Sunni Documentation On Imam Mahdi

By Ansar M Ali: Rajab 1437 (May 2015)

It is known in the Sunni doctrine, that they accept six major collections of traditions based on the Sunni standards for verifying the authenticity of a tradition. These six books are: Bukhari, Muslim, Tirmidhi, Sunan Ibn Majah, Sunan Abu Dawud and Nisa'i. Only a handful of traditions from these aforementioned sources have been placed in this document. Upon understanding the various traditions, one can recognise from a Sunni doctrinal perspective- whom Imam Mahdi (as) is and associated information regarding his character and mission scope.

Sunni’s textual evidences clarify the following key points concerning Imam Mahdi (as);

• He will come in the last days to make a universal Government
• He is from the Ahlulbayt (as) of the Prophet (s)
• He is from the progeny of Fatimah (sa), the daughter of the Prophet (s)
• He is a different person than Prophet Jesus (as)
• Prophet Jesus (as) will come as one of the followers of Imam Mahdi (as) and will pray behind him in congressional prayer

Hadiths With References

Prophet of Allah (s) said: “Even if the entire duration of the world’s existence has already been exhausted and only one day is left (before the day of judgment), Allah will expand that day to such a length of time, as to accommodate the kingdom of a person from my Ahlulbayt who will be called by my name. He will fill out the earth with peace and justice as it will have been full of injustice and tyranny (by then).”

- Sahih al-Tirmidhi, V2, P86, V9, P74-75
- Sunan Abu Dawud, V3, P7
- Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, V1, P84-376; V3, P63
- al-Mustadrak ala Sahihayn, by al-Hakim, V4, P557
- Jami’ al-Saghir, by al-Suyuti, PP2,160
- al-Urful Wardi, by al-Suyuti, P2
- al-Majma’, by al-Tabarani, P27
- Tahdhib al-Tahdhib, by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani, V9, P144
- Fa’r al-Bari fi Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari, by Ibn Hajar Asqalani, V7, P305
- al-Sawa’iq al-Muhriqah, by Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, Chapter 11, Section 1, P249
- al-Tahkiraht, by al-Qurtubi, P607
- al-Hawi, by al-Suyuti, V2, P655-166
- Sharh al-Mawahib al-Ladunniyah, by al-Zurqani, V5, P348
- Fa’r al-Mugheeth, by al-Suyuti, V3, P41
- Kanz al-Ummal, V7 P86
- Iqd al-Durar Fi Akhbar al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar, V12, Chapter 1
- al-Bayan fi Akhbar Sahih al-Bukhari, by Ibn Gani al-Shafi’i, Chapter 12
- al-Fusool al-Muhimmah, by Ibn Sababgh al-Maliki, Chapter 12
- Arjahul Matalib, by Ubaidallah Hindi al-Hanafi, P380
- Muqaddimah, by Ibn Khaldoon, P416
- and also in the works of Ibn Habban, Abu Nua’üm, Ibn Asakir, etc.

Prophet of Allah (s) said: “The Mahdi is one of us, the members of the household (Ahlulbayt).” [Sunan Ibn Majah, V2, H4085].

Prophet of Allah (s) said: “The Mahdi will be of my family, of the descendants of Fatimah (the Prophet’s daughter).”

- Sunan Abu Dawud, English version, Chapter 36, H4271
- Sunan Ibn Majah, V2, H4086
- al-Nisa’i and al-Bayhaqi, and others as quoted in: al-Sawa’iq al-Muhriqah, by Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, Chapter 11, Section 1, P249

Prophet of Allah (s) said: “We the children of Abd al-Muttalib are the Masters of the inhabitants of the heaven. Myself, Hamza, Ali, Ja’far Ibn Abi Talib, al-Hasan, al-Husain and al-Mahdi.”

- Sunan Ibn Majah, V2, H4087
- al-Mustadrak, by al-Hakim, on the authority of Anas Ibn Malik
- al-Daylami
- al-Sawa’iq al-Muhriqah, by Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, Chapter 11, Section 1, P245

Prophet of Allah (s) said: “The Mahdi will appear in my Ummah. He will appear for a minimum of 7 or a maximum of 9 years; at that time, my Ummah will experience a bountiful favor like never before. It shall have a great abundance of food, of which it need not save anything, and the wealth at that time is in great quantities, such that if a man asks the Mahdi to give him some, and the Mahdi will say: Here! Take!” [Sunan Ibn Majah, V2, H4085].

Prophet of Allah (s) said: “We (I and my family) are members of a household that Allah has chosen for them the life of the Hereafter over the life of this world; and the members of my household (Ahlulbayt) shall suffer a great affliction and they shall be forcefully expelled from their homes after my death; then there will come people from the East carrying black flags, and they will ask for some good to be given to them, but they shall be refused service; as such, they will wage war and emerge victorious, and will be offered that which they desired in the first place, but they will refuse to accept it till they pass it to a man from my family (Ahlulbayt) appears to fill the Earth with justice as it has been filled with corruption. So whoever reaches that (time) ought to come to them even if crawling on the ice/snow since among them is the Vicegerent of Allah (Khalifatullah) the Mahdi.”

- Sunan Ibn Majah, V2, H4087
- The History Tabari
- al-Sawa’iq al-Muhriqah, by Ibn Hajar, Chapter 12, P250-251

Prophet of Allah (s) said: “The Mahdi from my family will bring about a revolution and will fill the world with justice and equity before which it was filled up with injustice and iniquity.”


Prophet of Allah (s) said: "The world will not perish until a man among the Arabs appears whose name matches my name." [Sahih al-Tirmidhi, V9, P74].

Abu Nadr reported that Jabir Ibn Abdallah said that he heard Allah’s Apostle (s) having said: "There would be a Caliph in the last (period) of my Ummah who would freely give handfuls of wealth to the people without counting it." I said to Abu Nadr and Abu Al- Ala: Do you mean Umar Ibn Abd-al-Aziz? They said: No, (he would be Imam Mahdi)." [Parentheses added by the translator of Sahih Muslim (Abdul Hamid Siddiqui)].

Abu Sa‘id and Jabir Ibn Abdullah reported that Allah’s Apostle (s) said: “There would be in the last (phase) of the time a Caliph who would distribute wealth but would not count.”

Prophet of Allah (s) said: “In the end of the time, my Ummah will undergo very hard affliction like never before, so that man cannot find any way out. Then Allah will appear a person from my progeny that is my Ahlulbayt, who will fill the earth with justice as it was filled with injustice. The inhabitants of the earth and the inhabitants of the heaven love him. The sky will bring down its water everywhere and the earth will bring all what it can offer and will become green all over. [al-Sawa’iq al-Muhrighah, by Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, Chapter 11, Section 1, P250].

Muhammad Ibn Hanafiyyah and Ali Ibn Abi Taleb reported that Allah’s Apostle (s) said: "The Mahdi is from our Ahlulbayt, no doubt Allah will enforce his appearance within a night (his coming is very unpredictable and is very sudden)."
Mahdi (as) that: "The traditions about al-Mahdi have been related by numerous authorities and are therefore reliable beyond doubt or confusion, because in jurisprudence the qualification of Mutawatir is valid even for (traditions) with less than this number of narrations. There are also many sayings of the companions of the Prophet (peace be upon him) which explicitly mention the Mahdi, which have the status of narrations from the Prophet since there is no question of establishing such saying through Ijtihad (one's opinion and research)." The author gives the same opinion in his other book "al-Fa'ah al-Rabbani". [Mawsu'atul Imam al-Mahdi, V, P391-392, 413-414, 434. & Tuhfatul Ahwadhi, V6, P485].

The author of the book, "Ghayah al-Ma'amool," mentioned that: "It is a famous narration among the Scholars of the past and the present that there has to appear a man from the family of the Prophet (s) named al-Mahdi. In addition, the traditions about the Mahdi have been narrated by the most renowned companions of the Prophet (s), as well as by the most renowned scholars such as Abu Dawud, al-Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah, al-Tabarani, Abu Ya'ala, al-Bazzar, Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, and al-Hakim (May Allah be pleased with them all); furthermore, those who claim that the traditions narrated with regard to the appearance of the Mahdi are weak, are themselves in error."

Al-Sahan in his book, "Is'aaf al-Raqibeen," mentioned that: "The news about the appearance of the Mahdi are traceable back to the Prophet (s), and that he is one of the members of the family of the Prophet (s); and that he will fill the Earth with justice."

Al-Suwaydi in his book, "Saba'iq al-Dhabab," reported that: "The scholars accept the appearance of the Mahdi who will appear at the end of time and fill the Earth with justice; and the traditions supporting his appearance are indeed numerous.

al-Hafidh Abul-Hasan Muhammad Ibn al-Husain al-Sijistani al-Aburi al-Shafi'i (d. 363/974) said: "The traditions were related by numerous authorities and were spread far and wide by many narrators, from al-Mustafa (s) concerning al-Mahdi who is from the household (of the Prophet) and who will fill the world with justice.

Ibn Khaldun in his book, "The Muslim World League" (1967 Edition, P257-258), a famous historian, in whose book, "al-Mugaddamah," wrote: "Let it be known that it is a narrated event by all Muslims in every era, that at the end of time a man from the family of the Prophet (s) will, without fail, make his appearance and will strengthen Islam and spread justice; Muslims will follow him and he will gain domination over the Muslim realm. He will be called al-Mahdi." [An Introduction to History, by Ibn Khaldun, English, London, 1967 Edition, P257-258].

Shaikh Ahmad Muhammad Shakir (d. 1377/1958), one of the greatest contemporary scholar of Hadith and Tafsir, whose major work was his commentary on Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal (for a biography of Ahmad Shakir, [al-Aalam, V1, P253; Mu'jam al-Mu'allieen, V13, P368] wrote in his commentary: "Belief in al-Mahdi is not particular to the Shia because it is from the narration of many companions of the Prophet in such way that no one can cast doubt the truth (of this belief)." After this, he proceeds to a strong refutation of Ibn Khaldun's weakening the traditions regarding al-Mahdi. (Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal with commentary of Ahmad Muhammad Shakir, Pub. by Dar al-Ma'arif, Egypt, V5, P196-198, V14, P288).

Al-Sayan Sabiq, the Mufti for the "Muslim Brotherhood," in his book, "al- 'Aqa'id al-Islamiyyah," said: "The idea about the Mahdi is indeed valid, and is one of the Islamic tenets that one must believe in."

The recent Fatwa in this issue was given in Makkah by "The Muslim World League" (Rabitatul 'Alamul Islami) on October, 11, 1976 (23 Shawwal 1396). This Fatwa states that more than twenty companions narrated traditions concerning al-Mahdi, and gives a list of those scholars of Hadith who have transmitted these narrations, and those who have written books on al-Mahdi. The Fatwa states: "The memorizers (Huffadh) and scholars of Hadith have verified that there are authentic (Sahih) and acceptable (Hasan) reports among the traditions related to al-Mahdi. The majority of these traditions are related through numerous authorities (Mutawatir). There is no doubt that the status of those reports are Sahih and Mutawatir. (They have also verified) that the belief in Mahdi is obligatory, and that it is one of the beliefs of Ahlussunnah Wal Jama'a. Only those ignorant of the Sunnah and innovators in doctrine deny it. [The Introduction of al-Ganji al-Shafi'i, in the book named "al-Bayan," Beirut, 1399/1979, P76-79].

Two Shafi'i scholars, Ganji in his book "al-Bayan," and Shahlanji in his book "Noor al-Absar," on the verse (48 : Al-Fath : 28) of Quran: "He is the One who sent his Messenger (Muhammad) with the guidance and the true religion that in order to prevail over all the religions." Narrated from Sa'id Ibn Hajar that: "This promise to Allah's Apostle (s) will be fulfilled by al-Mahdi who is in the progeny of Fatimah (sa)."

Al-Saban in his book, "Is'af al-Raghibeen," mentioned that: "The news about the appearance of the Mahdi are traceable back to the Prophet (s), and that he is one of the members of the family of the Prophet (s); and that he will fill the Earth with justice."

At least 35 prominent Sunni scholars have written 46 of books exclusively about Imam al-Mahdi (as), the leader of our time. Here are some of the names of these books:


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http://saviorofmankind.com/
http://almahdyoon.org/
http://thearrived.hashemstudios.com/
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