

Works Dedicated to Narrators of Ḥadīth and Their Characteristics

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Abstract:

The works of Imām Bukhārī (810-870 AD) devoted to the science of "jarḥ wa ta'dīl" "al- Tārīkh al-kabīr", "al-Tārīkh al- awsaṭ", "al- Ḍu'afā' al-ṣaghīr" have reached today. are distinguished from other sources of this type by the breadth of subject matter and information coverage.

It is important to study the impact of the narrations of the narrators, which were "jarḥ" by the author in these works, on the inclusion and evaluation of the ḥadīth collections of other muḥaddiths, in order to reveal the position of Imām Bukhārī in this science.

The article sheds light on the method of the muḥaddith regarding jarḥ on the example of the phrase "takallama fiyhi" used in the work.

Keywords: "at-Tārīkh al-kabīr", "at- Tārīkh al- awsaṭ", "al-Ḍu'afā' al-ṣaghīr", "takallama fiyhi", "Ḍa'īf".

It is important to know the chain of ḥadīth narrators, i.e. isnad, when studying ḥadīths and selecting the most reliable ones from the narrations. For this reason, muḥaddiths who were involved in the science of ḥadīth attached great importance to the study of narrators and the work of distinguishing the reliable and unreliable ones from among them. In the words of Imām Shāfi'ī (d. 203/819), "A person who studies ḥadīth without a sanad is like a person who collects firewood in the dark of night." He does not know that even if he puts wood on a garden with a snake in it" [1:21-22]. muḥaddith scholars who well understood the importance of isnad in ḥadīth science created works dedicated to narrators and their biographies in order to create a reliable guide for future generations.

According to the sources, the first books related to this genre were written after the second half of the second Hijri century, the works of Layth ibn Sa'd (d. 175/791) "at- Tārīkh" and "at- Tārīkh" of Imām 'Abd Allāh ibn al-Mubārak (d. 181/797) are the first sources dedicated to the science of

narrators [2:25]. Imām Dhahabī mentions that Walīd ibn Muslim (d. 195 A.H.) wrote a book on the history of narrators [3:1:221].

According to Imām Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī, the first author who wrote a book in "‘Ilm al-rijāl" was Shu‘bah.

According to the Shī‘its, the first book written on "‘Ilm al-rijāl" was ‘Ubayd Allāh ibn Abū Rafī's "Tasmiyatu man shahida ma‘amir al-mu‘minin fil- Jamāl was- Ṣiffīn wa- Nahrawān min as- Ṣaḥāba" (Amir al-mu‘minin with Jamāl, Ṣiffīn and the names of the Companions who fought together in the Nahrawān battles) and was written before 40 AH. Sayyid Ḥasan al- Ṣadr, considered one of the Shī‘a scholars, states in his work " Ta’sīs al- Shī‘a" that ‘Abd Allāh al- Kinānī (d. 219 H.) was the first scholar to write a work on "‘Ilm al-rijāl".

After that, many works dedicated to this science were written. The authors covered the history of narrators in their works based on several criteria. Works written about narrators are divided into the following types:

1. Books covering all ḥadīth narrators. In this type of books, all the narrators who narrated the ḥadīth are collected. These works include both reliable narrators and those whose narrations are not accepted. Popular works in this series are:- Imām Bukhārī - the work of Abū ‘Abd Allāh Muḥammad ibn Ismā‘īl (d. 256/870) "al- Tārīkh al-kabīr". The volume of the work is very large, the number of narrators mentioned in it reaches 13,800;

➤ Ibn Abū Hātam - "al-jarḥ wa-al-ta’dīl " work of ‘Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Muḥammad ibn Idrīs Tamīmī (d. 327/938). When the author gives information about each narrator, his family name, kunya, nisab, famous teacher and students, narrations, homeland, countries he traveled to, the country he moved to and lived in, if his creed is against the people of the Sunnah, about this, if he wrote a work, about that too. brings Sometimes it also refers to the date of death.

2. Ṭabaqāt genre works. Books of this type are sorted by the authors, dividing the narrators into classes based on various criteria. For example, " Ṭabaqāt al-ḥuffāz " of Dhahabī is dedicated to the categories of ḥadīth scribes, "Ṭabaqāt al- Qurṛā'" of Abū ‘Amr Dani to the categories of Qur’ān reciters, " Ṭabaqāt al- Shāfi‘īyah" of Subkī is dedicated to the categories of jurists of the Shāfi‘ī school. There are also tabaqat works on the science of ḥadīth, which may cover all classes or be dedicated to a particular class. Among the works that cover all classes, the following are popular:

➤ The work of Abū ‘Abd Allāh Muḥammad ibn Sa‘d (d. 230/845), known as the scribe of Waqidi, "At- Ṭabaqāt al- kubrá " (The Great Ṭabaqāt). In the work, the names of the narrators from the companions and subjects to the time of the author are collected, and the narrators are divided into 8 classes in the work;

➤ "Tadkkirat al-ḥuffāz" (Remembrance of Hafiz) by Abū ‘Abd Allāh Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad ibn ‘Uthmān Dhahabī (d. 748/1348). This book is dedicated only to ḥadīth memorizers, and it is about narrators, scholars of jarḥ and ta’dīl science who collected many ḥadīths. The work is divided into 21 categories from the category of companions to the category of sheikhs.

Books that cover only one class are written mainly for the Companions. After all, knowing the Companions is one of the most important tasks in all areas of Islamic science. The work of scholars of ḥadīth science in this place will be to determine the companionship of the narrator who is at the top of the chain of narrators. Although the muḥaddith of the early period did not write a separate book about the Companions, they researched the Companions in all their works on the science of narrators. Later, only the works dedicated to the Companions began to be compiled. There are many works of this type, among them the following are famous:

➤ Ibn ‘Abd al-Barr - "Al-Istī‘āb fī ma‘rifat al-aṣḥāb" (Everything in the Knowledge of Companions) by Yusuf ibn ‘Abd Allāh ibn Muḥammad (d. 463/1071) [4:1:24]. In the work, the

lineage of the Sahabi, from whom he narrated the ḥadīth, who narrated the ḥadīth from him, his brief history, and his narrations are also mentioned. The number of Companions mentioned in the book reaches 4225;

- Ibn al-Athīr - 'Alī ibn Abul-Karam Shaybānī Jazarī's (d. 630/1233) work "Usd al-ghābah fī ma'rifat al-ṣaḥābah" (Lion of the Forest in Knowing the Companions). The work contains information about 7554 companions. The work contains important information such as the surname of each narrator, his emigration if he is one of the emigrants, his emigration if he went to Ghazat, and the date of his death;
- Ḥāfiz ibn Ḥajar al-'Asqalānī - the work of Abulfazl Aḥmad ibn 'Alī Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad (d. 1448/852) "al- Iṣābah fī tamyīz al-ṣaḥābah " (Success in distinguishing the Companions). This book is the most complete work on the Companions. The number of narrators mentioned in the work reaches 12267.

3. Works dedicated to the narrators of a work. This type of work is dedicated to the narrators of a ḥadīth collection. The author studies only the narrators of a single work or several works. This genre also developed after the creation of ḥadīth collections, from about the 4th century AH. The following are popular among them:

- "al- Hidāyat wal- irshād fī ma'rifat ahl as-siqat was-sadad" by Abū Nasr Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad Qalabazī (d. 398/1008) (The right way and guidance in knowing the people of virtue and health). This book is dedicated to the narrators in " Saḥīḥ Bukhārī ";
- Ibn Manjuwayh - the work of Abū Bakr Aḥmad ibn 'Alī Isfahani (d. 428/1037) " Rijāl Saḥīḥ Muslim" (narrators of Saḥīḥ Muslim). The work, as the name suggests, is dedicated to the narrators of Imām Muslim's " Saḥīḥ";
- the work of Muḥammad ibn Yahya al-Hazzo Tamimi (d. 416/1025) "at-Ta'rif bi rijāl al-Muwatta'" (Description of Muwatta's narrators);
- Works dedicated to the narrators of "Sihah Sitta" (Six reliable collections). Many authors have compiled biographies of six famous ḥadīth collections of narrators. In particular, the work "al-Kamal fī asma ar- rijāl" by Ḥāfiz Abdulghani ibn Abdulvahid Maqdis is the most famous of this type of works.

4. Works dedicated to narrators of a certain country. In this type of works, the author collects famous people such as scholars, thinkers, poets and writers, mathematicians who lived in a certain city or country. It was not taken into account that they were originally from this country or that they immigrated. They are included in this type because they pay great attention to narrators and people who are engaged in the science of ḥadīth. "al- Qand fī dhikr 'ulamā' Samarqand" by Najmiddin Umar ibn Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad Nasafi (d. 537/1143), "History of Jurjan" by Abulqasim Hamza ibn Yusuf al-Sahmi (d. 627/1230), Aḥmad ibn 'Alī Sabit Khatib The works of Baghdadi (d. 463/1071) "History of Baghdad" are among them.

5. Only works on reliable narrators. Only reliable narrators are collected in this type of works. There are many such works, among them "Kitab al-Siqat" by Abul-Hasan Aḥmad ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn Salih Mijli (d. 261/875), "Kitab as-Siqat" by Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad ibn Hibbān Busti (d. 354/965 - siqot", the works of Umar ibn Aḥmad ibn Shahin (d. 358/969) "Tarikh asma as-siqot mimman nuqila anhum al-ilm" (History of the Siqats in which knowledge was narrated) are famous.

6. Only works about weak narrators. This type of work concentrates on weak narrators. Such works are more numerous than the works dedicated to reliable narrators. Imām Bukhārī's "ad- Ḍu'afā' al-kabīr" (Big book on weak narrators), "ad- Ḍu'afā' al- ṣaghīr " (Small book on weak narrators), Imām Nasā'ī's "ad-Ḍu'afā' wal-matrukun" (Weak and narration non-obtainable narrators), Abū Jafar Muḥammad ibn Amr Muqaili (d. 322/934) "Kitab al- Ḍu'afā'" (Book on Weak Narrators),

Abū Hotam Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad ibn Hibbān Bustī (d. 354/965) " Maʿrifat al-majruhin min al-muḥaddithīn" (The Narrators of the muḥaddith), "al-Kamil fī ḍuʿafāʾ ar-rijāl" (The Perfect Work on the Weaknesses of the Narrators) by Abū Aḥmad ʿAbd Allāh ibn Adī Jurjānī (d. 365/976), Imām Dhahabī "Mīzān al-iʿtidāl fī naqd al-rijāl" (The standard for defining the narrators as fair) and "Lisān al-Mīzān" (The standard language) are the most famous works of this type.

In conclusion, it can be said that muḥaddiths who were engaged in the research of narrators, which is the main tool in determining the level of reliability of ḥadīths, created many works. The first works started from the second half of the second Hijri century, while in the third Hijri century, works covering all narrators were written, as well as those dedicated to reliable or weak narrators. From the fourth Hijri century, it became a tradition to write works dedicated to the narrators of the famous ḥadīth books. In the following centuries, the early works of this type were critically studied, and some of their shortcomings were filled.

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