



Yahya Ibn Maâ
 een: A Master in Hadeeth Criticism!

Description



Yaá, ¥yÄ Ibn MaÊ; Ä«n, AbÅ« ZakariyyÄ, was the Imam, Hadith Master, and the Shaikh of the Scholars of Hadeeth.

His Dedication to Hadith

Ibn $\hat{E}_{\dot{c}}Ad\ddot{A}$ « narrated from a scribe who claimed to be related to $Ya\dot{a}_{\dot{c}}Yy\ddot{A}$ ibn $Ma\hat{E}_{\dot{c}}\ddot{A}$ «n .

 $\hat{a} \square Ya\acute{a}_{\downarrow} Ya\acute{a}_{\square} \hat{a} \square s$ father, $Ma\hat{E}_{\dot{c}} \ddot{A} \ll n$, was the tax collector of Rayy. When he died, he left his son **one million dirhams**. $\hat{a} \square$



â∭	YaḥyÄ∏	spent every	last coin on	collecting	hadithâ⊞	until he had nothi	ng left to
buy (even a pair	of sandals.â	$oldsymbol{\Pi}$				

His Fearless Honesty in Hadith Criticism

The poet Ibn al-RA«mA« said:

 \hat{a}_{\square} I have never seen anyone speak the truth about scholars like $Ya\acute{a}_{\square} Yy\ddot{A}_{\square}$ (ibn $Ma\hat{e}_{\square}\ddot{A} \times n$). Others were biased in their speech. \hat{a}_{\square}

I (Imam Dhahabi) say:

- This statement by **Ê¿**AbdullÄ□ h ibn al-RÅ«mÄ« is not accepted.
- We do not claim infallibility for the hadith critics, but they are:
 - The most accurate scholars.
 - The least prone to error.
 - The most just and impartial.
 - The furthest from bias.

As a result, when they agree on the reliability or weakness of a narrator, hold on to their judgment firmly, and do not deviate from it, lest you regret it.

As for the occasional outlier opinions, they are not to be followed $\hat{}_{\square}$ so do not waste your effort debating them.

The Role of Hadith Critics in Protecting Islam

â∭	Leave the w	ork to the d	craftsmen,	for by A	llah, i	f not for	the great	hadith	masters,	the
here	tics (zanÄ ∏	diga) would	d have give	en serm	ons oi	n the pu	lpits!â∏			

Even when a preacher from the people of innovation delivers a sermon, he does so:

- Using the sword of Islam,
- · Speaking in the language of Sharia,



- Claiming the prestige of Sunnah,
- And appearing to follow the Messenger ï·2.

May Allah protect us from misguidance!

His	Wisdom	on Col	lecting	Hadith

l-AbbÄ□ r narrated in his <i>TÄ</i> □ <i>rÄ«kh</i> :
-ADDAL I Harrated III IIIS TAL TAKKII.
aḥyÄ□ ibn Maʿīn said:
\blacksquare We recorded hadith from liars, then we used them as firewood for the oven, baking ell-cooked bread with them!â \blacksquare
e also advised:
$oxdot$ When you write hadith, gather everything ($oldsymbol{qammish}$). But when you arrate, scrutinize ($oldsymbol{fattish}$). $\hat{\mathbf{a}}oxdot$
lis Witty Reply to a Hasty Student
nÊ¿far ibn AbÄ« Ê¿UthmÄ🛘 n narrated:
nÊ¿far ibn AbÄ« Ê¿UthmÄ[] n narrated: We were sitting with YaḥyÄ[] ibn Maʿīn, when a man in a hurry approached
nÊ¿far ibn AbÄ« Ê¿UthmÄ n narrated: \[We were sitting with YaḥyÄ ibn Maʿīn, when a man in a hurry approached and said: \[O AbÅ« ZakariyyÄ narrate to me a hadith that I may remember you by!â
nÊ¿far ibn AbÄ« Ê¿UthmÄ[n narrated: We were sitting with YaḥyÄ[ibn Maʿīn, when a man in a hurry approached and said: O AbÅ« ZakariyyÄ[, narrate to me a hadith that I may remember you by!â



His Poetry on Piety and Wealth

YaḥyÄ□ ibn Maʿīn uttered some lines of poetry saying:

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â Wealth departs, whether gained lawfully or unlawfully, Yet its sins will remain, to be accounted for tomorrow.

A man is not truly pious until his food and drink are pure, Until his earnings are lawful, and his wealth is clean.

Until his words are good and honest,
As the Prophet ï∙º conveyed to us from his Lord.â∏

May Allah have mercy on him!

(Siyar Aâ∏ laamin Nubalaa: 11/71)

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Category

1. Ilm-ur Rijaal (The Science of the Narrators of Hadeeth)

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