

### Introduction to the *Hadith*

1. The *Hadith* is normally referred as the collections of the recorded words, actions and sanctions of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. The *hadith* is the collection of the ***Sunnah***.
2. The *Sunnah* is the example, the model, clarification and exegesis, interpretation and guidance of the general principles of revelation, of the **Qur'an**.
3. The Qur'an and the Sunnah make up the *syariah* of Islam and are the two main sources for an understanding of Islam.
4. Generally, the Sunnah of the Prophet s.a.w. can be grouped as below:

As a worshipper and pious servant of Allah – the *ibadah* – the rituals  
As a missionary and caller to the faith – the relations with peoples, the work of *da'wah*  
As a human being, a family man, a husband, a father, relative, friend, neighbour  
As a leader of the state, battlefield, *masjid*, marketplace, the courts

His actions, sayings, judgements, attitudes which constitute the exemplification of the message of Islam.

5. The authenticity of : *Hadith Sahih*

The highest in authenticity are

- Narrations by an unbroken chain of qualified reporters (*musnad*), every member heard it in the most reliable form of transmission.;
- Universally related by many at least 4 or more in exactly the same form and meaning, without any contradiction;
- Absolutely free from being out of context historically, in relation other *hadith*, satisfying rationality, coherent, factual, conforming to acceptable language and style
- All links in the chain of reporters fulfill requisites:

The condition is such that all the chain of narrators are free from defects right from the beginning till the end of the narration and comply to the following:

- Being just and fair
- of sound memory
- Free from discrepancies and contradictions
- Free from impairment and disabilities

6. These *hadith* are subjected to the methodological sciences developed in Islam and as a result of their greatest achievements, Islam achieved the most authentic status amongst the world's religions:

The sciences of reportage  
The science of biography  
The science of character examination  
The science of situational contexts  
The science of harmonization

7. The authentic hadith are compiled in the six collections which are very well known and universally accepted as authoritative: the ***Sunnan Sittah*** which are the works of al Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, al Nasa'i, al Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah.