

## ABSTRACT

In this project, I discussed various aspects of the time period of Al-Imam Al-Baihakee, including the political, financial, academic and social situation at the time, as well as whether or not these factors had an effect on him. I followed with a brief biography of Al-Baihakee and a discussion of his book As-Sunnan Al-Kabeer, in particular: an authentication of its title and its attribution to the author, as well as its academic value and sources, and related works.

Then, studying of general words in terms of definition and their classifications is examined. I follow that by mentioning some texts of general words which the Jurists and the Linguists agree on and the texts they differ on. Also, I define specific words by stating two forms of proof used to restrict the general words, either attached or detached, I concluded with a discussion of broad/open description (al-mutlaq), which is often confused with generalization.

The significance of this study manifests in its application where the generic terms and some specified limitations transform from the ambit of study to the realms of application on a number of Prophetic traditions dealing with legislative rulings in As-Sunan Al-Kabīr of Imam Al-Bayhaqi. This involves extraction of all generic terms in the Hadith by explaining each type and stating its limitations if found, and then explaining jurisprudential views related to the form and its limitation.

The number of generalized terms extracted from the Prophetic narrations studied was approximately three hundred and thirty-four (٣٣٤), with those direct quotes of the Prophet comprising one hundred and twenty-one of those (١٢١), while the other two hundred and thirteen (٢١٣) were those orders, prohibitions, conditions, and actions attributed to him by his companions.

May the peace and blessings of Allaah (SWT) be upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon his followers and companions.

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