

# NEGOTIATING MEANINGS

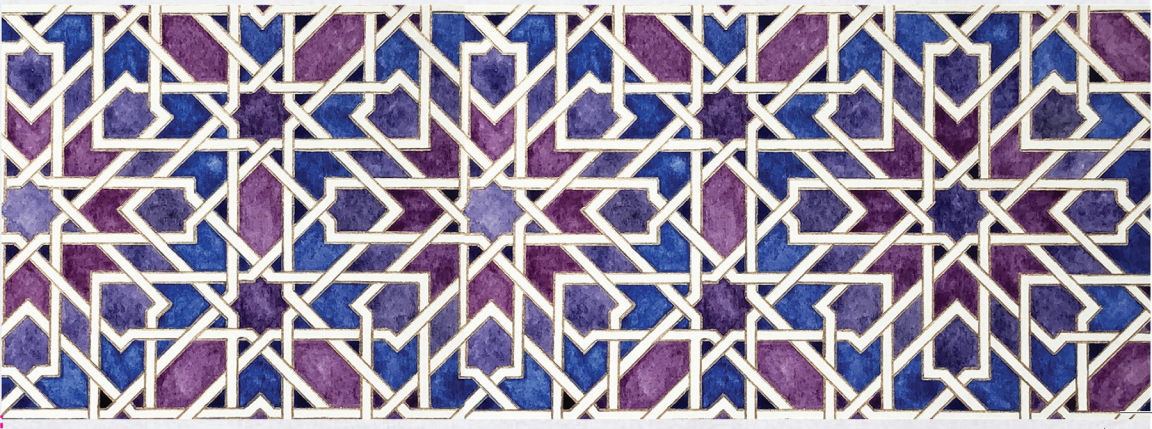
Engagement with Problematic  
or Contradictory Ḥadīths in  
Medieval and Modern Times

*Foreword by*

His Royal Highness Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra  
Ibni Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail

*Editors*

Khairil Husaini Bin Jamil  
Muhammad Adli Bin Musa  
Muhammad Fawwaz Muhammad Yusoff





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Kuala Lumpur

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The Islamic Book Trust (IBT) prides itself as Malaysia's leading publisher in quality Islamic books in English. We are grateful to partner with IBT in publishing this book which we believe will be

beneficial in disseminating research output accessible to not only academics but also the public, especially English-language readers, who are interested in understanding the intricacies of engaging with problematic or contradictory *ḥadīths*.

# When al-Bukhārī Disagrees with Muslim: The Variables of *Matn* Criticism in *Ḥadīth Turbah*

Nuzulul Qadar Abdullah  
İbn Haldun University, Turkey

## Introduction<sup>1</sup>

*Mukhtalif* and *Mushkil al-Ḥadīth*, commonly translated as contradictory and contrasting Prophetic reports, are among the most complex and challenging anatomies of sciences of *ḥadīth*. It deals primarily with prophetic injunctions that seemingly contradict other epistemological sources such as Qur’anic verses, historical facts, and sound rationality.<sup>2</sup> In recent years, the *ḥadīth* corpus in general has been under extreme scrutiny with claims that it is self-conflicting in nature and its contents are incoherent with modern sciences and secular rationality. The *Ṣaḥīḥyn*, two

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<sup>2</sup> While scholars differ on the nuances of “mukhtalif al-ḥadīth” and “mushkil al-ḥadīth”, in this paper I use the two terminologies interchangeably since classical scholars before the codification of *ḥadīth* sciences did not differentiate them in theory or application. Refer to: Sharaf Maḥmūd al-Quḍāh, “İlm Mukhtalif al-Ḥadīth: Uşūluḥ Wa Qawā’iduh”, *Dirāsāt* 28, no. 2 (2001): 24.

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**Nuzulul Qadar Abdullah** is a religious cleric who promotes enhanced understanding of traditional and contemporary Islamic sciences. His research interests include Qur'anic exegesis and Sunnah commentaries, Islamic thought, methodological approaches in dealing with conflicting texts, scientific criticisms of religious texts and others. He has studied under the tutelage of prominent scholars such as Professor Dr. Sharaf al-Qudāh, Professor Dr. Mohammed Abullais al-Khayr'ābādī, Shaykh Shu'ayb al-Arna'ūt and others. In addition, he received a teaching *ijāzah* in *ḥadīth* from the late Shaykh Shu'ayb al-Arna'ūt and *ijāzah* of *sanad* from a number of Levant and Malaysian scholars. He is currently the chief editor of Askhadith.sg and a PhD candidate at Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul. For his PhD research, Nuzulul Qadar is working on the divergent contemporary trends in critiquing Prophetic texts.

***Negotiating Meanings: Engagement with Problematic or Contradictory Hadīths in Medieval and Modern Times*** is the first serious study in English on the subject of *mushkil al-hadīth* (problematic *hadīths*). Within the pages of the book, readers will encounter the tradition of engaging with contradictory *hadīths*, traversing the realms of law, theology, and science. This volume emphasises the significance of the *riwāyah* (transmission) and *dirāyah* (comprehension) traditions, which provides understanding of the interpretive process. Going beyond historical investigation, the book also examines the contemporary problematisation of *hadīth*, investigating the external and internal causes that have shaped discussions surrounding these texts. This volume invites scholars to explore the hidden aspects of the interpretive tradition, offering new insights and shedding light on problematic and contradictory *hadīths*.

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