weak and fabricated narrations in popular Islamic books

Notes on Fiqhus-Sunnah of as-Sayyid Sabiq

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Note: References to page no’s are to the English translation of Muhammad Sa’eed Dabas and Jamalud-Deen M. Zarabozo

Volume One

(43) P. vi "This book deals with the fiqh questions and provides supporting evidence to them from the clear [text of the] Book (of Allaah), and the authentic Sunnah of the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam." This is a claim true for the most part, however the book does contain many weak (Da’eef) ahaadeeth – some of which he remained silent about, and the others he thought to be saheeh or hasan – following others in that and being mistaken therein. And it contains more than a few questions for which he does not mention a proof – rather for some of them, the proof is against them. And this will be more fully explained in its correct places insha’Allaah.

(43) P. vii line 10, "In Saheeh al-Bukhaaree it is recorded from Abu Sa’eed al-Muqbiiree that the Messenger of Allaah, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, said, "This religion is easy ..."” The narrator of the hadeeth is Sa’eed ibn Abee Sa’eed al-Muqbiiree from Aboo Hurairieh. The wording of al-Bukhaaree – Book of Imaan is "The religion is easy ..." the wording, "This religion is easy ..." is reported by an-Nasaa’ee and Ibn Hibbaan.

P. 44 p. viii line 13, "In Saheeh Muslim a hadeeth says, "The most beloved religion..." The hadeeth is in fact reported by al-Bukhaaree in his Saheeh without isnaad – and in his Aadaabul-Mufrad with connected isnaad, and is reported by Ahmad in al-Musnad and others from Ibn ‘Abbaas from the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam. It is not reported by Muslim. The hadeeth is Hasan Lighairihi. [Tamaamul-Minnah p. 44, as-Saheehah, no. 881]

(45) p. ix 5 lines from the end, "There is a hadeeth where the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, prohibited the discussion of events that have not yet occurred." This hadeeth is reported by Aboo Daawood, Ahmad and others and is weak (Da’eef) due to one of its narrators, ’Abdullaah ibn Sa’d.

P. x line 1, "The Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, also stated, "Allaah has made certain things obligatory ..."” Declared Da’eef by Shaikh al-Albaanee due to its chain being disconnected between Makhool and Aboo Tha’labah – the companion.

(46) p. 2 no. (iii), "’Alee narrated ... This hadeeth is related by Ahmad.” It is reported by ’Abdullaah ibn Ahmad. The hadeeth is hasan, [Irwa’aal-Ghaleel, no. 13].

(46) p. 4 25th line, "There is also a hadeeth from ‘Abdullaah ibn ‘Umar ... however this hadeeth is mudtarab ..." Rather it is Saheeh – only some weak narrations of it are mudtarab. [Irwa’aal-Ghaleel, no. 23 and 172]

(47) p. 5 3rd paragraph, "The hadeeth of Jaabir ..." The hadeeth is weak, as an-Nawawee says in al-Majmo’, (1/173).

(48) p. 5 3rd paragraph, "It has also been related from Ibn ‘Umar ..." Also weak. Its isnaad contains Ayyoob ibn Khaalil al-Harraneeh who is Da’eef – and on top of that he causes id’tiraab in its isnaad.

(48) p. 5 3rd paragraph, "Yahyaa Ibn Sa’eed ..." It is reported from ‘Umar by Yahyaa ibn ‘Abdir-Rahmaan ibn Haatib (who was not born until after the death of ‘Umar) not by Yahyaa ibn Sa’eed. It is therefore weak (mungati’).

(49) p. 7 "The bones, horns, ... skin ... of dead animals ... all of these are considered pure ..." Rather the skin of dead animals is established to be impure due to the many ahaadeeth from the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, such as his, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, saying, "When the skin is tanned then it is purified" [Reported by Muslim and others]. The fact that the skin has to be tanned to make it pure is clearly shown by the following hadeeth reported by Ibn ‘Abbaas – (p7-8).

(50) p. 8 "Blood ...” "Al-Hasan said ... mentioned by al-Bukhaaree” Rather al-Bukhaaree quotes it in mu’allaq form. It is, however, connected with saheeh isnaad by Ibn Abee Shaibah.

(50) p. 9 "Aboo Hurairieh did not see anything wrong in a drop or two of blood ...” Reported by Ibn Abee Shaibah in his Musannaf and its isnaad is weak due to Shareek ibn ‘Abdillaah al-Qaadee – who is da’eef due to his weak memory. (The position that blood is taahir and does not break wudoo is the position of al-Bukhaaree and Ibn Hazm).

(52) That normal blood, blood of animals and blood of menstruation are all the same.

This is incorrect due to two reasons:

That there is no proof for this from the Book or Sunnah – and the principle is that things are pure unless declared impure in a text.

That it contradicts what is established in the Sunnah.

a. As for the blood of humans – then that is shown to be pure by the hadeeth of the Ansaaree who prayed at night and was
As for the blood of animals—then that is also pure as shown by the authentic narration that Ibn Mas‘ood some camels and ??? became smeared with their blood and excrement—then the Ḳa‘aḥūlah was given and he prayed without making wudoo.

c. Reported by ‘Abdur-Razzaaq in his musannaf (1/125), Ibn Abee Shaibah (1/392) and at-Tabaraanee in al-Mu‘jamul-Kaabir (9/283) with Saheeh isnaad from him.

(52) His making distinction between a small and a large amount of blood.
This has no proof from the sunnah—rather it is negated by the hadeeth of the Ansaaaree. The Athar from Aboo Hurairah is Da‘eeef as has preceded. (This distinction is rebutted by Ibn Hazm in al-Muhallaal and by Ibnul-‘Arabee and al-Qurtubee in their tafseers).

(53) "Vomiting of a person ... there is agreement amongst the scholars ..." He does not mention any proof.
Scholars are not agreed in that— that the vomit of a muslim is pure is the saying of Ibn Hazm (al-muhallaal, 1/83), ashan- Shawkaanee in ad-Dururul-Bahiyyah and Saddeeq Hasan Khaan in his Sharh (1/18-20).
"... but a small amount of vomit ... and .... are overlooked." He doesn’t bring any proof.

(54) p. 12 "Alcohol... some scholars say that it is pure." In order that their saying should not be regarded as unimportant their names should be mentioned, amongst them are,

i. Rabee‘ah ibn Abee ‘Abdir-Rahmaan, known as Rabee‘atur-Raee, al-Haafiz says of him in at-Tahdeeb, "He met some of the Sahaabah and greater taabi‘een, and he gave Fatwaas in al-Madeenah, where the people used to turn to him, and his circle was attended by forty men wearing imaamah— and Maalik learnt from him.

ii. al-Laith ibn Sa’d al-Misree, al-Faqeeh, the famous imaaam, the great scholars acknowledged his excellence—amongst them Imaam Maalik in the letter which he wrote to him. And ash-Shaafi‘ee said of him, "He was a greater scholar than Maalik, but his companions did not carry his renown.

iii. Ismaa‘eel ibn Yahyaa al-Muzaanee, companion of Imaam ash-Shaafi‘ee. He was a mujtahid imaaam. And this is the position of many other scholars of later times from Baghdaad and other towns—they hold that alcohol is pure—and only drinking it is what is forbidden (see Tafseerul-Qurtubee, 6/88).

(55) p 16 3rd paragraph, "If a person finishes the Prayer ..."
Its proof is the hadeeth of Aboo Sa’eed al-Khudreee, "That while Allaah’s Messenger, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, was praying with his Companions—he suddenly took off his shoes and placed them on his left—so when the people saw that they threw off their shoes, so when the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, finished his prayer he said, "Why did you throw off your shoes?" They said, "We saw you throw off your shoes so we threw our shoes off." So Allaah’s Messenger, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, said, 'Indeed Jibreel 'Alaihis-sallaam, came to me and informed me that my shoes contained impurity. And he said, "When one of you comes to the mosque then let him look, and if he finds any impurity or filth on his shoes, then let him wipe it and pray in them." Reported by Ahmad, Aboo Daawood and others with a saheeh isnaad, Al-Irwaa, 284.

(56) p. 17 2nd paragraph “This is related by ‘the group’—‘the group’ meaning, al-Bukhaaree, Muslim, Aboo Daawood, at-Tirmidhee, an-Nasaaee and Ibn Maajah.
This wording including ‘In the name of Allaah’ is not reported by any of ‘the group’, but rather by Sa’eed ibn Mansoor in his Sunan and by Ibn Abee Shaibah in his Musannaf (1/1) and Ibn Abee Haatim in al-Ilal (1/64) and its isnaad contains (Aboo Mi’shar Najeeh) who is weak.

There are other narrations ordering this, from Anas—but these are Shaadhdh. The practice of saying ‘Bismillaah’ when entering the toilet may, however be supported by the hadeeth of ‘Alee, raddyallaahu ‘anhu, from the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, who said, "The screen that is between the eyes of the Jinn and the private parts of the sons of Aadam, when one of them enters the toilet, is that he says ‘Bismillaah’." Reported by at-Tirmidhee and Ibn Maajah, and declared weak by at-Tirmidhee, but it has two supporting isnaads from Anas, reported by at-Tabaraanee, so the hadeeth is at the very least hasan. And see Irwa’al-Ghaleel, no. 50.

(58) p. 17 3rd paragraph, “Aboo Sa’eed reported... not forbidden.” The hadeeth is weak for two reasons:

i. ‘Ikrimah ibn ‘Ammaar related it from Yahyaa ibn Abee Katheer, and ‘Ikrimah’s narrations from him are mudtarab [see at-Taqreeb].

ii. Its isnaad contains Hilaal ibn ‘Iyaad who is unknown.
The ruling which the author bases upon this hadeeth is therefore not established.

(59) p. 18 1st question, "... The prohibition implies that it is only disliked ... " "Some reconcile [sic.] these hadeeth by saying that in the desert it is forbidden to face or turn one’s back on the ka‘bah while it is permitted in buildings ..."
What is correct is that it is forbidden in the desert or within buildings. The Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, relieving himself on the roof of Hafsah’s house cannot be used either to lessen the forbiddance reported in Aboo Hurairah’s hadeeth, or to make the forbiddance particular to buildings, that is because it was an action he was doing in private, hidden from the people and so cannot be said to have been a proof of its allowance or particularisation of the forbiddance. i.e., it was clearly something private not meant to be seen and followed, something particular to him, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, (and see as-Sailul-Jarraar of ash-Shawkaanee (2/69)).
As for the saying of Ibn 'Umar [translator mistakenly puts 'Umar] “Certainly not ... this has been prohibited only in open areas ...” The he does not state that this understanding is from the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, but may have been his own personal understanding due to his, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, action on the roof of Hafsah’s house.

(61) p. 18 “Qataadah related from ... This hadeeth is related by Ahmad ...” The hadeeth is weak. Qataadah reports it using ‘an’anah [saying, ‘from’] and he is a mudallis. Further in the view of Imaam Ahmad and al-Haakim – Qataadah never met Ibn Sarjas whom he narrates from here, and that would make the hadeeth munqati’u in their view.

(63) p. 59 “Abdullaah ibn Mughaffal narrated... reported by the five.” The hadeeth is weak since the reporter from the Companions is al-Hasan al-Basree who despite his fame and position was a mudallis, and he narrates here using ‘an’anah. However Aboo Daawood and other report with a saheeh isnaad that Allaah’s Messenger, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, forbade that one of us should comb our hair every day or that he should urinate in his bathing place.

(63) p. 19 “Urinating in running water” ... “Jaabir said... and its narrators are trustworthy.” It is weak since it contains in its isnaad, (i) Someone unknown, (iii) someone accused of lying, and (iii) ‘an’anah of the mudallis Abuz-Zubair and further it is contradicted by the authentic narration of al-Laith reported by Muslim with the wording, “… standing water.” The wording “… running water ...” is therefore Munkar. It is narrated by at-Tabarraanee in al-Awsat which should have been mentioned.

(64) p. 49 “… said ‘Aa’ishah, "If someone related to you ... sitting.”” Its isnaad from ‘Aa’ishah is weak due to Shareek ibn Abdillahah al-Qaadee. However there is a support for it which raises it to authenticity, narrated by Suhyaa ath-Thawree. (Reported by Aboo Awaanah in his Saheeh (1/198), al-Haakim (1/181), al-Baihaqee (1/101) and Ahmad).

(65) p. 32 “... or any combinations of purifying agents ...” i.e. with water and stones together. And it is not authentic that the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, combined the two, rather he, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, sufficed with one of the two and his is the best guidance and as Shaikh al-Albaanee says, “So i fear that the saying that the two may be joined is from Thawree. (Reported by Nawawee, as

(66) p. 20 “… the hadeeth by al-Haakim ibn Suhyaan or ...” The wording of this hadeeth is not authentic, as it contains great contradiction, being reported in about ten different ways.

(66) p. 31 “... through a number of weak chains that the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, used to say, "Praise be to Allaah ... harm."” The first of the two hadeeth [who made the filth] is from Aboo Dharr and Anas, and isnaad is weak. (Al-Irwaa,53). And the second hadeeth [who let me enjoy it] is from Ibn ‘Umar and is again weak (Ad-Da’eeefah, 4187). The hadeeth of Aboo Dharr contains unknown narrators in its isnaad, and idtiraab (contradiction) and contradictions in its text.

(69) p. 33 “... Aataa ibn Yasaar ...” [Reported by Amaalik] Aataa is a Taabi’ee, so the hadeeth is Mursal, Da’eeef. The hadeeth is reported in connected form from Jaabir, from the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, with more complete wording, without the mention of the beard, (reported by Aboo Daawood and others, as-Saheehah, 493)

(70) p. 32 “Abbo Qataadah related ... "... and honour it." It is not saheeh from Aboo Qataadah, due to its isnaad being broken (munqati’i) and its text being mudtarab. It is reported by an-Nasaa’ee in his Sunan and its inqitaa is due to its being narrated by ‘Umar ibn ‘Alee ibn Muqaddam who is known for committing a severe form of tadlees ... and see Tamaamul-Minnah (pp. 70-73).

(74) p 23 Final paragraph, “There are some narrations that state that dying is disliked.” Shaikh al-Albaanee says, “I do not find anyone who has preceded the author in this claim, and i do not know any basis for it. And perhaps he means that, that is reported from the companions. And what ash-Shawkaanee reports from them in An-Nayl (1/103) is their differing regarding what is better, not that it is something disliked. And even if it were reported from any of them, then it would not be a proof for two reasons,

i. The Companions did not agree upon that, rather some of them dyed such as Aboo Bakr and ‘Umar, radyiallahu ‘anhumaa, reported in Saheeh Muslim and others, and others left it, and its being left does not show that it is disliked, only that it is permissible to leave it.

ii. It contradicts the authentic saying and practice of the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam.

(83) p. 23 last paragraph, "... and a group of them used a black dye.” Even if that is established, then it is not a proof, since it contradicts the saying and action of the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam. And what is reported from the chief companions such as Aboo Bakr and ‘Umar, radyiallahu ‘anhumaa, that they dyed with henna and ‘kattaan’, should be acted upon, since it is in agreement with the sunnah, and not that which contradicts this, especially since there is doubt about its being established from some of them, as Ibn al-Qayyim said. And therefore an-Nawawee clearly states that it is forbidden in Al-Majmoo’ (1/294), using the hadeeth of Jaabir as proof.

(84) p. 23 “Ibn Hajr mentinoed in Fathul Baaree that az-Zuhree said ...”

Even if it is established from az-Zuhree, then it is not a proof since it would be his saying only (Maqtoo’) and he is a taabi’ee.

(88) p. 28 End, “This dealt with a certain incident... Aboo Quhaaafah.” Rather the rule is that "An order for one of the ummah is an order for the rest of the ummah." And that this order was not particular to Aboo Quhaaafah is the conclusion of an-Nawawee, as has preceded and of al-Haafiz ibn Hajr (6/499 and 10/354).

And this is supported by various ahaadeeth:
i. From Ibn 'Abbaas, that Allaah’s Messenger, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallaam, said, "There will be at the end of time a people who dye with this – black – like the crops of doves – they will not smell the fragrance of Paradise." [Reported by Aboo Daawood, an-Nasaaee, Ahmad and at-Tabraanee.]

ii. From Abud-Dardaa in marfoo’ form, "He who dyes with black, Allaah blackens his face on the Day of Resurrection." Al-Haithumee said, "Reported by at-Tabraanee and it contains al-Wadeen ibn ’Ataa, declared reliable by Ahmad and Ibn Ma’een and Ibn Hibbaan, and declared weak by others lesser in station than them. And the rest of its narrators are reliable." Al-Haafiz said (10/292) after attributing it to at-Tabraanee and Ibn Abee 'Aasim, "Its isnaad is weak."

iii. Anas, radiyallaahu ‘anhu, said, "We were with the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, one day when Jews entered upon them, and they saw them having white beards, so he said, "Why do you not dye?" So it was said, They dislike it. So he, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallaam, said, "But rather, you should dye! And beware of black." Al-Haithamee said, "At-Tabraanee reports it in Al-Awsat, and it contains Ibn Lahee’ah, and the rest of its narrators are reliable. And it is a hasan hadeeth."

iv. 'Abdullaah ibn 'Umar, reports in marfoo’ form, "Yellow is the dye of the Believer and red is the dye of the Muslim and black is the dye of the disbeliever."

Al-Haithamee said, "At-Tabraanee reports it and it contains someone I do not know."

Thus it is clear that using black dye is forbidden, and this is the position of a group of scholars and about which Ibn al-Qayyim said, "It is what is correct without a doubt."

As regards the hadeeth, "The best of that which you use as a dye is this black, it makes you more desirable to your women and puts fear of you into the hearts of your enemies." Reported by Ibn Maajah (2/382), then its isnaad is weak, it contains two weak narrators, (Ad-Da’eeefah, 2972).