

AL-HAAFIZ IBN HAJR'S GRADES (مَرَاتِب) OF NARRATORS :-

(1) الصَّحَابَةُ : THE COMPANIONS

(2) Those declared reliable (thiqah) with extra additional praise, e.g. :  
 أَوْثَقُ النَّاسِ (The most reliable of people), ثِقَّةٌ ثِقَّةٌ (Reliable, reliable)  
 ثِقَّةٌ حَافِظٌ (Reliable, great memoriser), etc.

(3) Those given a single term of reliability, e.g. :  
 ثِقَّةٌ (Reliable), مُنْقِنٌ (very precise), ثَبَتٌ (Firm), عَدْلٌ (Faithful)

(4) Those slightly less than level 3 in precision/memorisation :  
 صَدُوقٌ (Trustworthy), لَيْسَ بِهِ بَأْسٌ - لَا بَأْسَ بِهِ (All-right / okay)

(5) Those slightly less than level 4 :

يُخْطِئُ (Makes mistakes), صَدُوقٌ يَلْمُ - لَهُ أَوْهَامٌ (Trustworthy, but makes mistakes),  
 صَدُوقٌ سَيِّئُ الْحِفْظِ (Trustworthy, but has a poor memory),

تَغَيَّرَ بِأَخِرَةٍ (His memory deteriorated in later life)

- & those accused of (lesser) innovations, e.g. the Murji'ah.

(6) Those who narrate very few hadeeth, and nothing is confirmed to necessitate abandoning their narrations :

مَقْبُولٌ (Acceptable only if supported) لَيْسَ (weak [if not supported])

(7) Those whom two or more people narrate from, but he is not declared reliable :

مَجْهُولُ الْحَالِ - مَسْتَوْرٌ (His condition is unknown)

(8) Those not reliably declared reliable, and someone declares him to be weak - but the weakness is not specified :  
 ضَعِيفٌ (weak)

(9) Only one person narrates from him, and he is not declared reliable :  
 مَجْهُولُ الْعَيْنِ (Unknown)

(10) No one declares him reliable, & he is criticised with acceptable criticism :  
 مَتْرُوكٌ - مَتْرُوكُ الْحَدِيثِ - وَاهِي الْحَدِيثِ - سَاقِطٌ (Abandoned).

(11) Those accused of lying : مُتَّهَمٌ بِالْكَذِبِ (Accused of lying).

(12) Those declared to be liars or forgers :

كَذَّابٌ (A liar), وَصَّاعٌ (A forger), يَصْعُقُ الْحَدِيثَ (He forges ahadeeth)

Further terms :

- (مُدَالِّسٌ) : Mudallis : One who performs 'tadlees' : narrating from his shaiikh something which he did not hear directly from him, by saying 'an' (from...). The hadeeth of a mudallis (excluding exceptions) is not normally accepted until he states that he heard it directly [i.e. in another narration of the same hadeeth.] see: 'Tabaqatul-Mudalliseen' of Ibn Hajr.
- إِنْشَاءٌ - مَرْسَلٌ : Insaal / Mursal : Narrating from someone he didn't hear from, by saying 'an' (from) : see: 'Jaami'ut-Tahseel' of al-'Alaa'ee.
- إِخْتِلَافٌ - تَغْيِيرُ الْحَالِ : Became confused/weak/unreliable/senile in old age or otherwise. - Only those narrations which we know came from him before this happened are accepted. see: 'al-Kawaakibun-Nayyaraat' of Ibn al-Kayyaal.

# AL-HAAFIZ IBN HAJR'S LEVELS (طَبَقَاتُ) OF NARRATORS :

## THE COMPANIONS :

1. : الصَّحَابَةُ

## THE TAABI'EEN :

2. : الثَّانِيَةُ : ELDER TAABI'EEN  
[If alive in pre-Islamic times he is called : مُحْتَضَرٌ (Mukhadram).] e.g. Sa'eed ibn al-Musayyib

3. : الثَّلَاثَةُ : MIDDLE TAABI'EEN e.g. al-Hasan al-Basree  
Ibn Seereen

4. : الرَّابِعَةُ : LESSER TAABI'EEN  
(Most of their narrations are from elder Taabi'een) e.g. az-Zuhree  
Qataadah

5. : الْخَامِسَةُ : SMALL TAABI'EEN  
(Those who saw one or two companions. For some of them it is not established that they heard from them) e.g. al-A'mash

6. : السَّادِسَةُ : SMALL TAABI'EEN  
(It is not established that they met a companion) e.g. Ibn Jurayj

## THE ATBAA'UT-TAABI'EEN :

7. : السَّابِعَةُ : ELDER ATBAA'UT-TAABI'EEN e.g. Maalik  
Sufyaan ath-Thawree

8. : الثَّامِنَةُ : MIDDLE ATBAA'UT-TAABI'EEN e.g. Ibn 'Uyainah  
Ibn 'Ulayyah

9. : التَّاسِعَةُ : LESSER ATBAA'UT-TAABI'EEN e.g. Yazeed ibn Haaroon  
ash-Shaafi'ee  
'Abdur-Razzaaq

## THOSE WHO TOOK FROM THE ATBAA'UT-TAABI'EEN :

10. : الْعَاشِرَةُ : ELDERS e.g. Ahmad ibn Hanbal

11. : الْحَادِيَةَ عَشْرَةَ : MIDDLE LEVEL e.g. adh-Dhuhlee  
al-Bukhaaree

12. : الثَّانِيَةَ عَشْرَةَ : LESSER LEVEL e.g. at-Tirmidhee

Death dates : Levels 1 & 2 : Before 100 H.  
Levels 3-8 : Before 200 H.  
Levels 9-12 : After 200 H. } (Except in rare cases which are stated).

خ : al-Bukhaaree in his 'Saheeh'; خت : in 'mu'allaq' form; بخ : in 'al-Adab'; خ : in 'Juz'ul-Qira'at  
م : Muslim in his 'Saheeh'; مو : in the Introduction.

د : Aboo Daawood; دد : in 'al-Maraaseel'; د د د د د د د د ...

ت : at-Tirmidhee; تم : in 'ash-Shamaa'il'

س : an-Nasaa'ee; س س س س س س : in 'Amalul-Yaum wal-Laylah'

ف : Ibn Maajah; فف : in 'at-Tafseer'

ع : The six books ع : The Four Sunan