The concept of the Mahdi: Confusion or clear matter?

Confusing and unsolved matters finally clarified by the appearance of the Promised Yamani Ahmad al Hassan

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

والحمد لله رب العالمين
وصلى الله على محمد وآل محمد الائـمة والمهديين وسلم تسليما كثيرا

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Intensely Merciful. Praise be to Allah Lord of the Worlds. May the prayers and peace of Allah be upon Muhammad and his progeny, the Imams and the Mahdi's

By Abdul Kareem Ansary
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1. Confusing matters

Who is Imam Al Mahdi?

Probably every Muslim heard about Al Mahdi, many are waiting on him and want to follow him when he appears. But to follow him, people should be able to recognize him first before they can become a follower. So who is Al Mahdi? How can we distinguish the liars from the real claimer? And how can we become a follower of Al Mahdi?

Fairytales and reality

Most scholars fail in clarifying the Muslim ummah exactly the concept of the Mahdi. They can't separate their own imaginations and interpretations from reality, leading to millions of confused Muslims who can't recognize the Mahdi when he arrives and they follow liars and fake claimers instead of the real Leader chosen by Allah. It is known in the books of the Sunna and Shia that at the end times knowledge will disappear and scholars will be misguided scholars.

- 'Abdullah said: "The Prophet said: 'Just before the Hour, there will be days in which knowledge will disappear and ignorance will appear, and there will be much killing.' " [1]

- Prince of the believers (Ali ibn abi Talib) in his Khutba mentions the ending days, "the jurists" (fuqaha) will lean towards lying and the scholars will lean towards misguidance" [2]

It is also interesting to notice how people think the Mahdi will appear and how Muslims will recognize him and pledge allegiance to him. Many simply believe in a fairytale-like story that he will suddenly be recognized in Mecca by random people and that they pledge allegiance to him. This is without any test or preparation. Others believe that the chosen 313 will in a magical way appear at the Ka'ba and pledge allegiance to him. This goes all against the logic of the human mind, and against the tradition of God. People are always being tested when a chosen Leader of God appears. And it took the Prophets, peace be upon them all, years to deliver their message and to spread their knowledge. Let alone when they have the mission to spread justice and peace over the whole world.

Sunni or Shia Mahdi?

The two biggest sects in Islam have some differences, one of those is that in general Sunni Muslims don't believe in the "Shia Mahdi", and the Shia Muslims don't believe in the "Sunni Mahdi". If both would investigate the narrations of each other and the narrations in their own books then they would come to know that it goes a lot deeper than just simply believing in a savior who brings peace on earth in a short time in a miraculous way.

False claimers and liars

This document is not about counting all the liars and they're not even worth to be mentioned. What's more important is that we will use the Law of God to easily distinguish the liars from the real claimers. This important Law exists since the creation of Adam (pbuh).

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[1] Ibn Majah; also narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim, from the hadith of al-A'mash

[2] Ilzaam Al-Naaseb Ithbaat Al-Huja Al-Ga'eb v.2 p.195

2. Investigating the matters

Who's right?

Without even looking at all the false claims of people claiming to be the Mahdi, we are going to focus on the two most important ideologies wherein most Muslims believe.

- The Mahdi is Muhammad ibn Al Hassan, the Twelfth Imam (almost all Shia Muslims believe in this and a minority of Sunni Muslims)
- The Mahdi is born in the end of times and his name will be like the name of the Last Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him and his family) and his father's name will be the same as name of the father of the Prophet (pbuhahf).

Similarities

Instead of looking at the "contradictions" and the differences between both above mentioned options, the key lies in the similarities mentioned by both sects. Here are some facts that almost all Muslims agree upon:

- There will be 12 Leaders/Imams after the Prophet (pbuhahf)
- The Mahdi will be from the Ahlul Bayt, from the children of Fatima and Ali
- The name of the Mahdi will be like the name of the Prophet (pbuhahf)

12 Leaders/Imams
1
2
3
4
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9
10
11
12 (Mahdi)

The 12 Imams in Sunni sources

although not every Sunni Muslim accept (all) the 12 Imams of the Shia as divine leaders, most of the Sunni scholars admit that they're great Muslim personalities who did a lot for Islam. Their names are also written on the wall in Masjid Nabawi (mosque of the Prophet) in Medina. Some even admit that these leaders are 12 divine leaders. Also in the Sufi sect it is common to believe in the 12 Imams. Now let's take a look into some interesting Sunni narrations about the 12 Imams:

- Narrated Jabir ibn Samura: I heard the Prophet (s) saying: "**There will be Twelve Commanders.**" He then said a sentence which I did not hear. My father said, the Prophet added, "All of them will be from Quraysh."[3]

- The Prophet (s) said: "I am the chief of the Prophets and Ali ibn Abi Talib is the chief of successors, and after me **my successors shall be twelve**, the first of them being Ali ibn Abi Talib and the last of them being Al Mahdi."[4]

[3] Source: Sahih al-Bukhari (English ver.) Hadith: 9.329. Sahih al-Bukhari, (Arabic), 4:165, Kitabul Ahkam. This hadeeth is narrated in many other sources as well.

[4] Fara'id al-Simtayn, Beirut 1978, p. 160

- In a hadeeth from the Messenger of Allah s.a.w which came: "My executor is **Ali son of Abi Taleb** and after him are my grandsons **AlHasan** and **AlHussain**, 9 Imams will follow him from the son of AlHussain" And then he s.a.w said: "If AlHussain passed away, it is then his son **Ali** and then if he passed away it is his son **Muhammad** and then if he passed away it is his son **Jaafar** and then if he passed away it is his son **Musa** and then if he passed it is his son **Ali** and then if he passed it is his son **Muhammad** and then if he passed away it is his son **Ali** and then if he passed away it is his son **AlHasan** and then if AlHasan passed away it is AlHujja(the Proof) **Muhammad AlMahdi**, **so these are 12.**"[5]

12 Leaders/Imams

1. Ali
2. Al Hassan
3. Al Hussain
4. Ali
5. Muhammad
6. Jafaar
7. Musa
8. Ali
9. Muhammad
10. Ali
11. Al Hassan
12. Muhammad

[5] From Fara'id AlSimtayn for AlHamooni AlShafe'i 722 A.H: By the Isnaad of Ibn Abbas

3. From darkness to light

Recognizing the Mahdi

So if the 12th Imam is Muhammad al Mahdi, what about the Mahdi born in the end times? And what about the Mahdi who's father's name is the same as the name of the father of the Prophet (pbuhahf)? Is the name of the Mahdi Ahmad or Muhammad? Is his father's name Abdullah, or even a name like one of his grandfathers like Ismael and Ibrahim (peace be upon them all)?

Ahmad al Hassan

With the knowledge of Imam Ahmad al Hassan all became clear. He solved the puzzle easily which the scholars couldn't solve. This is one of many proofs of his knowledge. Ahmad al Hassan, the Yamani is a key element in the end times who plays a huge role in the Islamic Revolution of the Mahdi.

More than one Mahdi

Although the books of Sunni and Shia Muslims speak about more than one Mahdi, nobody really paid enough attention to this subject until Ahmad Al Hassan brought it into attention. To keep it short we will only quote some of the many narrations wherein more than one Mahdi is mentioned.

In Shia books:

- Habbah Al-Arni said: the Prince of the believers [pbuh] went out to Heera and said: "this will be joined to this", and he pointed with his hand to Kofa and Heera, "until a cubit in between them will be sold in Dinars, and then in Heera a mosque shall be built which has 500 doors, **the caliphate of the Qa'im [May God hasten his relief] shall pray in it**, because the mosque of Kofa will be small for them and **12 Imams of justice will pray in it**"[6]

- Imam Sajad said: the Qa'im from us will rise and **then after him will be twelve Mahdi's**.[7]

- In the dua reported from a woman who was in the house of Imam Al-Mahdi [pbuh] and Sheikh Al-Tosi related it to us: "O Allah pray upon Fatima Al-Zahra, and Al-Hassan Al-Reza, and Al-Hussain Al-Mustafa and all the successors, the lights of the gloominess and the banners of guidance and the signs of piety and the firm handhold and the strong rope and the straight path. **And pray upon your successor and the holders of his covenant and the Imams from his sons**, and make their lives longer..."[8]

[6] Bihar AlAnwar v.52 p.474, Tahtheeb AlAhkaam by Sheikh Al-Tosi v.3 p.245

[7] Sharh Alkhbar 3/400 (Explanation News 3 / 400.)

[8] Ghaibat Al-Tosi p.28, Bihar Al-Anwar v.52 p.22.

12 Leaders/Imams

1. Ali
2. Al Hassan
3. Al Hussain
4. Ali
5. Muhammad
6. Jafaar
7. Musa
8. Ali
9. Muhammad
10. Ali
11. Al Hassan
12. Muhammad

12 Mahdi's

1.
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In Sunni books:

- Narrated from Rashdeen from Ibn Lahee'a from Abi Qabeel from Abdullah son of Umro he said: "**After the Mahdi** that will take the people of Yemen to their cities, it is then the Mansoor, and then after him the Mahdi that will open the city of Rome by his hand".[9]

- It was said by Abu AlHussein Bani AlMunada: "**It is possible by the meaning of the hadeeth in that there will be 12 Caliphates after the Mahdi** that will emerge in the end times, for I found in the book of Daniel that if the Mahdi dies, 5 men will rule from the oldest grandson and 5 from the younger grandson and then he will give successor ship to the last one for the caliphate, a man from the son of the older grandson, so then he will rule after him a son and **then 12 kings will rule, each one of them is an Imam Mahdi."**[10]

- Tafseer Abi Hatem, from Ka'ab AlAhbar said: (**They are 12, and when they all pass away, there will be 12 similar to them replacing them**, and that is a promise from Allah to this nation and he read: "Allah has promised, to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds, that He will, of a surety, grant them in the land, inheritance (of power), as He granted it to those before them". And that is the work of Bani Isra'eel).[11]

The three laws to recognize the Hujja (Proof) of God on earth

Imam Ahmad al Hassan mentioned three very important and clear ways to recognize the Hujja of God. Let's take a look at the words of Imam Ahmad al Hassan:

"1. Allah has textualized about Adam and that he is a successor on his earth in front of the angels (pbut) and Iblees (l.a.)
2. After when Allah created Adam pbuh He taught him all the names
3. And then Allah commanded those who worshiped him during that time, the angels and Iblees to prostrate to Adam.

"And when the Lord said to the angels, "I am placing on this earth a successor". So they said: 'Would you place therein who corrupts within it and sheds blood, while we glorify by your praise and sanctify you.' So he said: 'I know that which you know not'." (Quran 2:30)

"So he taught Adam all the names and then he presented them to the angels so he said: Tell me the names of those if you were truthful?" (Quran 2:31)

"And when I made him and blew my Spirit into him, they fell prostrating to him." (Quran 15:29)

"So We said to the angels prostrate to Adam, so they fell prostrating except Iblees, he was from the jinn but has disobeyed the command of his Lord. So will ye take him and his offspring preferred ones

[9] Book of Fitan, Ibn Hamad (teacher of Sheikh AlBukhari) (1/395) hadeeth #1186

[10] Fateh Al Bari Sharh Saheeh AlBukhari v.13 p.181

[11] 14769 -In Tafseer son of Abi Hatem hadeeth #137302628 v.8: Ibn Abi Hatem AlRazi

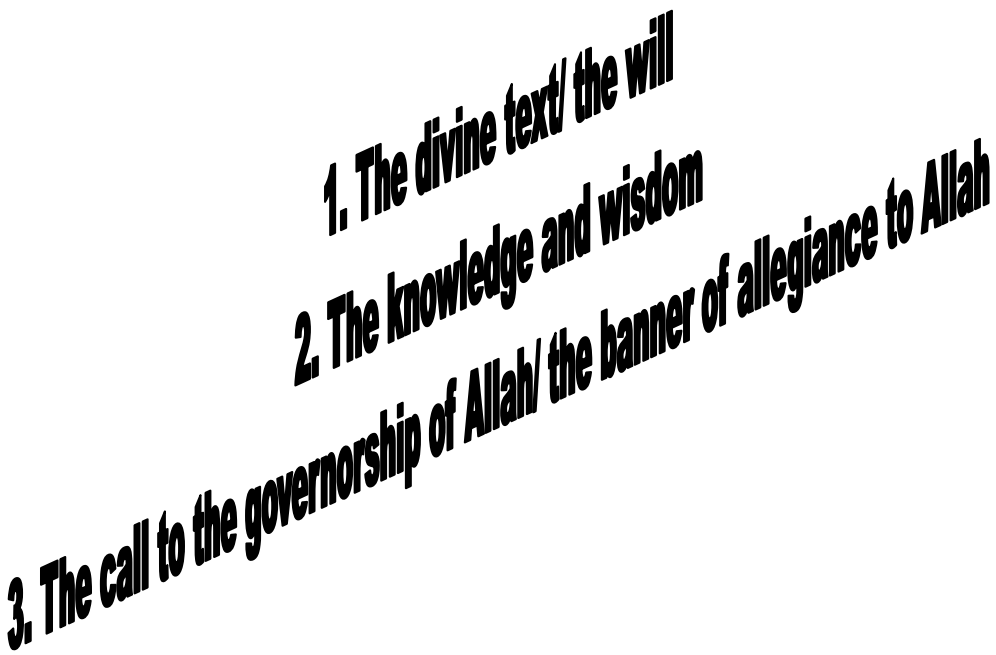
without Me, while they are enemies? Wretched it is for the wrongdoers as an exchange." (Quran 18:50)

These three matters is the law of Allah the Exalted and Most High to know the Hujja (proof)upon the people and the successor of Allah on His earth and these three matters is the law of the tradition (Sunna) of Allah the Exalted and Most High to know the successor ever since the first day, and this Divine tradition (Sunna) will continue until the end of the Dunya (World) and the rise of the Hour.

"The Sunna of Allah in those who have passed from before and you will not find a Sunna of Allah in exchange." (Quran 33:62)

"The Sunna of Allah which has passed from before and you will not find a Sunna of Allah in exchange" (Quran 48:23)

Thus, in all simplicity: Any human being who has a factory or a garden or a ship or anything which has workers working within it, he must appoint for them a person who is from among them to lead and he must textualize about him by name or else chaos will be widespread likewise he must be the most knowledgeable of them and best of them and he must command them to obey him so that what he wants is fulfilled. However, if the human being becomes a shortcomer in any of these three, he will place wisdom alongside foolishness, so how will the people allow this upon Allah, that he leaves any of these three while He is the Absolute Wise?!!"[12]



[12] Ida'aat(Enlightenments), 93-94, by Ahmed AlHasan

The Holy Testament

The first rule to recognize a true Leader chose by God is that he should be mentioned in a Holy text. The Prophet (pbuhahf) for example was also mentioned in the holy texts way before his appearance.

And he (pbuhahf) also wrote a Will so that no Muslim will ever go astray if holding on to that. It's the only written Will that can be found in all the narrations and so it has to be the real one, because God will never let His creation dwell in darkness without a rope to hold on.

Let's take a look at the Holy Will:

The Prophet Muhammad pbuhap said to Ali bin Abi Talib on the night of his death: "O Father of Al-Hassan, bring me a pen and a paper", and he dictated his will until he came to a position where he said, **"O Ali, there will be twelve Imams after me and after them there will be twelve Mahdis.** You, O Ali, are the first of the twelve Imams, Allah has named you in his heavens Ali Al- Mortatha, The Prince of the Believers, the Grand Truthful, the Bright Differentiator between truth and falsehood, the trusted, and the Mahdi (the rightly guided). These names may not to be truly attributed to other than you. O Ali, you are my successor over my family, their living and their deceased, and over my women. Whomever you affirm shall find me tomorrow, and whomever you reject I am innocent of her. I will not see her and she will not see me on the Day of Resurrection. And you are the successor (Khalifa) upon my nation after me. If death approaches you, hand it over to my son Al-Hassan the very beneficial. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to my son Al- Hussein, the martyr, the pure, the assassinated. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son, the master of the worshippers, Ali. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son, Muhammed Al-Baqir. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son, Jafar Al-Sadiq. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son, Musa Al-Kathum. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son, Ali Al-Retha. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son Muhammad, the trustworthy, the pious. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son Ali, the advisor. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son Al-Hassan, the virtuous. Then if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son, Muhammad the Entrusted of the Holy Family of Muhammad peace be upon them. So these are the twelve Imams. **Then after him, there will be twelve Mahdis**. So if death approaches him, let him hand it over to his son, **the first of the close ones**, he has three names, one like mine and my father's: Abdullah (servant of Allah), **Ahmad** and the third name is The Mahdi (rightly guided). **He is the first of the believers."**

- Sheikh Al-Toosi mentioned the Will in Al-Ghayba, p.150 and the naration has many more sources.

Ahmad Al Hassan is the First Mahdi

According to the Holy Will **Ahmad** is the First Mahdi from the sons of Imam Muhammad Al Mahdi. His father's name is Ismael, like the name of the grandfather of the Prophet (pbuhahf). A narration mentioning the Prophet saying: "I am the offspring of the slaughtered two," meaning **Ismael** and Abdullah.[13]Nobody can claim a divine position other than the real claimer, and that's a simple and clear way to distinguish the false claimers from the real claimers. Like nobody before the Prophet (pbuhahf) ever claimed to be the Prophet Ahmad described in the Testament of the Christians.

Ahmad Al Hassan is the First Believer

Meaning the Promised Yamani who will gather the followers of Imam Muhammad Al Mahdi to pledge allegiance to him. And he is the Mahdi described as being born in the end times and having the name of the Prophet (pbuhahf) and the name of his Father. In the book of Sunan Abi Dawood, **from the Prophet (pbuhap), that he said: "I am Abdullah, my name is Ahmad**. And I am Abdullah, my name is Israel. So whatever He has commanded him [meaning Israel], then I am commanded by it. And whatever concerns him, concerns me."

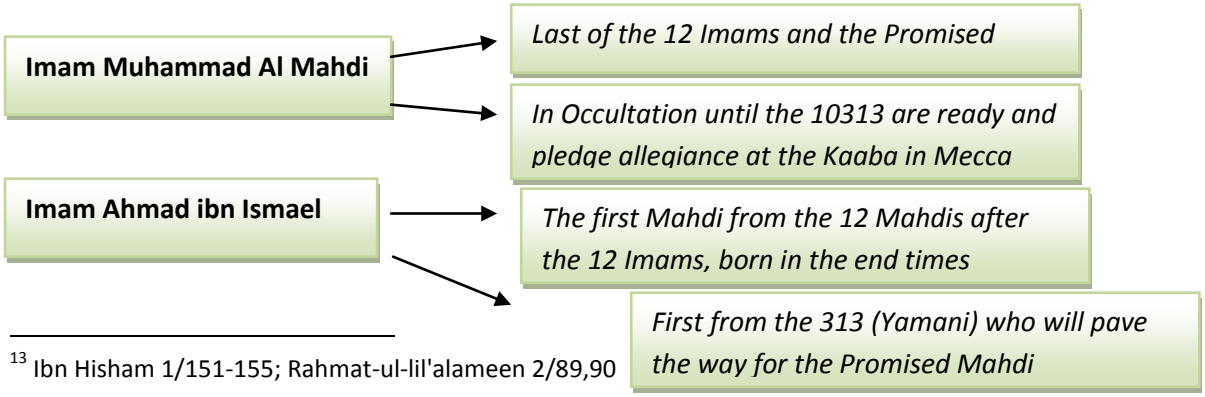
Ahmad al Hassan himself said the following words:
".. the accounts of the Holy Family of the Prophet (AS) describe **first Mahdi** and give, in detail, His Name, His Attributes and his Habitat. Indeed his Name is **Ahmad**, his **Nickname is Abdullah (Servant of God), i.e. Israel, and i.e. that people call him Israeli** (a Jew). And prophet Mohammed (pbuhahf) said: "my name is Ahmad and I am Abdullah (the servant of Allah), my name is Israel, and who ever ordered him has ordered me and whatever God said to Israel was meant to me." (Tafseer al Ayashi. Ch.1, pg. 44- Alburhan ch.1, pg. 95 - Albihar ch. 7, pg. 178) and **the first Mahdi is the first from the 313, and he is from al-Basra**, on his cheek is a mark and on his forehead is dandruff. His body is similar to the body of Moses the son of Imran (A.S). Also on his back is the seal of prophet hood and in Him the Will of the Prophet (A.S) is carried out, he is the most knowledgeable from all creation, after the imams, in the Quran, Torah and the Bible. Moreover, at the beginning of his appearance he will appear as a young man. The Prophet Mohammed (pbuhahf) said: (…**then he mentioned a young man and he said, "if you see him pay allegiance to him because he is the successor of the Mahdi**). Bisharat Al' Islam p. 30.."[14]

12 Leaders/Imams

1. Ali
2. Al Hassan
3. Al Hussain
4. Ali
5. Muhammad
6. Jafaar
7. Musa
8. Ali
9. Muhammad
10. Ali
11. Al Hassan
12. Muhammad

12 Mahdi's

1. Ahmad ibn Ismael
2. Second Mahdi
3. Third Mahdi
4. Fourth Mahdi
5. Fifth Mahdi
6. Sixth Mahdi
7. Seventh Mahdi
8. Eighth Mahdi
9. Nineth Mahdi
10. Tenth Mahdi
11. Eleventh Mahdi
12. Twelfth Mahdi



[13] Ibn Hisham 1/151-155; Rahmat-ul-lil'alameen 2/89,90

[14] http://saviorofmankind.com/articles/shia/151-who-is-the-yamani

And I would like to conclude with the following words of Imam Ahmad al Hassan, the Promised Yamani and the first Mahdi:

"The narration says that the Yamani is the man of the banner or commander of an army and says that if he emerges its obligatory to stand to him or fight with him, so is it conceivable for a person to fight with a commander and he did not pledge allegiance to him before and believe in him?"

"Do you think that they will appear and prepare their armies and fight with many armies during 24 hours for example? Does the mind accept this understanding?"[15]

Imam Jaafer (a.s) said:
"For us Ahlulbayt is a banner whoever transgresses against it is an evil one and whoever is late to follow it is misguided and whoever followed it is guided. It will be written on it:

*"**AlBay'a Lilah" (pledging allegiance is to Allah).** (250 signs p.15 Sheikh Korani)*

[15] Virtuous servant volume 2, p.47, by Ahmed AlHasan