Ramadan Daily Quran Study, by Dr Zahid Aziz, 2023

Adapted and edited from *The Religion of Islam* by Maulana Muhammad Ali Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore (UK)

Fast 6: Hadith collections

 The most famous and the first of those collections which are organized by subject is known, for short, as *Sahih Bukhari*. It is named after its compiler Muhammad ibn Ismail al-Bukhari (died in 256 Islamic year, or 870 C.E.). There are five other such collections, being collectively called the 'six reliable collections'.

Fast 6

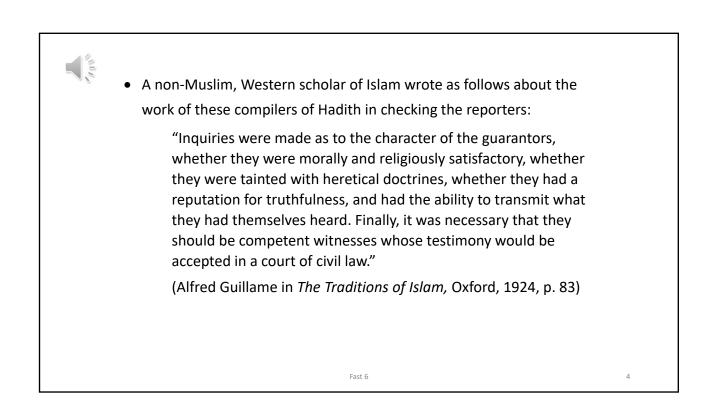
 What did Bukhari do? He found that there were a huge number of reports attributed to the Holy Prophet in circulation. He tried to trace each report back to a Companion of the Holy Prophet through the sequence of reporters who had passed it down to Bukhari's time. If he found something wrong with the line of reporters involved in a report he did not include it in his collection. For example, there might not be a continuous line of reporters, or some reporter along the line may be an unreliable person, or one person may be reporting from another but the two of them could never have met one another.

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- Sahih Bukhari is divided into nearly 100 'books', each book dealing with a different subject, for example, Faith, Prayer, Fasting, Hajj, Wars, Marriage, Divorce, Food and Drink, Good behaviour. It contains around 2500 distinctly different reports, and another 5000 reports which are variations of the distinctly different reports.
- Other compilers of hadith were not as strict as Bukhari in checking the authenticity of reports which they included. Sahih Bukhari is known as "the most reliable of books after the Book of Allah". It occupies a position second to the Holy Quran in determining the teachings of Islam.

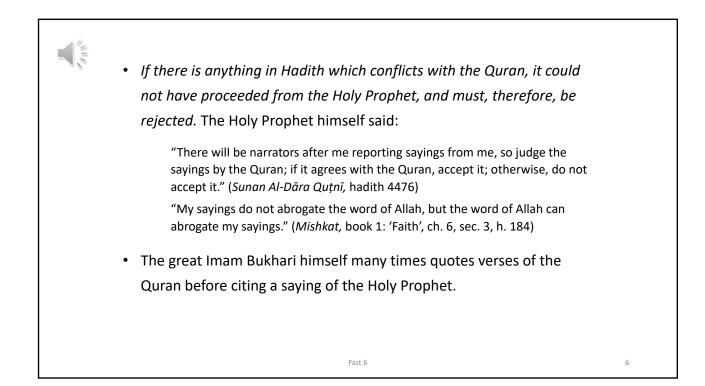
Fast 6



• The compilers of Hadith tried their best to find out whether each report was actually traceable back to the Holy Prophet through the various necessary stages. They also checked the subject-matter to determine if the report was sound or not. For example, if a report made it compulsory for Muslims to act on a certain teaching, but it was reported by only one individual from the Holy Prophet's time, it was not accepted.

• There is another very important test whereby the trustworthiness of Hadith may be judged, and this is a test that can be applied at any time.





- Thus Bukhari showed that the Holy Prophet's sayings are only a further explanation of the Quran and cannot contradict the Quran. As Hadith is only an explanation of the Quran, the Quran itself must have precedence over Hadith.
- Moreover, both Muslim and non-Muslim historians are agreed that the Quran has been handed down intact, every word and every letter of it, while Hadith cannot claim that purity.
- Since the Quran deals with the principles of the Islamic law while Hadith deals with its details, only those details can be accepted which are in line with the principles.

Fast 6

