

## **The transmitter's teachers, a source to know him better; Example: A survey of the teachers of Abul Mufaddal al-Shaybani**

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### **Introduction**

It seems that regardless of the Rajali sources, there are other evidences that can reveal other aspects of the transmitters' personality in some cases. One of these evidences is the examination of transmitter's Hadith Chains of tradition (Silsilah Sanad) and the contents of the hadiths of the transmitter; So that even in the sources of Rajali, sometimes the exact same method has been used to judge the transmitter. One of the most important aspects of analyzing the Sanads of a transmitter is the examination of his teachers and Shaykhs. It seems that the knowledge and analysis of the transmitter's teachers can be a document - although weak - to discover significant points about the transmitter from various aspects, including his personality, interests and religious affiliations. This article seeks to analyze the hadith documents of Abu al-Mufaddal - one of the most active muhaddiths in the Shia and Sunni hadith fields - and by focusing on the analysis of his teachers, to examine these three axes in a more detailed understanding of him and to explore a new path in discovering his personality traits, independent of the Rijali sources.

### **Materials and Methods**

In the beginning, you must collect the names of the transmitter's teachers, and for this purpose, one should not be limited to the authoritative sources that list the names of the transmitter's teachers, but one should consider all the hadith's Sanads, etc., in which the transmitter's name is mentioned, and thus compile the list of his teachers completely. Then, the teachers that he narrated a lot from should be separated from the other teachers because it's much more likely that the transmitter is influenced by the first group. And in general, we have to examine each and every one of his teachers from different respects such as religion, mindset, Hadith approaches, interests, personality, and if possible, compare them with the documents left by the transmitter himself to clarify the gravity of their influence on him.

**Results and Findings:** Some of Abu al-Mufaddal's teachers who probably had an impact on his personality are as follows: Muhammad bin Salih Ijli Sawi, who was the teacher of literature and etiquette of Abu al-Mufaddal and his first teacher. There are

traces of Imamism in him, which is very noteworthy. However, among his many teachers, it seems that he has remarkable similarities with his teacher, Ibn Uqda, in various points, such as: intellectual confrontation with Ahl al-Hadith despite interacting with them in the transmission of hadiths, interest in writing on some special topics, fascination with collecting as many hadiths as possible and reaching the rank of "Hāfiẓ" and similarities in religious affiliations. Considering the set of these similarities, it seems that his influence from Ibn Ughda cannot be denied, and no other hadith figures can be found who has this volume of various evidences in influencing Abu al-Mufaddal. Also, Abu al-Mufaddal has been student of a considerable number of followers of various religions and schools of thought, some of these teachers were among the great figures in that religion. Such a thing at this level is rarely seen in the Imami Muhaddiths.

### Conclusion

By looking at all the teachers of Abu al-Mufaddal and comparing their approaches, the following points about Abu al-Mufaddal become clear: Considering Ijli Sawi's affiliates with Imamiya and that he was the teacher of etiquette and literature of Abu al-Mufaddal, the probability of Abu al-Mufaddal's affiliates with Imamiya - at least in the early stages of his life - is high. However, among the numerous teachers of Abu al-Mufaddal, he is probably the most influenced by Ibn Ughda, including in the following issues: how to interact with Ahl al-Hadith, hadith approaches and some religious tendency. The amount of religious diversity among Abu al-Mufaddal's teachers is very high, and this probably can be an indication of Abu al-Mufaddal's religious tolerance and his great interest in reaching the position of "Hāfiẓ". The analysis of Abu al-Mufaddal's teachers shows that even if he was an Imami, apparently he was not trained in the hadith schools of the Imamiyyah, and as a result, in his etiquettes, he did not resemble the Imami hadith scholars much, and because he received hadiths from different schools of thought, such as the Zaydiyyah and the Ashab al-Hadith, he probably received some influences from them - at least in the Ulum al-Hadith and its methods - however, he had serious differences with the Ashab al-Hadith, both in terms of thought and method.

**Keywords:** Abul al-Mufaddal al-Shaybani, Ibn Ughda, Hadith teachers and students, the influence of hadith teachers on students, Identifying the character of the transmitters.