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II A Study of Selected al-Hadith Qudsi

Selected and emendations by Sh.Thaqib Mahmood

al-Ahādith Qudsī

A hadith qudsi (حديث قدسي) is a type of hadith in which the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ conveys words directly from Allah. Unlike the Quran, these words are not part of the Quran; the meaning is from Allah, while the wording is from the Prophet ﷺ. al-Ahādith (pl.) qudsi addresses various Islamic areas, providing legal, spiritual, moral, and eschatological guidance. These prophetic statements offer timeless perspectives that enrich faith's understanding and practice.

A) Definition of a Hadith Qudsī:

تعريف: هُوَ كُلُّ قَوْلٍ صَرِيحٍ يَرْوِيهِ النَّبِيُّ عَنِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ

‘Any apparent statement from Allah the Mighty and Majestic narrated by the Prophet ﷺ.’

For a definition to be precise and function as an objective reference, it must be both all-inclusive and all-exclusionary. This definition achieves this by encompassing four limiting considerations that contribute to its precision and significance.

The first:

The term قَوْلٍ statement eliminates any accounts that describe Allah’s actions.

The second:

The term صَرِيحٍ apparent excludes hadith where the Messenger of Allah ﷺ employs a passive verb such as ‘It was revealed to me...’

The Third:

The phrase يَرْوِيهِ النَّبِيُّ, as narrated by the Prophet ﷺ, excludes any references to apparent words from Allah conveyed by other prophets.

The Fourth:

The phrase عَنِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ signifies that it does not include any reports where the Prophet ﷺ relates Allah's words through an angel or Jibrīl.

B) Three types of expressions are considered forms of Divine speech:

The first:

It's the noblest form, namely, al-Quran

The second:

The previously revealed scriptures of the former prophets before their alteration and modification.

The Third:

al-Āhādith al-Qudsī - is the words of Allah narrated through a sound chain, and it is the Prophet ﷺ informing us of those words, unlike the Quran where it is Allah's words and is referred to as Allah said, etc..... al-hādith al-Qudsī is the prophet said narrating from his lord.

1. Arguably the most significant and encompassing Hadith Qudsī

عَنْ أَبِي ذَرٍّ الْغِفَارِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِيمَا يَرُويهِ عَنْ رَبِّهِ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى، أَنَّهُ قَالَ: "يَا عِبَادِي: إِنِّي حَرَّمْتُ الظُّلْمَ عَلَى نَفْسِي، وَجَعَلْتُهُ بَيْنَكُمْ مُحَرَّمًا؛ فَلَا تَظَالَمُوا. يَا عِبَادِي! كُلُّكُمْ ضَالٌّ إِلَّا مَنْ هَدَيْتُهُ، فَاسْتَهْدُونِي أَهْدِكُمْ. يَا عِبَادِي! كُلُّكُمْ جَائِعٌ إِلَّا مَنْ أَطْعَمْتُهُ، فَاسْتَطْعِمُونِي أُطْعِمَكُمْ. يَا عِبَادِي! كُلُّكُمْ عَارٍ إِلَّا مَنْ كَسَوْتُهُ، فَاسْتَكْسُونِي أَكْسُكُمْ. يَا عِبَادِي! إِنَّكُمْ تُخْطِئُونَ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ، وَأَنَا أَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا؛ فَاسْتَغْفِرُونِي أَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ. يَا عِبَادِي! إِنَّكُمْ لَنْ تَبْلُغُوا ضُرِّي فَتَضُرُّونِي، وَلَنْ تَبْلُغُوا نَفْعِي فَتَنْفَعُونِي. يَا عِبَادِي! لَوْ أَنَّ أَوَّلَكُمْ وَآخِرَكُمْ وَإِنْسَكُمْ وَجِنَّتُمْ كَانُوا عَلَى أَتَقَى قَلْبِ رَجُلٍ وَاحِدٍ مِنْكُمْ، مَا زَادَ ذَلِكَ فِي مُلْكِي شَيْئًا. يَا عِبَادِي! لَوْ أَنَّ أَوَّلَكُمْ وَآخِرَكُمْ وَإِنْسَكُمْ وَجِنَّتُمْ كَانُوا عَلَى أَفْجَرِ قَلْبِ رَجُلٍ وَاحِدٍ مِنْكُمْ، مَا نَقَصَ ذَلِكَ مِنْ مُلْكِي شَيْئًا. يَا عِبَادِي! لَوْ أَنَّ أَوَّلَكُمْ وَآخِرَكُمْ وَإِنْسَكُمْ وَجِنَّتُمْ قَامُوا فِي صَعِيدٍ وَاحِدٍ، فَسَأَلُونِي، فَأَعْطَيْتُ كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ مَسْأَلَتَهُ، مَا نَقَصَ ذَلِكَ مِمَّا عِنْدِي إِلَّا كَمَا يَنْقُصُ الْمَخِيطُ إِذَا أُدْخِلَ الْبَحْرُ. يَا عِبَادِي! إِنَّمَا هِيَ أَعْمَالُكُمْ أَحْصِيهَا لَكُمْ، ثُمَّ أَوْفِّكُمْ بِهَا؛ فَمَنْ وَجَدَ خَيْرًا فَلْيَحْمَدِ اللَّهَ، وَمَنْ وَجَدَ غَيْرَ ذَلِكَ فَلَا يُلُومَنَّ إِلَّا نَفْسَهُ". [رواهُ مُسْلِمٌ].

(H1) Abu Dhar al-Ghifārī (May Allah be pleased with him) narrated

That the Prophet ﷺ said: Indeed, Allah, Most High, said: O My servants! I have forbidden dhulm (oppression) for Myself, and I have made it forbidden amongst you, so do not oppress one another. O My servants, all of you are astray except those whom I have guided, so seek guidance from Me and I shall guide you. O My servants, all of you are hungry except those whom I have fed, so seek food from Me and I shall feed you. O My servants, all of you are naked except those whom I have clothed, so seek clothing from Me and I shall clothe you. O My servants, you commit sins by day and by night, and I forgive all sins, so seek forgiveness from Me and I shall forgive you. O My servants, you will not harm Me to harm Me, and you will not benefit Me to benefit Me. O My servants, if the first of you and the last of you, and the humans of you and the jinn of you, were all as pious as the most pious heart of any individual amongst you, then this would not increase My Kingdom an iota. O My servants, if the first of you and the last of you, and the humans of you and the jinn of you, were all as wicked as the most wicked heart of any individual amongst you, then this would not decrease My Kingdom an iota. O My servants, if the first of you and the last of you, and the humans of you and the jinn of you, were all to stand together in one place and ask of Me, and I were to give everyone what he requested, then that would not decrease what I possess, except what is decreased of the ocean when a needle is dipped into it. O My servants, it is but your deeds that I account for you, and then recompense you for. So he who finds good, let him praise Allah, and he who finds other than that, let him blame no one but himself. [Muslim]

