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# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF HADITH

DR. SUHAIB HASAN



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## Contents

Publisher's Note.....	6
Foreword.....	7
SECTION A: INTRODUCTION.....	11
A brief history of <i>Mustalah al-Hadith</i> .....	12
<i>Mustalah al-Hadith</i> (the Classification of Hadith).....	14
<i>Rijal al-Hadith</i> (the study of the reporters of Hadith).....	16
SECTION B: THE CLASSIFICATION OF HADITH.....	19
According to the reference to a particular authority.....	19
According to the links in the isnad.....	21
According to the number of reporters in each stage of the isnad.....	30
According to the manner in which the Hadith is reported.....	33
According to the nature of the text and isnad.....	36
According to a hidden defect found in the isnad or text of a Hadith.....	39
According to the reliability and memory of the reporters.....	44
SECTION C: FURTHER BRANCHES OF <i>MUSTALAH</i> AND <i>RIJAL</i> ... ..	51
APPENDIX: Verdicts on the Ahadith mentioned in the Foreword.....	55



In the name of Allah, the Most  
Gracious, the Most Merciful.

## Publisher's Note

The Muslims in general believe that the Qur'an has been preserved intact and pure by Allâh Himself. But what is often forgotten by many is that this preservation necessarily includes the *Sunnah* of the Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم), the practical example of the implementation of the Qur'an.

*Hadith* is *Sunnah* in record. How the immense wealth of Hadith literature has been left to us by the *Muhaddiths* (scholars of Hadith) is an extremely wide, complex study.

We publish this short treatise on "the science of Hadith" by the learned Suhaib Hasan with English readers in mind. It is part of our scheme to introduce various aspects of Islam to English readers.

May Allâh accept it as a good work.

Abdul Malik Mujahid  
General Manager

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## FOREWORD

All Praise be to Allâh, Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessings of Allâh be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and on his family and companions.

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَنَافِظُونَ ﴿١﴾

**We have undoubtedly sent down the Reminder, and We will truly preserve it.** (Al-Qur'ân, Surah al-Hijr, 15:9)

The above promise made by Allâh is obviously fulfilled in the undisputed purity of the Qur'anic text throughout the fourteen centuries since its revelation. However, what is often forgotten by many Muslims is that the above divine promise also includes, by necessity, the *Sunnah* of the Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم), for it is the practical example of the implementation of the Qur'anic guidance, the Wisdom taught to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) along with Scripture, and neither the Qur'an nor the *Sunnah* can be understood correctly without recourse to the other.

Hence, Allâh preserved the Qur'an from being initially lost by the martyrdom of its memorisers, by guiding the Rightly-Guided Caliphs, endorsed by the consensus of the Messenger's Companions (رضي الله عنهم), to compile the *ayat* (signs, miracles, "Verses") of the Qur'an into one volume, after these had been scattered in writing on various materials and in memory amongst many faithful hearts. He safeguarded it from corruption by its enemies: disbelievers, heretics, and false prophets, by enabling millions of believers to commit it to memory with ease. He protected its teachings by causing thousands of people of knowledge to learn from its deep treasures and convey them to the masses, and by sending renewers of His *Deen* at the beginning of every century.





