

Chapter – 42

Imam Ibn Majah

(824 - 886 AD)

The name is Muhammad and Kunniya is Abu 'Abdullah. Born in 209AH/824AD. Father's name is Yazid bin 'Abdullah. His grandfather Hazrat 'Abdullah was a Companion of the Prophet. His mother's name is Majah, and his grandfather's name is Majah Qazoyini. This way he came to be known as Ibn Majah from these two relations and got fame by the same name.

He was from Iraq. But in fact Ibn Majah was of non-Arab origin. He was also called as al-Rabee', yet this Arab ethnicity is not generic, rather it is because of the close relationship to an Arab tribe named Rabee'a. In his childhood, Mammon-ur-Rashid was the Caliph who was very fond of knowledgeable persons. At that time, all the Islamic countries were on high status with respect to the developed sciences and arts. When Ibn Majah grew up, fortunately the Abbasid Caliphs were emphasizing the revival of the Sunnah, and were working on the publication of the Hadith of the Noble Prophet. At that time, the offices of the authentic Hadiths were open and the teaching of Hadith was in full swing. Consequently, he got conveniently benefited from many Scholars of Hadith, and he himself became master of this subject. In order to collect hadiths, he traveled to different countries as well.

The compiled collection of hadiths by Imam Ibn Majah is called as "Sunan Ibn Majah". There are 30 chapters in the list of

this Sunan, in which total 4,341 hadiths have been registered. From this collection, about 3,002 are those hadiths that are available in other Sahih books as well, and some 1,339 hadiths are those hadiths which have been brought in to the record solely by the efforts of Imam Ibn Majah.

According to Hazrat Abu Zara'h, in the Sunan Ibn Majah no hadith has been narrated which are weak or self generated. Rather, he says that this collection is unique in respect of precision and non-repetition.

The Sunan of Ibn Majah is generally regarded among "Sihah Sitta" (*the Six Authentic Hadith Books*). It is said that, in 507AH/1113AD, Abul Fazl Muhammad bin Tahir was the first person who mentioned this book as "Sihah Sitta". Subsequently, in addition to al-Suyuti, Abdul Ghani an-Nablusi, Abdul Ghani al-Mujadadi, other Muhadditheen and writers have also counted this book in Sihah Sitta. Although some have disagreed with this verdict as well, nevertheless the majority of the later authors commonly conquered with this decision.

Ibn Majah also composed a detailed commentary in connection with the interpretation of the Qur'an. For this he has collected the relevant hadiths along with credentials and complete references. Ibn Kathir and Al-Suyuti have mentioned about this commentary. Jamal-ud-din Ramzi has also worked on the narrators mentioned in this commentary and compiled his finding in his own book "Tahzeeb-ul-Kamal".

The third book of Imam ibn Majah is "at-Tareekh" (*History*). It contains the history right from of the Companions of the Prophet to the time of the author. Ibn Khalqan called it as "Tareekh-e-Maleeh" (*Agreeable History*) and Ibn Kathir has named it as "Tareekh-Kamil" (*Perfect History*).

Ibn Majah's interpretations of Quran and history are both extinct today. However, Sunan Ibn Majah has been published several times from various places. In fact, many translations of this collection have also been written.

Imam Ibn Majah died on 27 Ramazan, 273AH/886AD.

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