

A Fact-Finding Analysis Of Imām Bukhārī's Investigative Term ليس بالقوي “Laysa Bilqawiyyi” In Al Tārīkh Al Kabīr

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Abstract

The sayings Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ are among the basic sources of Islām as a religion. To save them from alterations Allāh has bestowed the knowledge of “Jarḥ wa Ta’dīl” through Scholars and Muḥaddithīn. With the help of this knowledge, a hard effort has been made to secure the Aḥādīth of Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ from fabricators and falsifiers. In this knowledge, not only the biography of narrators but also the status of knowledge of ḥadīth has been recorded. Imām Bukhārī is one among such well reputed scholars. That is why his Al Tārīkh Al Kabīr has a grandeur in the knowledge of Jarḥ wa Ta’dīl. While investigating the validity of the narrators, Imām Bukhārī has, sometimes, used the term “Laysa Bilqawiyyi”. What has been his motive from this term? Does he mean too weak or mere weak from it? Have other investigators used it in examination? Whether other investigators mean too weak or just weak from it? An effort has been made in this treatise to answer the above mentioned questions.

Keywords: Al Tārīkh Al Kabīr, Imām Bukhārī, Lafzi Jarḥ, Laysa Bilqawiyyi.

Laysa Bilqawiyyi: ليس بالقوي

The word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" is counted in the words of evaluation the narrators of Ḥadīth. As this word is used for discrediting and validating for narrators by Imām Bukhārī, it is also used by other Imāms as well.

Imām Dhahabī has mentioned the word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" at the fifth place in the ranks of discrediting (Jarḥ) of narrators.¹

Imām Irāqī, while describing the ranks of discrediting of narrators of Ḥadīth, has mentioned the word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" in the fifth position.²

Imām Sakhāwī, while describing the ranks of discrediting the narrators of Ḥadīth, has mentioned the word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" in the sixth position.³

The status of the word of evaluation "Laysa Bilqawiyyi"

According to all the Imāms, the word of discrediting the narrators of Ḥadīth "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" is the last in the category of evaluation. That is, according to all the Imāms, it is considered a soft word of discrediting.

According to Imām Bukhārī, the word for discrediting "Laysa Bilqawiyyi":

Imām Bukhārī has also used while talking about the narrators in Al Tārīkh al Kabīr this word of Jarḥ "Laysa Bilqawiyyi". Now what does he mean by this? Is this discrediting is counted a severe discrediting or soft one? Imām Dhahabī says about it:

⁴ البخاري قد يطلق على الشيخ: ليس بالقوي، ويريد أنه: ضعيف

Bukhārī says about the narrator of Ḥadīth: "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" and he means that he is: Ḍaʿīf. That is, it indicates that the narrator is Ḍaʿīf, and the tone of "Jarḥ" is considered the soft and slight one.

The opinions of other Imāms of Ḥadīth regarding the evaluation of disapproved narrators by the word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" in Tārīkh al Kabīr:

In Tārīkh al Kabīr, the number of the narrations in which the word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" has been mentioned is thirteen. Now let's look at some of these narrators in the light of the sayings of other Imāms, what is their opinion about them? Is their discrediting is counted a severe one or soft Jarḥ? From which Imam Bukhari's word, Laysa Bilqawiyyi's intention will be also disclosed that the word Jarḥ has been used for soft method or sever one?

1. Muḥammad Bin Jābir (محمد بن جابر)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : "ليس بالقوي"⁵

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Muʿīn said: ليس بشيء⁶. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām ʿAjalī said: ضعيف⁷. (Soft Jarḥ).

- Imām Nisā,ī said: ⁸ ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ⁹ ذهب كتبه في آخر عمره وساء حفظه وكان يلقن . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Zur'ah said: ¹⁰ ساقط الحديث عند أهل العلم . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥibān said: ¹¹ كان أعمى يلحق في كتبه ما ليس من حديثه ويسرق ما ذُكر به فيحدث به . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Dār Qutnī said: ¹² ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Qaysarānī said: ¹³ ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ¹⁴ ساء الحفظ ، قال أبو حاتم : هو أحب إلى من ابن لهيعة . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said: ¹⁵ صدوق ذهب كتبه فساء حفظه و خلط كثيرا ، و عمى فصار يلقن ، و رجحه أبو حاتم . (Soft Jarḥ).

2. Baḥr bin Kanīz (بحر بن كنيز)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : ¹⁶ "ليس عندهم بقوي"

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Sa'ad said: ¹⁷ كان ضعيفاً . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Mu'īn said: ¹⁸ ليس بشيء . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said: ¹⁹ متروك الحديث . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ²⁰ ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām 'Aqīlī has counted him among the weak narrators. ²¹ . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥibān said: ²² كان ممن فحش خطوه ، و كثر وهمه حتى استحق الترك . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn 'Adī said: ²³ كل رواياته مضطربة ويخالف الناس في أسانيدھا ومتونها والضعف على حديثه بين . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dār Qutnī said: ²⁴ متروك . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Qaysarānī said: ²⁵ ليس بشيء في الحديث . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ²⁶ تركوه . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said: ²⁷ ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).

3. Ḥibān bin 'Alī (حبان بن علي)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : ²⁸ "ليس بالقوي عندهم"

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Sa'ad said: ²⁹ كان حبان ضعيفا في الحديث . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Mu'īn said: ³⁰ ليس حديثه بشيء . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām 'Ajaī said: ³¹ صدوق جازئ الحديث (Praise / Ta'dīl).
- Imām Nisā,ī said: ³² ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ³³ يكتب حديثه ولا يحتج به . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Zur'ah said: ³⁴ لين . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥibān said: ³⁵ فاحش الخطأ فيما يروي يجب التوقف في أمره . (Severe Jarḥ).

- Imām Ibn 'Adī said:³⁶ لحيان بن علي أحاديث صالحة وعمامة حديثه إفرادات وغرائب، وهو ممن يحتمل حديثه . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dār Quṭnī said:³⁷ ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said:³⁸ صالح لين الحديث (Praise / Ta'dīl).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said:³⁹ ضعيف، و كان له فقه و فضل . (Soft Jarḥ).

4. Ḥusām bin Miṣāk (حسام بن مصك)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : ⁴⁰ "ليس بالقوي عندهم"

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Sa'ad said:⁴¹ ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Mu'īn said:⁴² ليس حديثه بشيء . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām jūzjānī said:⁴³ ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said:⁴⁴ ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said:⁴⁵ ليس بقوي، يكتب حديثه . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Zur'ah said:⁴⁶ منكر الحديث . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn 'Adī said:⁴⁷ وهو إلى الضعف أقرب منه إلى الصدق . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dār Quṭnī has counted him among the weak narrators⁴⁸. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Qaysarānī said:⁴⁹ متروك الحديث . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said:⁵⁰ ضعيف يكاد أن يترك . (Soft Jarḥ).

5. Sa'ūd bin Zarbī (سعيد بن زربي)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : ⁵¹ "ليس بقوي"

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Mu'īn said:⁵² ليس بشيء . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Dāwwd said:⁵³ ضعيف . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said:⁵⁴ ليس بثقة . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said:⁵⁵ عنده عجائب من المناكير . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām 'Aqīlī has counted him among the weak narrators⁵⁶. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥibān said:⁵⁷ كان ممن يروي الموضوعات عن الأثبات على قلة روايته . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Dār Quṭnī said:⁵⁸ متروك . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Qaysarānī said:⁵⁹ سعيد ليس بشيء في الحديث . (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said:⁶⁰ ضعفه . (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said:⁶¹ منكر الحديث . (Soft Jarḥ).

6. Sulaymān bin Yasīr (سليمان بن يسير)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : “ليس بالقوي عندهم”⁶²

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Mu‘īn said: ليس بشيء⁶³. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Aḥmad bin Ḥambal said: ليس يسوى شيئا في الحديث⁶⁴. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām ‘Ajalī said: ضعيف الحديث⁶⁵. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said: متروك الحديث⁶⁶. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ضعيف الحديث ليس بمتروك⁶⁷. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Zur‘ah said: منكر الحديث⁶⁸. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn ‘Adī said: هو إلى الضعف أقرب منه إلى الصدق⁶⁹. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dār Qutnī has counted him among the weak narrators⁷⁰. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ضعيف⁷¹. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said: ضعيف⁷². (Soft Jarḥ).

7. Suhayl bin Mihrān / Suhayl bin Abī Ḥazam (سهيل بن مهران / سهيل بن ابي حزم)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : “ليس بالقوي عندهم”⁷³

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Aḥmad bin Ḥambal said: ما أرى به بأسا⁷⁴. (Praise / Ta’dīl).
- Imām ‘Ajalī said: ثقة⁷⁵. Praise / Ta’dīl.
- Imām Nisā,ī said: ليس بالقوي⁷⁶. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ليس بالقوي يكتب حديثه ولا يحتج به⁷⁷. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Shāhīn said: صالح⁷⁸. (Praise / Ta’dīl).
- Imām Ibn Qaysarānī said: ضعيف⁷⁹. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ليس بالقوي⁸⁰. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said: ضعيف⁸¹. (Soft Jarḥ).

8. Ṭarīf bin Shahāb (طريف بن شهاب)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : “ليس بالقوي عندهم”⁸²

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Mu‘īn said: ضعيف⁸³. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Aḥmad bin Ḥambal said: ليس بشيء⁸⁴. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Dāwūd said: واهي الحديث⁸⁵. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said: متروك الحديث⁸⁶. (Severe Jarḥ).

- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ⁸⁷ **ضعيف الحديث ليس بقوي**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dār Quṭnī said: ⁸⁸ **ضعيف**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Qaysarānī said: ⁸⁹ **ضعيف**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ⁹⁰ **ضعيف**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said: ⁹¹ **ضعيف**. (Soft Jarḥ).

9. 'Abd al 'Azī bin Ḥuṣayn (عبد العزيز بن حصين)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : ⁹² "ليس بالقوي عندهم"

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Mu'īn said: ⁹³ **ضعيف الحديث**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Muslim said: ⁹⁴ **ذاهب الحديث**. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said: ⁹⁵ **متروك الحديث**. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ⁹⁶ **ليس بقوي منكر الحديث**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Zur'ah said: ⁹⁷ **لا يكتب حديثه**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn 'Adī said: ⁹⁸ **بين الضعف فيما يرويه**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Qaysarānī said: ⁹⁹ **ضعيف**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ¹⁰⁰ **واه**. (Severe Jarḥ).

10. 'Abd al Ghaffār (عبد الغفار)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : ¹⁰¹ "ليس بالقوي عندهم"

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Mu'īn said: ¹⁰² **ليس بشيء**. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Madīnī said: ¹⁰³ **كان يضع الحديث**. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said: ¹⁰⁴ **متروك الحديث**. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ¹⁰⁵ **متروك الحديث**. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Zur'ah said: ¹⁰⁶ **لين**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥibān said: ¹⁰⁷ **لا يجوز الاحتجاج به**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn 'Adī said: ¹⁰⁸ **يكتب حديثه مع ضعفه**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dār Quṭnī said: ¹⁰⁹ **ضعيف**. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ¹¹⁰ **تركوه**. (Severe Jarḥ).

11. 'Abd al Malik bin Ḥusayn (عبد الملك بن حسين)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : ¹¹¹ "ليس بالقوي عندهم"

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Muʿīn said: ¹¹² ليس بشيء. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām jūzjānī said: ¹¹³ متروك. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said: ¹¹⁴ متروك الحديث. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ¹¹⁵ ضعيف الحديث. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Zurʿah said: ¹¹⁶ ضعيف الحديث. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥibān said: ¹¹⁷ لا يجوز الاحتجاج به. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ¹¹⁸ ضعيف. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said: ¹¹⁹ متروك. (Severe Jarḥ).

12. ʿAmar bin Thābit (عمرو بن ثابت)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : ¹²⁰ "ليس بالقوي عندهم"

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām Ibn Muʿīn said: ¹²¹ ليس بثقة ولا مأمون. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām ʿAjalī said: ¹²² شديد التشيع غال فيه واهي الحديث. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Muslim said: ¹²³ ضعيف الحديث. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Dāwūd said: ¹²⁴ كان رجل سوء. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said: ¹²⁵ متروك الحديث. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ¹²⁶ ضعيف الحديث يكتب حديثه. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Zurʿah said: ¹²⁷ ضعيف الحديث. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥibān said: ¹²⁸ كان ممن يروي الموضوعات. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn ʿAdī said: ¹²⁹ الضعف على رواياته بين. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dār Quṭnī has counted him among the weak narrators¹³⁰. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ¹³¹ متروك. (Severe Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn Ḥajar said: ¹³² ضعيف. (Soft Jarḥ).

13. Quṭub bin ʿAllā, (قطب بن علاء)

The Jarḥ of Imām Bukhārī : ¹³³ "ليس بالقوي عندهم"

The Jarḥ of other Imāms and critics:

- Imām ʿAjalī said: ¹³⁴ كان يحدث عن أبيه حديثا طويلا في قصة الجمل ولم تطب نفسي أن أكتب عنه لأنه. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Nisā,ī said: ¹³⁵ ضعيف. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām ʿAqīlī said: ¹³⁶ لا يتابع على حديثه. (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Abū Ḥātam said: ¹³⁷ شيخ يكتب حديثه ولا يحتج به. (Soft Jarḥ).

- Imām Ibn Ḥibān said: ¹³⁸ كان ممن يخطيء كثيرا (Soft Jarḥ).
- Imām Ibn 'Adī said: ¹³⁹ أرجو أنه لا بأس به (Praise / Ta'dīl).
- Imām Ibn Shāhīn said: ¹⁴⁰ ثقة (Praise / Ta'dīl).
- Imām Dhahabī said: ¹⁴¹ لين (Soft Jarḥ).

Summary of Discussion

It is clear enough after knowing the opinions of other Imāms of Ḥadīth regarding the evaluation of disapproved narrators by the word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" in Tārīkh al Kabūr that Imām Bukhārī uses the word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" about the narrator of Ḥadīth: and he means that the narrator is: Ḍa'īf. That indicates that the "Jarḥ" is slight and soft one. As Imām Dhahabi says:

“ البخاري قد يطلق على الشيخ: ليس بالقوي، ويريد أنه: ضعيف ”

Bukhārī says about the narrator of Ḥadīth: "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" and he means that he is: Ḍa'īf. That is, it indicates that the narrator is Ḍa'īf, and the "Jarḥ" is considered the slight one. Because the narrators that Imām Bukhārī has said about them "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" in Tārīkh al Kabūr, are all those about whom the other Imāms and critics used soft and slight tone of "Jarḥ". So these narrations are not unobjectionable and "Matrūk" in their opinion, but their narration is acceptable in Ḥadīth.

Findings:

1. The word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" is one of the words of "Jarḥ" and it is also used by other Imāms including Imām Bukhārī.
2. Imām Dhahabī and Imām Irāqī have mentioned the word "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" at the fifth place while Imām Sakhāwī has placed it in sixth in the ranks of discrediting (Jarḥ) of narrators.
3. According to all other Imāms, the word of discrediting the narrators of Ḥadīth. "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" is the last in the category of evaluation. That is considered a soft and slight word of discrediting in their opinion.
4. According Imām Dhahabī: Imām Bukhārī says about the narrator of Ḥadīth: "Laysa Bilqawiyyi" and he means that he is: Ḍa'īf. That indicates that the narrator is Ḍa'īf, and the tone of "Jarḥ" is considered the soft and slight one.

5. The number of the narrators about whom the word "Laysa Bilqawiyi" has been used in *Tārīkh al Kabīr*, is thirteen.
6. It is clear enough after knowing the opinions of other Imāms of Ḥadīth that when Imām Bukhārī says about the narrator of Ḥadīth: "Laysa Bilqawiyi" he means that the narrator is: Ḍaʿīf as Imām Dhahabī said: because all other Imāms and critics who used "Laysa Bilqawiyi" about the narrators are not unobjectionable and "Matrūk" in their opinion, but their narration is acceptable in Ḥadīth.

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