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Q: 181 ? Title: 1. How any sects of the ummah has created till now as Prophet (saw) stated in a hadith that there will be 73 sects of his ummah? ...2. Is ahle sunna wal jamaa is considered as one sect or four madhabs are considered 4 sect?

Question

1. How any sects of the ummah has created till now as Prophet (saw) stated in a hadith that there will be 73 sects of his ummah? please mention the names.

2. Is ahle sunna wal jamaa is considered as one sect or four madhabs are considered 4 sect? as well as is ahle hadith are considered as different sect? are salafis and ahle hadith same?

Answer

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Assalaamu `alaykum waRahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

1) At the outset, the Hadith referred to in your query is as follows:

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?Abu Hurayrah (Radiyah Allahu Anhu) relates that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) said:
?The Jews were divided into 71 or 72 sects as were the Christians. My Ummah will be divided
into 73 sects.? (Al-Mustadrak)

After Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) left this world, many *ikhtilafaat* (differences) began to arise amongst the Ummah. Within a period of time, the Aqeedah (religious creed, belief) of some who were misled changed from the haq (truth) and in turn they misguided others. As a result, different groups were formed. Those which had differences amongst themselves branched out into several other groups. The prediction of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) became true. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) clearly mentioned that 72 of these sects will go to the fire of jahannam whilst 1 will be admitted to paradise. The successful group will be the one who follows the Jama'ah. This group is the followers of Ahle-Sunnah wal-Jama'ah, which will be explained further below.

Hereunder are some of the known main groups and their branches (in no particular order), most of which do not exist anymore. The following is taken from the kitab *Al-Farq baynal Firqah* (The Difference Between the Differences) by ?Abd-al-Qahir al-Baghdadi (Rahimahullah) (d. 429 AH). This book should be referred to for a further, detailed explanation on the abovementioned Hadith and the various groups with their sub-groups, including their founders and differences in beliefs.

Firstly, the Rawaafid after the time of Ali (Radiyah Allahu Anhu) were divided into 4 groups: Imaamiyyah, Zaydiyyah, Kaysaniyyah, and Ghulah. These 4 groups had sub-groups:

1) Imaamiyyah-Divided into 15 sects:

a) Muhammadiyyah

b) Baqiriyyah

c) Nawusiyyah

d) Shamaytiyyah

e) Ammariyyah

f) Ismailiyyah

g) Mubarakiiyyah

h) Musawiyyah

i) Qatiyyah

j) Hishamiyyah

k) Zarariyyah

l) Yunusiyyah

m) Shaytaniyyah

n) Kamiliyyah

o) Athnaa Ashriyyah

2) Zaydiyyah-Divided into 3 sects:

a) Jarudiyyah

b) Sulaymaniyyah (also known as Jaririyyah)

c) Butriyyah

3) Kaysaniyyah-Divided into 2 sects

4) Ghulah-Divided into 6 groups:

- a) Bayaniyyah
- b) Mughiriyyah
- c) Janahiyyah
- d) Mansuriyyah
- e) Khattabiyyah
- f) Haluliyyah

The Khawaarij were divided into 20 sects:

- a) Al-Muhkamatul Ula
- b) Azaraqah
- c) Najadaat

d) Safriyyah

e) Ajaradah

f) Khazimiyyah

g) Shu?aybiyyah

h) Khalfiyyah

i) Ma?lumiyyah and Majhuliyyah

j) Sultiyyah

k) Hamziyyah

l) Thaalabah

m) Akhnasiyyah

n) Shaybaniyyah

o) Rashidiyyah

p) Mukarramiyyah

q) Ibadiyyah

r) Hafsiyyah

s) Harithiyyah

t) Shabibiyyah

The Qadariyyah-Muʿtazilah ʿanil Haq were divided into 18 sects:

a)ʿ Waasiliyyah

b) Umrawiyyah

c) Hadhliyyah

d) Nizamiyyah

e) Aswariyyah

f) Muammariyyah

g) Bishriyyah

h) Hishamiyyah

i) Murdariyyah

j) Jafaerriyyah

k) Iskafiyyah

l) Thamamiyyah

m) Jahidhiyyah

n) Shahamiyyah

o) Khayyatiyyah

p) Ka'biyyah

q) Jabaiyyah

r) Bahshamiyyah

The Murjah were divided into 5 sects:

a) Yunusiyyah

b) Ghassaniyyah

c) Tawmaniyyah

d) Thawbaniyyah

e) Marisiyyah

The Najariyyah were divided into 3 sects:

a)? Barghuthiyyah

b) Za?fraaniyyah

c) Mustadrakah

Finally, the 73rd group is the Ahle-Sunnah wal-Jama?ah, which is the group on haq. Towards the end of the kitab, Abd-al-Qahir al-Baghdadi (Rahimahullah) defines the Ahle-Sunnah wal-Jama?ah as follows:

Those who have completely mastered the principles of belief (Ash?aris and Maturidis), the mujtahid Imams of fiqh and their followers, the scholars of Hadith that steered clear of deviation, the scholars of Arabic grammar that steered away from deviation, the scholars of Tafsir that steered away from deviation, the Sufis, and the general masses of Muslims.

Most define Ahle-Sunnah wal-Jama?ah as those who follow the Ash?ari and Maturidi schools of Aqeedah, which includes the followers of the 4 Imams of fiqh.

Since every sect claims to be on the true path, the criterion to determine the true sect is as follows:

a) Adherence to the Quran and Sunnah of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam)

b) To believe in Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) as the final Messenger

c) To have love for every companion of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam)

d) To follow the Shari'ah through the guidance of any of the four Imams of fiqh-Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Shafi'ee, Imam Malik, Imam Ahmed ibn Hanbal (Rahimahumullah)

(Al-Farq baynal-Firaq, Maktabah Darul-Turath)

2) The second part of the query has been answered above.

And Allah knows best

Wassalam u Alaikum

Darul Iftaa, Madrassah In'aamiyyah