

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

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Publisher's Note



One of the noblest and the most important aims of Darussalam is to publish books of *hadeeths* (Prophetic narrations). From the very first day of its inception, Darussalam desired to publish translations of books of *hadeeths* along with translations of the meanings of the Qur'an in important languages of the world.

By the grace of Allah, Darussalam has completed twenty-five years and during these long years, we have published, by the grace of Allah, as many as fourteen hundred books. We started with Riyadhhus-Saliheen, which we translated into English and other languages, followed by Bulughul-Maram. Then we published, in quick succession, English translations of the six canonical books of *hadeeths* (Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawood, At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah and An-Nasa'i) in 38 volumes - a momentous and pioneering achievement admired by lovers of *hadeeths* worldwide. This was a unique achievement in Islamic history in that this was the first time the six canonical books of *hadeeths* were published along with their English translations.

The four Sunan books (Abu Dawood, At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah and An-Nasa'i) were also documented, referenced, graded and accompanied by footnotes (where necessary).

In the meantime, many a friend of mine asked me to publish the English translation of Musnad Imam Ahmad, the largest collection of *hadeeths*. In fact, I had already pledged to Allah that if I stayed longer in Saudi Arabia, I would surely undertake this work as soon as I got a chance to do it. The Musnad of Imam Ahmad is a reliable and authoritative work containing over twenty seven thousand (27,000) *hadeeths*. The execution of this project was no easy task. In fact, the project exceeded our resources but we relied on Allah and started the work.

The most important part of this work was to research, document, reference, and authenticate the Arabic text of Musnad Ahmad. To this end, we formed a committee of eminent *hadeeth* scholars in Pakistan, who prepared a methodology to fulfill the task after prolonged consultations. Of special note among these scholars are Shaikh Irshadul-Haq Athari, Hafiz Mas'ood 'Alam, and Hafiz Muhammad Sharif. Under the supervision of these distinguished scholars an eight-member committee drawn from the *hadeeth* section of the Lahore branch of Darussalam Research Centre set about researching, referencing and authenticating the text of Imam Ahmad's Musnad and finally completed this task, by the grace of Allah.

- The following are the distinctive features of this momentous work:
- The words of the Prophet have been highlighted within brackets.
- Each *hadeeth* is accompanied by a commentary determining its degree of authenticity, i.e., detailing whether it is authentic, weak, and so on.
- We have specified and referenced which narrations of the Musnad are also found in Al-Bukhari and Muslim.
- To authenticate the text further, we have compared the texts of *hadeeths* as found in Al-Mawsoo'atul-Hadeethiyyah researched and published in 45 volumes by Mu'assasatur-Risalah with those of the Maimaniyyah manuscript - the oldest manuscript, and one highly esteemed by scholars - as well as with other authoritative versions. In the course of our authentication, we identified volume and page numbers of the Maimaniyyah manuscript and specified where and in what way the Maimaniyyah manuscript differs from our version, in footnotes.

- The verses of the Qur'an occurring in the texts of *hadeeths* have been placed within decorative brackets and referenced.
- Each *hadeeth* is accompanied by words, *raji'* (refer) and *unzur* (see) followed by *hadeeth* numbers indicating where that particular *hadeeth* has already occurred and where it will occur again.
- Another distinctive mark of the Darussalam version setting it apart from other current versions is that we have identified *Ziyadat* (the additional *hadeeth* which Imam Ahmad's son, Abdullah, narrated from persons other than his father) and *Wijadat* (the *hadeeth* which Imam Ahmad collected and wrote from other sources), by means of special signs preceding the *hadeeth* number. Moreover, we have also identified the narrations jointly shared by Imam Ahmad and his teacher or some other narrator.

Those signs are:

- the sign indicating *Ziyadat*
- the sign indicating *Wijadat*
- The sign indicating narrations jointly shared by Imam Ahmad and his teacher or any other narrator.
- Points and pauses (symbols of stops or *rumooz waqf*) have been given according to the specific style of writing (*manhaj khatti*) followed by Darussalam.

The scholars who contributed to the completion of this great project are Shaikh Khalid bin Basheer, Shaikh Qari Khubaib Ahmad, Shaikh Uthman Muneeb, Shaikh Hafiz Muhammad Asif Iqbal, Shaikh Mukhtar Ahmad Ziya', Shaikh Ghulam Murtaza, Shaikh Abdur-Ra'oof, and Shaikh Muhammad Ibrahim. They deserve thanks on behalf of Darussalam and the readers in general and we ask Allah to reward them for their efforts, *Ameen*. Mention should also be made of Hafiz Abdul-Azeem Asad, the Director of the Lahore branch of Darussalam, and his team of devoted workers. Without their untiring efforts, this project could not have seen the light of day. I am indebted to all the people who contributed one way or the other to the completion of this monumental and blessed project.

