

Chapter – 40

Imam Tirmizi

(825 - 892 AD)

His name is Muhammad and Kunniya is Abu Isa. His Father's name is Isa bin Surah. He was born in 209AH/825AD in the city of Tirmiz. So, he got his popularity with the name of Imam Tirmizi. He spent many years in quest of Hadith. He was not only a disciple of Imam al-Bukhari, but he was often called as his Khaleefah (*the successor*). By the way, he narrates hadiths from Imam Muslim and Imam Abu Dawood as well.

Imam Tirmizi has produced a collection of authentic hadiths. He first presented his book to the scholars of Hijaz. Everybody liked it. Then he showed it to the scholars of Iraq. They also expressed their appreciations on seeing it. Then after he had gone for the publication of his book.

Imam al-Bukhari in his book "Sahih al-Bukhari", had given his special attention to refer the relevant hadiths while getting solutions to the problems. At the same time, the reliability of the hadith was very important to him. Imam Muslim had given importance to the credentials, means the different chain of narrators, when composing his "Sahih Muslim". Imam Nasai had given emphasis in his book, "Sunan Nasai", on the need to remove discrepancies in narrations. And Imam Abu Dawood had set up his book that mainly provides a basis for the users of Jurisprudence. But, Imam Tirmizi contains in his "Al-Jame Tirmizi" contains almost all the colors of these Imams. As such, his compilation, in a way, may be considered as "Sahih" as well as "Sunan". It only repeats 83 hadiths. In his

presentation, only the relevant words of the hadith are used, whereas the irrelevant words have been deleted. Imam Tirmizi has also determined the correct status after writing Hadith.

According to the author of *Noor-ul-Hidayah*, the first feature of *Al-Jame Tirmizi's* qualities is its arrangement. Second, it lacks repetition. Third, the belief of every related sect (*Hanafi, Shafii', Hanbali, Maliki*) and the reasoning of each are mentioned in all places. Fourth, every Hadith discusses all about its weakness and the correctness. And fifthly, it has kept a distance from weak and invalid narrators.

According to Ibn Taymiyyah and Shah Waliullah, Imam Tirmizi was a Mujtahid, means an independent scholar of Muhammadan law. Maulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri says that Imam Tirmizi was a follower of Shafi'i belief.

Imam Tirmizi's memory was excellent. In the last part of his age he lost his vision. Regarding his memory, there is a very famous incident. He was on a journey and on the way when he reached to a particular spot, he remembered something and said to his colleagues that at this point there must be a very dense tree here, its branches would be touching to the ground. But to him people responded in denial. He got a jolt on it. He said "If this is the situation of my memory then I have to give up the task of writing Hadith". He asked the caravan to stop and insisted on its investigation. When their colleagues learned from the locals, it was discovered that a really large tree used to be there but it was cut down when the road was built.

In the third century of the Hijri year, the collection and editing of the correct hadiths was on its peak. Scholars such as Imam Tirmizi, during that period, worked hard on it and provided quality content to the people for which the Muslims of the world are grateful to them.

Imam Tirmizi died in 279AH/892AD. He is buried in Tirmiz.