

IMAM TIRMIDHI'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCIENCE OF HADITH

Hamzayev Ali Abbos o'gli

Termiz State Pedagogical Institute, "Theory and Methodology of Education and Training" (Primary Education) 2nd Year, Graduate Student of Group 2114

Abstract:

The article describes Imam Tirmidhi's life, works, scientific journeys and the recognition of his teachers. Six books are recognized in the science of Hadith and they are known as "Kutubi sitta" ("Six books"). Among these books, the importance of "Sunani Tirmidhi" is mentioned.

Keywords: Imam Tirmidhi, Sunani Tirmidhi, hadith, Imam Bukhari, The Holy Quran, manners.

INTRODUCTION

In the teachings of Islam, the second source after the Qur'an is the hadith sharif. Collection of hadiths began in the 8th century. By the 9th century, the writing of hadith science became the golden age. Among them, Imam Tirmidhi also lived in this century.

Full name – Abu Isa Muhammad ibn Isa ibn Sawra ibn Musa ibn az-Zahhak al-Sullami al-Bug'i al-Tirmidhi az-Zarir. This is the more common and popular name of Imam Tirmidhi found in the sources. His surname is Abu Isa (that is, the father of Isa), his name is Muhammad, his grandfather's name is Sawra (sharp), his relatives are Tirmidhi and Bughi.

It is said that Imam Tirmidhi's family name is mentioned in this way in many sources and that there are two other sayings: The first one is called Muhammad ibn Isa ibn Sawra ibn Shaddad. The second one is Muhammad ibn Isa ibn Yazid ibn Sawra ibn al-Sakan.¹

Ibn Kathir also says that the name of Tirmidhi comes in three different ways:

The first: Muhammad ibn Isa ibn Sawra ibn Musa ibn al-Zahhak.

The second: Muhammad ibn Isa ibn Yazid ibn Sawra ibn Sakan.

The third is: Muhammad ibn Isa ibn Sawra ibn Shaddad ibn Isa Sullami Tirmidhi Zarir.

There are three different opinions expressed in Imam Tirmidhi's "as-Sullami". The first one is given in the work "al-Ansab" by Abdulkarim al-Sam'ani, it was the name of one of the ancient tribes of the Arabs.² We can learn from this work that the great-grandfathers of Imam Tirmidhi were from this tribe.

The second opinion is that Imam Tirmidhi's grandfathers made friends with representatives of the Arab tribe called Bani Sulaym. In the Middle Ages, it was customary to attribute a person who was friends with a tribe to that tribe.

The third word "Sullam" is derived from the Arabic language and means a ladder. In ancient times, all scientists and famous people made a living from a certain profession. It seems that Imam Tirmidhi or his ancestors were master carpenters who made ladders.

The reason why Imam Tirmidhi is called al-Bughi is because he was born in this village or died there.

¹Translation of the collection of hadith "Sunani Tirmidhi", volume 1. – Tashkent, 1999. –p.12

² Abdulkarim al-Sam'ani. "Al-Ansab". Volume 3. - Cairo, 1980. - p.45

Bug' is a village belonging to Termiz, located six farsakhs (farsakh - four hours distance, 12,000 paces) from the city. Tirmidhi was from this village, and it is more likely that they were attributed to the city of Termiz, to which this village is subordinate³.

To become a mature scientist, one has to learn from many teachers, which in turn requires traveling a lot. Imam Tirmidhi's journeys to acquire knowledge are also mentioned in the sources. When Imam At-Tirmizi reached the age of 20, he learned knowledge from the sheikhs of Khurasan, Ishaq bin Rohwaih Marwazi, and others, then at the age of 25-26, he went to Iraq (Basra) and learned from scholars there. After that, he went to Hijaz. However, there is no information about his visit to Baghdad, Egypt and Sham in the sources⁴. At that time, it can be said that there was unrest in Baghdad, Egypt, and Syria.

Such trips lasted for many years. It is mentioned in the sources that his scientific trips lasted for 20 years, then he returned to his homeland and met Imam Bukhari:

Imam Tirmidhi studied and collected hadiths in other countries for about 20 years. There is information that he met with Imam Bukhari in Nishapur (250 AH) and discussed many hadiths. After that, they started to write the books "Al-jami al-sahih" ("Sunani al-Tirmidhi")⁵.

Imam Tirmidhi is the author of many works. According to the sources, the following works belong to him: "Ash-Shamail an-Nabawiyyah" ("Prophet's Qualities"), "Kitab al-ilal" ("Book of Defects"), "Kitab al-Tarikh" ("Book of History"), "Kitab az-Zuhd" ("Piousness book"), "Asma al-sahaba" ("Names of the interlocutors of the Prophet"), "Kitab al-asma wa-l-kuna" ("The name and nickname of the narrators"), "Al-ilal fil-hadith" ("Defects in the hadiths"), "Risola wa-l-khilaf wa-l-jadal" ("Controversies and debates in the mention of hadiths")⁶.

About the teachers of Imam Tirmidhi, the commentary book "Sunani Tirmidhi" says: Four of Imam al-Tirmidhi's teachers are very famous. They are Imam Bukhari (may God have mercy on him), Imam Muslim (may God have mercy on him), Imam Abu Dawud (may God have mercy on him) and Imam al-Darimi (may God have mercy on him).

Imam Tirmidhi's respect for his teacher Imam Bukhari was endless. Imam Bukhari benefited from his knowledge during his stay in Nishapur. In a short time, he learned hadith and related sciences from Imam Bukhari. He expressed his immense respect for his teacher by saying, "I have never seen a person more knowledgeable than Muhammad ibn Ismail (Imam Bukhari) in the science of Hadith, both in Iraq and Khorasan"⁷.

Imam Tirmidhi was far ahead of the scholars of his time in the science of hadith, and his memory was similar to his teacher Imam Bukhari. About this, Shamsiddin Zahabi tells the following story in his work entitled "Tazkirat ul-huffaz" ("Tazkira about Hafizlar"): "On my way to Makkah, I met a Sheikh on the way. I had long ago recorded two juz (parts, fragments) of hadiths narrated by this Shaykh by hearing from another person. Thinking that I had taken these writings with me, I went to the Sheikh. After welcome, I asked him to hear the hadiths that I had heard from

³ Translation of the collection of hadith "Sunani Tirmidhi", volume 1. – Tashkent, 1999. –p.13

⁴ Translation of the collection of hadith "Sunani Tirmidhi", volume 1. – Tashkent, 1999. –p.13

⁵ Translation of the collection of hadith "Sunani Tirmidhi", volume 1. – Tashkent, 1999. –p.14

⁶ Commentary on "Sunani Tirmidhi", volume 1. - Tashkent, 2021. - p.23

⁷ Uvatov U., Jo'rayev O. "Imam Termizi". - Tashkent: "Shamsiddinkhan Bobokhanov" HMUY, 2021. - p.24.

another person from his own mouth, and I opened my heart to get the juz of this hadith, but unfortunately, I do not have these juz (parts, fragments) with me. there were only papers.

I looked at the white paper in my hand and started listening to the hadiths told by the Sheikh. After a while, the Sheikh saw the white paper in my hand and said: "Aren't you ashamed of me for doing this?" he said. I will tell you the truth without any excuse: I said, "I know all the hadiths you narrated by heart," and I told them word by word.

And the sheikh did not believe my words: "What, did you memorize them on purpose before coming to me?" he said. I answered: "No" and: "If you don't believe my words, tell me from other hadiths," I said. Then the Shaykh recited forty hadiths that no one had heard before. And I narrated all these forty hadiths one by one from beginning to end. I did not miss a single letter. Then the Sheikh said: "I have never seen someone like you"⁸.

At one time, Imam Bukhari praised his student Imam Tirmidhi and humbly said: "I used you more than you used me." This was a great assessment given to Imam Tirmidhi, a student of Imam Bukhari.

Imam Tirmidhi wrote down the hadiths he heard from his teachers and the narrators he met, even when he was on the road, on a journey, or when he was staying in one place.

The scholars of Imam Tirmidhi's time highly appreciated his merits in the science of hadith. Abdurrahman ibn Muhammad al-Idrisi, one of the Imams of Hadith: "Muhammad ibn Isa Tirmidhi is one of the Imams who are followed in the science of Hadith. He wrote books on hadith, history and science"⁹. Abu Yala Khalili writes: "Abu Isa was a reliable muhaddith recognized by all, and he gained fame as a depositor and a scholar"¹⁰.

Imam Tirmidhi was engaged in scientific and creative work, training students and became known as a great muhaddith and Imam. The way of life of Imam Tirmidhi was piety, striving not to harm the religion of Islam and one's own reputation, carelessly looking at worldly goods and wealth, eating the sorrow of the hereafter. It is mentioned in the sources that Imam Tirmidhi, who was known as a mature Muhaddith scholar of his time, mentored many students. His students: "Muhammad ibn Ahmad Marwazi, Abu Sa'id Haisam ibn Kulayb Shoshi, Hammad ibn Shakir Nasafi, Abu Mute Maqbul ibn Fazl Nasafi, Abu Hamid Ahmad ibn Ali Naysaburi, Abu Husain ibn Yusuf Firabri, Dawud ibn Nasr Pazdavi, Muhammad ibn Sufyan Nasafi, Nasr ibn Muhammad Shirakasi Samarkandi, Ahmad ibn Yusuf Nasafi"¹¹ are among them.

Six books of hadith are recognized in the science of hadith and are known as "Qutubi sitta" ("Six books"). Among these books, "Sunani al-Tirmidhi" ranks third, after the books of Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim ibn al-Hajjaj. As for Shaykhulislam ibn al-Ansari, he considers the book of Imam Tirmidhi to be higher than the books of al-Bukhari and Muslim. "For me, his (Tirmidhi) book is more useful than the books of Bukhari and Muslim. Because only experts use Bukhari and Muslim. Everyone can use Tirmidhi"¹². The books of Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim "al-Jami al-Sahih" have become famous throughout the Islamic world. In this way, following Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim, the "as-Sahih" or "as-Sunan" books of mature scholars such as al-

⁸ Uvatov U., Jo'rayev O. "Imam Termizi". - Tashkent: "Shamsiddinkhan Bobokhanov" HMUY, 2021. - p.24-27

⁹ Uvatov U., Jo'rayev O. "Imam Termizi". - Tashkent: "Shamsiddinkhan Bobokhanov" HMUY, 2021. - p.34.

¹⁰ Uvatov U., Jo'rayev O. "Imam Termizi". - Tashkent: "Shamsiddinkhan Bobokhanov" HMUY, 2021. - p.34.

¹¹ Uvatov U., Jo'rayev O. "Imam Termizi". - Tashkent: "Shamsiddinkhan Bobokhanov" HMUY, 2021. - p.15.

¹² Mirzo K. Translation of the hadith collection "Sunani Tirmidhi", volume 1. - Tashkent, 1999. - p.19

Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud, an-Nasa'i, and Ibn Mojah appeared in the world and gained incomparable fame in the Muslim world. Four of the six authentic hadith works of Kutubi Sitta are Sunan books and they are called Sunan Arbaa ("Four Sunan"), the authors of Sunan Arbaa are al-Tirmidhi, al-Nasa'i, Abu Dawud and Ibn Mojalar. Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim are exceptions. Among these four books, more precisely, among the "Sunans", the book of al-Tirmidhi "Sunani Tirmidhi" is placed at the top of the list by hadith scholars.

Imam Tirmidhi's master work on hadith science "al-Jome as-sahih" is composed of thousands of hadiths. This work, which is of great importance in the science of hadith, is "al-Jome as-sahih" ("Authentic Collection"), "al-Jome al-Kabir" ("The Big Collection"), "Sahih Tirmidhi" ("Tirmidhi's Book of Authentic Hadiths") was known by such names as "Sunan Tirmidhi" ("Tirmidhi's Book of Sunnahs").

This work of Imam Tirmidhi is also called "al-Jame" ("The Compiler") because it covers all the issues in the science of hadith. Hadiths on religious laws and rules, morals, advice, social and personal ethics have been included in the work "Al-Jome".

Imam Tirmidhi divided the work "Sunan" into separate chapters. Chapters are in the form of titles in the work, and the hadiths about the chapter fully describe the content of the chapter. In the chapters, the author cites a number of hadiths on the topic, and also systematically explains the opinions of other scholars and jurists on this issue. After that, expressing his attitude to the degree of authenticity, hasan, weak or strangeness of the narrated hadith, he expresses his opinion about the hadith narrators, sanads, and defects in the sanad.

Imam Tirmidhi said about his work "al-Jameh": "When I finished writing "al-Jameh", I showed it to the scholars of Hejaz, Iraq and Khurasan, and they unanimously approved it with pleasure. Indeed, whoever has this book "al-Jameh" in his house, it is as if the Prophet, peace be upon him, is speaking in his house"¹³.

About Imam Tirmidhi's work "al-Jame as-sahih" Allama Toshko'prulizada said: "(Tirmidhi) presented many works in the science of hadith. This book of his "al-Jame as-sahih" is the most useful, the most compact, and the least repetitive book among these works. It has features that are not found in other hadith books. Aspects of sects and istidlal (providing evidence) are taken into account; The types of hadith are clearly defined as sahih, hasan and gharib.

In this book, a place is reserved for jarh and tadil; a special chapter on vices is attached at the end of the book. So, this book is packed with great benefits. Those who have read the book will admit it"¹⁴.

Conclusions:

Imam Tirmidhi and the Muhaddiths who lived at that time made a great contribution to the development of the science of jurisprudence by taking sharia rulings from hadiths. All muhaddiths were jurists, and some of them were more superior than others in deriving Shariah rulings from hadiths.

1. The scientific heritage left by the great scholars is still being researched and new information is emerging. Information related to hadith, jurisprudence and other sciences can be found in the

¹³ Uvatov U., Jo'rayev O. "Imam Termizi". - Tashkent: "Shamsiddinkhan Bobokhanov" HMUY, 2021. - p.20.

¹⁴ Mirzo K. Translation of the hadith collection "Sunani Tirmidhi", volume 1. - Tashkent, 1999. - p.19

works of every scholar. The scientific heritage left by them is the spiritual property of the entire Islamic world. Today, it is our sacred duty to preserve the rich heritage left by scholars, use it wisely, study it and pass it on to future generations.

2. The activity of Imam Tirmidhi is focused on Sharia, Tariqat and enlightenment, and is manifested as a form of education and science.

3. The Holy Qur'an, which is the main pillar of Islam, and hadiths contain clear descriptions of the manifestation of the people of knowledge.

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