

The Status of Sunnah - Shaykh Zulfiker Ibrahim Memon

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0-10

Meaning of "Sunnah"

- In Arabic, The word "**Sunnah**" means "**Habitual Practice / Custom**" regardless of whether it is good or bad
- "**Shar'ee**" means a meaning that has been derived directly from the Quran and Sunnah
- The "**Shar'ee**" meaning of the word **Sunnah** means "To obey Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) in everything he commanded us to do and to abstain from everything he forbade us to do"
- The above meaning has been derived from the Ayah :

🔗 Al-Hashr (59:7) ▾

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ...

... **And whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Severe in punishment.**

Categories of Sunnah

- People of knowledge say, meaning of the word sunnah can be categorized into 4,
 1. Commandments:
 1. **Obligatory (Fardh)** : When Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) **commands us to do something and its obligatory** (Al Fard) *like the beard*
 2. **Recommended (Sunnah)** : When Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) **commands us to do something and its recommended** (Sunnah) *like doing miswak*
 2. Prohibitions:
 1. **Forbidden (Haram)** : When Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) **commands us not to do something then its forbidden** (Haram)
 2. **Disliked (Makrooh)** : When Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) **commands us not to do something but it is not haram (Makrooh (Disliked))** There needs to be textual evidence for something to be makrooh

10-20

Technical meaning of the word Sunnah

- **Istilah** (technical) means that a meaning that the people of knowledge give after a thorough study of the Quran and the sunnah
- The people who defined Sunnah Istilah can be categorized into 3
 1. **The Ahl Al-Hadith**

2. **The Fuqaha (Jurist)** (Hanafi, Shafie, Hanbali, Maliki)
3. **The Usooliyyoon:** Scholars Who Are Experts In Usool Of Fiqh Like Hanafi, Shafie, Hanbali, Maliki
- The **Ahl Al-Hadith** have categorized "**Sunnah**" into 5 categories:
 1. **Qawl (statement):** Statement of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)
 2. **Fi'l (Action):** Actions of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)
 3. **Taqreer (Approval):** Approval of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)
 4. **Awsaafuhu Al-Khuluqiyyah (Ethics/morals and manners):** Ethics/Morals and manners of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)
 5. **Awsaafuhu Al-Khalqiyyah (Physical appearance):** Physical Appearance of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)

△ Note ▾

The **Fuqaha** and the **Usooliyyoon** define **sunnah as 3 things** and **ahl Al-Hadith** as **5**. This is because according to them sunnah consists of **actions, statements and approval** but the Ahl Al-Hadith add 2 more, **ethics/morals and manners and physical Appearance**.

The reason for this is that the Fuqaha/Usooliyyoon are concerned with only **halal and haram** whereas the Ahl Al-hadith include morals and appearance because **when they collected the hadith of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), they also included his morals and appearance**

The Ahl Al-Hadith

- The Ahl Al-hadith are upon the madhab (Methodology) of Abdullah ibn Amr ibn Aws (رضي الله عنه)
 - He was a sahabi (companion) who used to write everything that Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) used to say and do
 - If Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) used to smile or laugh etc. When narrating the hadith, the companion also used to do the same when narrating the same hadith

🔑 The most famous book on the appearance of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is Shamaa'il al-Tirmidhī who is from the Ahl Al-Hadith and the student of Al Bukhari (رحمه الله)

Meaning of the word "Hadith"

Info

- Sahih Al bukhari is a book of hadith and also a book of fiqh. It is the most strongest book of fiqh (According to Shaykh).
- Imam Bukhari paved the way for people to write books of fiqh based upon his legacy
- Hadith in Arabic means :
 1. For something to **happen and occur**
 2. Something that is **new or recent**
 3. To **speak** and **talk**
 4. To **transmit** and **report** (**narration**)
- "Hadith" has been mentioned in the Quran in various meanings

Az-Zumar (39:23) ▾

...اللَّهُ نَزَّلَ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ

Allah has sent down the best Hadith (statement), ...

- Here "Hadith" means "Statement", the Shar'ee meaning of "Hadith" has been derived to also be the "Speech of Allah"
- Quran is also known as Hadith
- Hadith is also referred synonymously as the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). But how the words are used is different.

30-40

6 Books of Hadiths

- The 6 famous books of Hadith are:
 1. Sahih Al Bukhari
 2. Sahih Muslim
 3. Abu Dawud
 4. Jami' Al-Tirmidhi
 5. An Nasai
 6. Ibn Majah

Deviations in making a distinction between "Hadith" and "Sunnah"

- Some deviants like Sir Syed Ahmed and Mirza Ghulam Ahmed along with others made a distinction between Hadith and Sunnah
- Fanatics of madhab say Raful Yadein is a hadith instead of a sunnah. If it went along with their madhab they would say "It's Sunnah", but if something was against it, they would say "It's Hadith not sunnah" like the Hanafis
- **Sunnah is Hadith and Hadith is Sunnah**

40-50

Obligation to follow the Sunnah

- If a sunnah reaches you, it is obligatory for you to follow it without saying "how", "Why", "But" etc.
- The evidence of this is:

🔖 Al-Hashr (59:7) ▾

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ...

... **And whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Severe in punishment.**

🔖 An-Nisaa (4:80) ▾

مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ ۚ وَمَنْ تَوَلَّىٰ فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا

He who obeys the Messenger, has indeed obeyed Allah, but he who turns away, then we have not sent you as a watcher over them.

- Hence it is **obligatory to obey Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)** as he is the **representative of Allah (ﷻ)**
- Actions like hajj and prayer are mentioned in the Quran but they are only explained in the Hadith
- The role of the sunnah is to **explain the commandments of Allah in detail**. This is why Allah sent Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ).
- Some wisdoms of why Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was sent:
 1. He was amongst us (mankind) and He was the best amongst us.

2. Allah wanted to reveal the Quran gradually so that the people/Sahabas were able to adopt the commandments gradually
- If you **love Allah, Follow the Messenger**.
 - If you **obey the Messenger**, then as a result **Allah will love you and forgive your sins**
 - The word used to follow Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is **Itteba**

50-60

Connection between Quran and "Sunnah"

- The Ahl al Hadith say there is a **direct connection between the Quran and the sunnah**. This connection is present in 3 ways:
 1. The sunnah plays a **supporting/confirming role** to the Quran in general
 2. The sunnah **explains** the Quran or **clarifies** it (*like, Allah has commanded us to pray and Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) actions/statements describe how to pray*)
 3. The Sunnah tells **ruling/commandments** that are **not found in the Quran**
- The best way to do tafseer (explanation) of the Quran:
 1. With The **Quran**
 2. With The **Sunnah** Of **Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)**
 3. With The Narrations Of The **Sahabas**
 4. With The Narrations Of The **Salaf**
 5. With The **Arabic** Language
- The hadith can be said as an **independent revelation** in which we find ruling that are not found in the Quran

Ahl Al-Hadith and Ahlus Sunnah

The one who absolutely follows the Quran and Sunnah his ascription will be Ahlus sunnah or Ahl Al-hadith without changing the name Allah has given them (muslim).

60+

QnA

- **Dua in congregation** after the salah or after in the graveyard after burying the dead is **Bid'ah**
- If a **hadith** reaches a layman and it is **Sahih** , he must **refer to the people of knowledge** to understand its application. If the **Hadith is clear**, you **can act upon it**, else if it **requires explanation** then the layman **must refer it back to the people of knowledge**.
- **Who should knowledge be taken from** ? The experts. The knowledge must come from the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)'s students (Sahabas), and their students (Taabi'een), and their students (Taabi' Al-Taabi'een), and their students, and their students, (it has to be a chain directly connecting to the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)) **Knowledge is inherited** .