

The Difference of Methodology in 'Aqīdah Issues between *Mutakallimīn* and *Muḥaddithīn*

Anas Hassan ❀

ABSTRACT

The group of scholars who compiled the sayings (*ahādīth*) of the Holy Prophet with utmost love and care are called *Muḥaddithīn*, whereas *Mutakallimīn* are those who set the trend of applying logical arguments on Islamic dogmas (beliefs) and evaluating the *Nuṣūṣ* (the texts of Qur'ān and Sunnah) on the criterion of reason. Most of the *Muḥaddithīn* did not think lawful to use logical interpretations of *Nuṣūṣ*. Contrary to this, *Mutakallimīn* preferred logical argumentation to accept or refute anything. The methodologies of the both trends resulted in various differences in interpreting the theological issues. Moreover, the differences between *Muḥaddithīn* and *Mutakallimīn* affected not only the Islamic culture and society, but also the Islamic philosophy and disciplines. This article throws light on the various aspects of differences between these two schools of thoughts.



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- **Encyclopedia**

CH. Pellat, "Ḥayawān," in *The Encyclopedia of Islam*, ed. B. Lewis, V. L. Menage, CH. Pellat and J. Schacht (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1986), 3: 307.

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- **Reference from Classical Ḥadīth Compilations**

Muḥammad b. Ismā'īl al-Bukhārī, *al-Jāmi' al-Ṣaḥīḥ*, Kitāb al-Zabā'ih wa al-Ṣayd, Bāb Akl Kull Dhī Nāb min al-Sibā' (Riyadh: Dar-us-Salam, 1417 H), Ḥadith: 5530.

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Wilfred Cantwell Smith, *The Faith of Other Men* (New York: New American Library, 1963), 12.

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