

Earliest Collections of Ahadith:

The companions of the Prophet ﷺ went very deep and to great lengths to preserve his sayings, verdicts and his tacit approval. The Prophet ﷺ himself is reported to have instructed his companions to record his Hadith and take care that nothing should be falsely attributed to him.

Amongst thousands of the Ahadith written during his lifetime, there were letters, instructions, treaties and other official documents of the government.

Some of these were,

- a) **Kitab-As-Sadiqa:** This was dictated by the Holy Prophet ﷺ himself and contained detailed rules regarding the levy of Zakah. The original remained for a long time and copies were made for official use by the provinces.
- b) **Sahifa Amr bin Hazm:** The Holy Prophet ﷺ dictated this to Ubay bin Kaab رضي الله عنه and contained rules of Shariah about purification, Zakat, Salah, Ushr, Taxes, and other administrative laws. It was given as an official guide to Amr bin Hazm when he was appointed the Governor of Yemen.
- c) **As-Sahifa As Sadiqa:** Containing one thousand Ahadith, this was written by Abdullah bin Amr رضي الله عنه on the instructions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.
- d) **As-Sahifa Anas bin Malik:** He was the voluntary servant of the Holy Prophet ﷺ from the age of ten and wrote down many of his sayings. The Holy Prophet ﷺ himself was pleased to see him doing so and accorded him his wholehearted approval.
- e) **As-Sahifa Ali:** This is a detailed book of instructions that was compiled by Ali رضي الله عنه bin Abi Talib. This was a momentous work and served as a guide not only to himself but also to the governments of the future.
- f) **Other Directives:** the Holy Prophet ﷺ used to dictate to his scribes many documents and directives as well as complete books. These included instructions for government and letters to rulers and delegations.

Compilation of the Hadith in the 1st Century of Hijrat

In the first century of the Hijrat, several hundred books of varying formats dealing with Ahadith had already been prepared. These books which

1) Al-Sahih (The Authentic Hadith)

The True. This name is given to the absolutely correct Hadith in which there is no weakness. Both its chain of transmission ('Al-Isnad) and the text (Al-Matn) must pass ALL the tests such as those previously stated to verify their authenticity.

Example of Sahih Hadith

Yahya Narrated from Malik, who narrated from Abu Zinad from Al-Araj from Abu Hurraira that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "the food of two is enough for three and the food of three is enough for four"

Here both Sanad & Matn are perfect.

2) Al-Hasan (The Good)

It is like Al-Sahih Tradition, except for the fact that a slight weakness is found in its chain. Though reliable, it is lower in status to a Sahih Hadith.

Example of Hassan Hadith

Muhammad bin Ismail narrated from Malik bin Ismail who narrated from Israel bin Yunus from Yusuf bin Abu Burda from his father who narrated from Ayesha that she said, "whenever the Holy Prophet used to leave the toilet, he would say, "Ghufranaka".

This is a Hassan hadith because although the sanad is joined, some of the narrators do not have a perfect memory.

3) Al-Da'if (The Weak)

This refers to that Tradition in which there is some problem in either the chain of transmission, in the proper understanding of the transmitter or in its contents, which may be in disagreement with Islamic beliefs and practices.

Example of Daif Hadith

Narrated Abdullah from his father who narrated from Yazid bin Haroon from Hujjaj from Amr bin Shoaib from his father and he from his father that when the Prophet ﷺ made Abul Aas pay a new Mahr and performed a new nikah for him with his daughter Zainab.

This is Daif because

i. Hujjaj is not a student of Amr bin Shoaib

ii. Another Sahih Hadith is that the Prophet ﷺ validated the previous Nikah

4) Al-Mau'do (The Fabricated)

A false Hadith made up. This class of Ahadith have been carefully uncovered by our learned Islamic scholars in the past. They have no place in true and authentic Ahadith collections. The Hadith scientists have meticulously compiled books of these so that at no stage they may be confused with the real thing.

Example of Mau'do Hadith

Abdul Wahad narrated from Mubarik from Ibne Bakran from Qazi from Yatiqi from Ibne Dakheel from Muhammad bin Abdous from Abu Khutheema from Yazid bin Haroon from Qazat bin Soaid from Asim from Alshath from Shadad bin Aous that the Prophet said, "Whoever related poetry after Isha prayers, his Salah will not be accepted for that night".

i. Experts say that Qazat bin Soaid's narrations are full of mistakes

ii. Reciting poetry is not Haram.

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The main features of the six collections of Ahadith

The scholars have evaluated different books on the basic criteria of authenticity. The books that are considered of the highest rank are six in number. They are called the 'Six Authentic' (al-Sihah al-Sitta) books of Hadith.

Their names are as follows.

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| 1. The Sahih Al Bukhari | 2. The Sahih Muslim |
| 3. Sunan Ibn Majah | 4. Sunan Abu Da'ud |
| 5. Jam'a al-Tirmizi | 6. Sunan Nasai |

1. **The Sahih al Bukhari** (its full name is Al-Jaami' al-Sahih al-Musnad min Hadith Rasool-Allaah wa Sunanihi wa Ayaamihi), was compiled by Imam Muhammad bin Ismail Al-Bukhari رحمته الله (194-256 A.H.), and is considered to be the most authentic book after the Holy Quran. He, along with Imam Muslim,