

*The Garden of the*  
**HADĪTH SCHOLARS**

*Bustān al-Muḥaddithīn*

CLARIFICATION OF THE BOOKS OF HADITH  
AND THEIR SPLENDID AUTHORS

*By the Imām and Hadīth Scholar*

ʿABD AL-ʿAZĪZ IBN

IMĀM WALĪ ALLĀH AD-DIHLAWĪ

(1159–1239 AH)

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## *Publisher's Preface*

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, the All-Merciful, Most Merciful. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets ﷺ.

I would like to thank Dr. Mohammad Akram of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies for translating the original work into Arabic, for his work in adding the extremely useful footnotes to this work and finally for bringing this wonderful work to our attention and giving us the opportunity to publish it. We ask Allah ta'ala to bless the author Shāh 'Abd al-'Azīz and reward him well. I would like to thank Ustadhah Aisha Bewley for translating this work, Abdassamad Clarke for taking special care in editing and typesetting it and Muhammad Ansa for his meticulous and painstaking proofreading. If any benefit is brought about from this book please remember us and the people mentioned above in your du'ās.

YAHYA & SAFIRA BATHA



*A Note to the  
English Edition*

*Bustān al-Muḥaddithīn* is a well-known anthology of hadith sciences, major books of hadith and *muḥaddithīn*. Written in Persian in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century by Shāh ‘Abd al-‘Azīz Muḥaddith Dihlawī (1745–1822), it has been extremely popular among scholars of hadith in India ever since. It surpasses other books written on the same subject in Arabic, Persian and other languages.

Since knowledge of the Persian language has declined in the Indian subcontinent, and also because many Arab scholars had been asking for this precious work to be made available in Arabic, I translated *Bustān al-Muḥaddithīn* into Arabic in order to make it accessible to a wider readership. The original Persian version lacked references and explanatory footnotes, which I provided in the Arabic edition. The Arabic edition also includes a short history of the hadith and sciences of hadith, a life of Shāh ‘Abd al-‘Azīz Muḥaddith Dihlawī and his contribution to the science of hadith, and indices of the Qur’anic verses and hadith cited, and of individuals of whom biographical sketches are provided in the main text or notes.

The Arabic edition was published by Dār al-Gharb al-Islāmī in Beirut in 1423, and was well received.

Yahya Batha, the director of Turath publications, is always very concerned to publish classical works of hadith and fiqh in English, and so approached the well-known translator Aisha Bewley to translate the Arabic version of *Bustān al-Muḥaddithīn* into English. I am pleased to say that her rendering of the notes as well as the main text, reads very well and so the book will reach a much wider readership than in Arabic, *inshā‘Allāh*.

MOHAMMAD AKRAM  
Oxford  
18 May 2006