmitters) & of the Matan (body of text) in assisting scholars to check authenticity of Hadith. [10]

or

Q (a) Describe the methods employed by the compilers of the major books of Hadith to ensure the Hadiths they collected were authentic. [10]

#### Structure of Answer

Para 1	Para 2	Para 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction.	<input type="checkbox"/> Rules of Isnad (Chain of Narrators)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rules of Matan (Text of Hadith)

#### Answer

- Major compilation of Hadith started years after Prophet's demise and during those years preservation and transition of Hadith depended upon the memory of people.
- When official compilation began, It became necessary to devise a proper mechanism to examine Hadith and determine if the Hadith is authentic or not.
- Compilers of Hadith divided Hadiths into two parts: Isnad (Chain of Narrators) and Matan (Text of Hadith)
- Example:
  - "Muhammd bin Al Muthanna reported from Abdul Wahab from Ayub from Abu Killabah, from Malik that the Prophet said" = Isnad (Chain)
  - "Pray as you have seen me offering prayer" Matan (Text)
- The first part which mentions the chain of transmitters is the Sanad and the second part which the body or text is the Matan. The scholars assessed both parts of the Hadith religiously.
- Scholars and compilers of Hadith employed some very strict rules to check authenticity of Hadith through examination of Isnad (the chain of narrators).
- They established a proper science called 'Asma-ur-Rijal' (Names/Biographies of People/Narrators). They researched, gathered, compiled and published the data regarding detailed biographies of Hadith narrators in which they would determine the level of a narrator according to different parameters which would eventually affect the quality of Hadith. Imam Muhammad bin Sireen (RA) said regarding importance of examination of Hadith:
  - "Indeed this knowledge is the religion, so be careful with regards to the one whom you take your religion from." [Muqaddima Sahiha]
- Rules employed by compilers of Hadith to check the authenticity of Hadith using Isnad are:
  - ✓ Each transmitter must be **honest, upright and strong Muslim**. Because narrating Hadith of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a sacred duty that requires above mentioned standards.
  - ✓ Transmitter must have good **retention skills**. Retaining can be of two types, it can be done through writing or through memorizing.
  - ✓ There should be **no gap, weaknesses** or any **other error** in the chain from start till the end. Each transmitter must have known the transmitter before him, and also the transmitter after.
  - ✓ The first transmitter in the chain must be a Companion of the Prophet (PBUH) as a successor narrating a Hadith directly from Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is not considered an authentic connected Hadith.
- Scholars and compilers of Hadith employed some very strict rules to check authenticity of Hadith through examination of Matan (the text of Hadith). Some of those rules are:
  - ✓ The text of Hadith must agree with the fundamental principles and teachings of Quran. Any Hadith that contradicts



with Quran can never be accepted as Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) could never say/do/approve anything that is against Quran. For instance a Madu Hadith says: "This world's age is seven thousand years and we are in the seventh thousand." This contradicts the verse of Quran in which Allah says that accurate knowledge of Judgement day is with Allah (SWT).

- ✓ It must also agree with the main body of famous and reliable Hadiths. An unknown Hadith that is not narrated by more than one companion, contradicts a famous and known Hadith will automatically be rejected.
- ✓ It must also agree with common sense and what is reasonable. For instance, a Madu Hadith says: "Long beard indicates stupidity." Or another one says: "Do not slice the meat with knife as it is the method of non-Arabs."
- ✓ A Hadith should not promise a huge reward for a tiny deed or huge punishment for a tiny sin.
- ✓ It should not praise/condemn any individual or place. For instance: "stay away from Hindus and Jews." Or another one says: "four cities are part of Hell, Constantinople, Tabriah, Intakiah and San'aa."
- ✓ It should not give precise details of events that occurred after the Prophet's time as Prophet (PBUH) would never predict any future incident with mention of exact time and date. For instance: "My companions will be faithful and practicing Muslims for 40 years, they will be loving and brotherly for 80 years and they will be full of hate after 160 years. Then there will be mischief and chaos."
- ✓ It should not contain expressions uncharacteristic of the Prophet as He had the most decent and sophisticated personality. So any use of abusive, indecent or immoral expression is impossible by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

### Q (b) Why is it important for Muslims to have collections of authentic Hadiths? [4]

#### Answer

- ❑ Prophet (PBUH) has been designated as the best role model for Muslims and they were ordered to follow him, as Allah says:
  - 📖 "There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern" [33:21]
 Thus it was necessary to compile his original sayings and actions.
- ❑ Further elaboration of Quran depends upon Hadith as Quran is a precise text that needs elaboration. Like Quran only orders to offer prayer but the number, pattern and other details will be found in Hadith.
- ❑ Hadith is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important pillar of legal thinking in Islam. Without Sahih Ahadith it is impossible to compile and apply the accurate Islamic jurisprudence and Shariah Laws.
- ❑ If there was no authentic collection of Hadith, Ummah would have been further divided into more sects and groups. Authentic collection of Hadith ensures unity of Muslim Ummah.

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## Topic: History and Importance of Hadith

### Sub Topic: Features of Sahih Bukhari and Muslim

#### **Sahih Bukhari**

- Compiled by Imam Muhammad bin Abdullah Ismail Bukhari.
- He was born in Bukhara a famous city of central Asian region (Uzbekistan) in 194 A.H/810 A.D and died in 256 A.H/870 A.D.
- He started learning Hadith at the age of 10 and memorized a lot of books of Hadith in his teenage.
- He authored his first book about history at the age of 18.
- He travelled across the Islamic caliphate and learned Hadith from approximately 1000 teachers. He gathered a collection of 600 thousand Hadiths.
- After years of research, analysis, memorization and hard work he selected 7397 Hadiths in Al-Sahih which is famous as Sahih Al-Bukhari.
- There are around 2600 original Hadith if we do not count the repetition.
- Sahih Bukhari was endorsed by famous scholars of that era and is considered the most authentic book after Holy Quran.

#### **Sahih Muslim**

- Compiled by Imam Muslim bin Al-Hajjaj (204 A.H/815 AD – 264 A.H/875 AD)
  - He was born in town of Nishapur present day Iran.
  - He also travelled to different learning centers across the Abbasid caliphate and gathered 300 thousand Hadiths.
  - He also learned Hadith from Imam Bukhari and was inspired by his style and method.
  - He shortlisted 9200 Hadiths and compiled them in a book called Sahih Muslim.
  - Sahih Muslim is almost parallel to Sahih Bukhari in authenticity and endorsement by scholars of Muslim community.
  - These 2 books are called Saheehain (The 2 authentic Books) and a Hadith recorded by both Bukhari and Muslim will be considered 'Agreed Upon' and considered the most reliable and strong Hadith.
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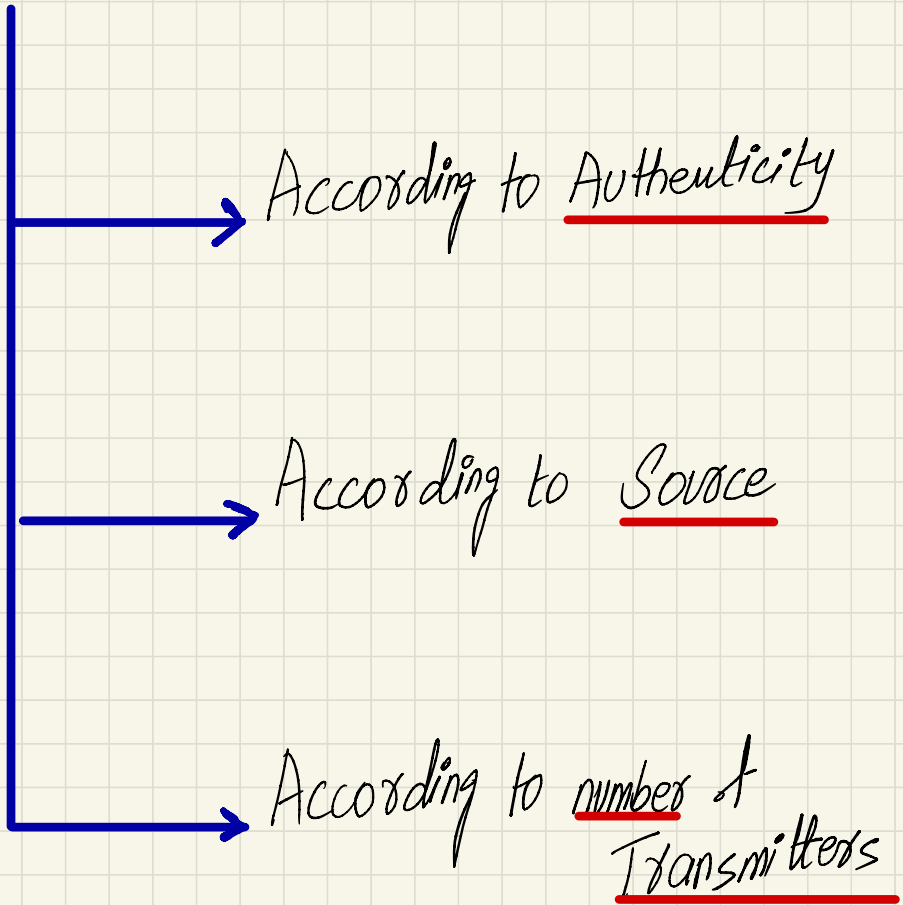
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# Classifications of Hadith



# According to Authenticity

1) Sahih → Authentic

2) Hasan → Good

3) Da'eef → Weak/Doubtful

4) Mawdu → Fabricated



# According to Source

1) Qudsi :- Content of God + Words of Prophet (ﷺ)  
"Fasting is for me, I will give its reward."

2) Nabwi :- Words, actions, Silent approvals/  
of Prophet (ﷺ) Disapprovals

# According to Number of Narrators

1) Mutawatis:- (Consecutive)  
Large No of Narrators in every era.

2) Ahad: → (Isolated)  
↓  
Limited narrators

(i) Mash'hur: 3 or more narrators

(ii) Azeez:- 2 Narrators

(iii) Ghareeb:- 1 Narrator.