

On the Hadeeth Naming the 99 Names of Allah

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From the book "Asmaa was-Sifaat fee Mu'taaqidi Ahl Sunnati wal Jam'aat"

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The famous of hadeeth of Abu Hurairah (radhiAllaahu 'anhu):-

Narrated Abu Hurairah (radhiAllaahu 'anhu) Allaah's Messenger (sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said : "Allaah The Most High has ninety-nine names. He who retains them in his memory will enter Paradise.

He is Allaah, other than whom there is none worthy of worship, the Compassionate, the Merciful, the King, the Holy, the Source of Peace, the Preserver of Security, the Protector, the Mighty, the Overpowering, the Great in Majesty, the Creator, the Maker, the Fashioner, the Forgiver, the Dominant, the Bestower, the Provider, the Decider, the Knower, the Withholder, the Plentiful Giver, the Abaser, the Exalted, the Honourer, the Humiliator, the Hearer, the Seer, the Judge, the Just, the Gracious, the Informed, the Clement, the Incomparably Great, the Forgiving, the Rewarder, the Most High, the Most Great, the Preserver, the Sustainer, the Reckoner, the Majestic, the Generous, the Watcher, the Answerer, the Liberal, the Wise, the Loving, the Glorious, the Raiser, the Witness, the Real, the Trustee, the Strong, the Firm, the Patron, the Praiseworthy, the All-Knowing, the Originator, the Restorer to Life, the Giver of Life, the Giver of Death, the Living, the Eternal, the Self-sufficient, the Grand, the One, the Single, He to Whom men repair, the Powerful, the Prevailing, the Advancer, the Delayer, the First, the Last, the Outward, the Inward, the Governor, the Sublime, the Amply Beneficent, the Acceptor of Repentance, the Avenger, the Pardoner, the Kindly, the Ruler of the Kingdom, the Lord of Majesty and Splendor, the Equitable, the Gatherer, the Independent, the Enricher, the Depriver, the Harmer, the Benefactor, the Light, the Guide, the First Cause, the Enduring, the Inheritor, the Director, the Patient." [1]

Some Of The Reasons For Its Weakness :-

At-Tirmidhee says : This hadeeth is Ghareeb. It has been narrated by other than one person from Sufyaan Bin Saaleh, and we do not know the hadeeth except from Sufyaan Bin Saaleh, and he is (only) trustworthy amongst the scholars of hadeeth. [2]

Ibn Atee says : The hadeeth in At-Tirmidhee is not Mutawaatir. In it are names that deviate from the rules, and (there are names) found in the du`a of the Prophet eg., Ya Hannaan, Ya Mannaan; and not one of them is in the hadeeth of At-Tirmidhee. [3]

Al-Qaadi Abu Bakr Ibn al-'Araabi says : We do not know if the explanation of these names (i.e. 99 names) are in the hadeeth or from the saying of the narrator.

Al-Mahfuz says from Abu Ayyub and Hisham, "(regarding this hadeeth) it is without the listing (of the names)."

Al-Hakim says : And 'Abdul 'Azeez is reliable (in the chain). Those who agree about it`s weakness are Bukhaaree, Muslim, and Ibn Ma'een. Al-Baihaqi (says) it is weak among the

traditionalists. And Al-Baihaqi says : It is conceivable that it`s tafseer is dropped from some of the narrator, and because of this probability the two sheikhs (Bukhaaree and Muslim) moved to the hadeeth of Al-Waleed in the Saheeh.

Haafidh Ibn Hajr explains the reason for it`s being Da'eef in "Fathul-Bari" 11/215

Ibn Katheer says : The listing of this hadeeth is Mujarrad (which is an addition by a reporter to the text of the saying by the narrator.)

Ibn Taimiyyah also says : Verily the ninety-nine names have not been specified in any saheeh hadeeth from the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam). [4]

The evidence why it is not authentic (also) lies in that it falls short of many of the names from the text of the Qur`aan and the Sunnah. For e.g. :- Ar-Rabb, Al-Khaalik, Al-Qadeer, Al-Qareeb, and similarly, many of the names are found in it that not specified in the Qur`aan and the Sunnah for e.g :- As-Saboor, Al-Mahsee, Ar-Rasheed, Al-Baqi.

[1] At-Tirmidhee : 5/530, hadeeth no.3507. Hadeeth Saheeh without the listing of names, refer to Al-Baihaqi`s "Al-Asmaa wal Sifaat" vol. 1, p22. (See Saheeh Muslim Eng. vol.4 : 1409)

[2] At Tirmidhee : 5/530, hadeeth no.3507.

[3] "Talkheesil-Baheer" : 4/172.

[4] "Majmu'al-Fataawa" Shaikh-ul-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah: 22/482.

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