

ISLAMIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Kissing of Thumbs

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Kissing of Thumb Hadith

Hadith:- Literally means speech, report, account.

In Islamic Law it is the record recounted by the companions of the Prophet (PBUH) of what:

- a) *The Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon him) did*
- b) *The Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon him) enjoined or said*
- c) *was done in the presence of the Prophet and which he did not forbid*

Hadith are divided into two groups:

1. Hadith Qudsi (Sacred Hadith):-

A Hadith which relates a revelation from Allah in the language of the Prophet (Peace be upon him)

2. Hadith Sharif (Noble Hadith):-

The Prophet's own utterances, acts and observations.

The Hadith (Pl. Ahadith) is the basis, second only to the Quran for Islamic Law (Shariah)

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Types of Hadith

1. **Sahih** A Hadith that consists of the following four qualities:
 - a) Chain of Transmission (Asnad) is complete (Muttasil)
 - b) All the narrators in the Chain of Transmission are people of the highest moral excellence. Their whole lives are like an open book.
 - c) All the narrators are of exceptionally sound memory.
 - d) The Hadith does not contradict any other well known and authentic Hadith.
2. **Hasan** A Hadith, with narrators (Rawi) in the Chain of Transmission whose memory or piety is slightly lower than those of **Sahih** Hadith.
3. **Za'eef** A Hadith with a narrator who is not pious (Muttaqi) or of good memory.
4. **Maudhou** Fabricated Hadith, with a narrator who has been proved to be a liar through a Hadith.
5. **Matrook** Rejected Hadith, with a narrator who has been accused of telling lies.

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Credibility of Hadith

Ahkam	Injunctions, Decress (e.g. Haram, Halal)
Fazail	Merits, Virtues (e.g. of good deeds and people)
Sahih Hadith	Accepted in Ahkam and Fazail
Za'eef Hadith	Accepted only in Fazail

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Types of Islamic Injunctions A

- Fardh** A Divinely instituted obligation such as Salah (Prayer), Saum (Fasting) and so on. Its non-observance is a major sin and its denial is Kufr, i.e. is going outside the pale of Islam
Fardh is of two kinds:
Fardh al-Ayn (Essential Obligation) which is incumbent upon all
Fardh al-Kifayah an obligation which is acquitted in the name of all as long as it is performed by some.
- Wajib** An obligation imposed by law. Its non-observance is a sin, but its denial is not kufr.
- Sunnah** The spoken and acted examples of the Prophet (Peace be upon him). It also includes what he approved of, allowed or condoned.
Sunnah is of mainly two types
Sunnah al-Mu'akkadah which is confirmed as being demonstrated repeatedly in the Prophet's lifetime so that it has assumed an almost legally binding character. Its observance is necessary. Its regular non-observance is a sin.
Sunnah al-Zaidah (Ghair Mu'kkadah): This is the supplementary or elective Sunnah in matters less essential, not observed regularly by the Prophet (Peace be upon him). Its observance earns reward. Its non-observance is not a sin.

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Types of Islamic Injunctions B

Mustahab

Something supported by a Za'eef Hadith and/or being practised and observed by many many good and pious Muslims and considered generally by Muslims as an act of goodness. Its observance earns reward which is less than the reward earned on **Sunnah al-Zaidah**. Its non-observance is not a sin.

Mubah or Jaiz

Something being practised and observed by Muslims. Its observance in itself does not earn reward. Its non-observance in itself is not a sin. But on the grounds of good or bad intentions it may earn reward or sin as well.

Haram

Forbidden by Divine decrees. Its omission is obligatory. To indulge into Haram is a major sin. Its denial is **Kufr**.

Makrooh Tahreemi

Prohibited by Islamic Law. Its denial is not Kufr, but to indulge in it is a sin.

Makrooh Tanzeehi

Discouraged by the Law. Something many many good and pious Muslims have refrained from. It is not a sin but it is something bad.

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Opinion of Sunni Muslims

The Ulama of Ahl-us-Sunnah consider it as Mustahab

Remember our Ulama (Religious Scholars) do not claim that this act of kissing of thumbs and rubbing the eyes with them, during Azan when the *Muezzin* says "*Ash-Hadu Anna Muhammadar Rasoolullah*" is **Fardh Wajib** or **Sunnah**. Hence we are not obliged to bring or show a verse from the Holy Quran or a Sahih Hadith in favour of this practice of kissing the thumbs.

To prove this practice as Mustahab, we need only to show or bring a Za'eef Hadith and/or references to prove that it has been the practice of good and pious Muslims.

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Saying of the Prophet (PBUH) - Hadith

The Prophet (peace be upon him) came to the Mosque and sat down near one of the pillars. Hazrat Abu Bakar was also sitting there. Hazrat Bilal started calling the Azan and when he said:

Ash-Hadu Anna Muhammadar Rasoolullah

Hazrat Abu Bakar rubbed both his eyes with the nails of his two thumbs and said:

*O Messenger of Allah may both my eyes remain
cool and delightful through you*

After Hazrat Bilal completed Azan, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said to Hazrat Abu Bakar

*Someone doing as you have done, will
be forgiven for his sins, by Almighty Allah*

- i. Tafseer Ruh-ul-Bayan by Imam Ismail Haqqi died. 1137 AH
- ii. Al-Maqasid Al-Hasanah by Imam Shamsuddin Sakhawi

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Practices of Renowned Muslims

(Brief Translations)

1. If when the Muezzin says: *Ash-Hadu Anna Muhammed-Ar Rasool-Ullah* one says: *Welcome my beloved Prophet, you are a delight for my eyes O Muhammed, son of Abdullah* and then kisses his two thumbs and rubs his eyes with them. He will never become blind and will never suffer from eye diseases
(Hazrat Imam Hasan) Ref: Al-Maqasid Al-Hasanah by Imam Shamsuddin Sakhawi
2. Kissing of thumbs is Mustahab and it is the saying of the Prophet (peace be upon him) that he will take to Paradise the ones who kiss their thumbs upon hearing his name in Azan.
Radd-ul-Muhtar (Book of Fiqh) by Allama Syed Mohammed Amin Shami died 1253 AH
3. It is Mustahab to kiss both the thumbs and put them on both the eyes upon hearing the name of the Prophet (peace be upon him). Our Scholars have substantially proved that this is Mustahab.
Shaikh Jamal bin Abdullah Makki, Mufti of Makkah al-Mukarramah
Ref: Munir-ul-Ain by Imam Ahmed Raza Bareilvi died 1340 AH