

INTERPRETATION OF
THE
QUR'AN AND SUNNAH
REFLECTION ON SOME ISSUES

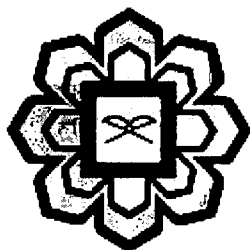
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INTERPRETATION OF THE QUR'ĀN AND SUNNAH REFLECTION ON SOME ISSUES

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The Essential Role of Isnād in Preserving Islamic Civilization

Habeeb Rahman Ibramsa *

Abstract

The Qur'ān and Ḥadīth serve as sources of Islamic thought and life. Islamic civilization is based on these two sources. The Qur'ān is free from any interpolations and modifications; it is beyond any doubt as original as delivered by the last Prophet (s.a.w.) to his followers. Due to some known reasons Ḥadīth was targeted to smear its original face. But Muslim scholars like always rose to the occasion to ensure the authenticity of Ḥadīth literature. They devised a unique system of verifying and thus preserving original sayings and doings of the Last Prophet (s.a.w.). They were aware of the fact the preservation of the originality of Ḥadīth was preservation of the second significant source of Islamic thought and life. The system they developed for that matter is known in Ḥadīth Studies terminology as isnād (chain of narrators). After thorough deliberation over and deep investigation into the viability of the isnād system, they reached the conclusion that the veracity of any information rests very much on the veracity of the reporters; if the reporters are reliable in their character as well as memorization, the report should be acceptable as authentic. Likewise, they concluded that weak character and fallible memory render the material reported unreliable. Muslim ummah has consensus of opinion on this principle. The present paper is devoted to highlight the significance of isnād in preserving Ḥadīth and thus in preserving Islamic thought and life.

Keywords: Islam, Ḥadīth, Isnād, and Civilization.

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