

## Introduction

### *In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate the Merciful*

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master, Muhammad, and his pure family, and may the curse of Allah be upon all of their enemies.

A controversial narration ascribed to the Holy Prophet of Islam is the Hadith of al- Nujum as per which the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him and his family<sup>1</sup> has been quoted as having said:

*“My Companions are like the stars; whoever among them you follow, you will be rightly guided.”*

The present study aims to critically assess the above tradition from three major angles:

Sunni leaders, scholars and memorizers' sayings and comments on the above hadith

Veracity of the tradition in the light of Sunni scholars of jarh and ta'dil (critiques of narrators)

Thoughts within the text, significations, denotations and conclusion of this hadith.

I pray to Allah, the Exalted, to grant me success in examining and studying this tradition from these three angles. Indeed, success is granted by Allah and He is the Guardian.

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<sup>1</sup>. In spite of the fact that in Sunni sources the ‘greeting’ (salawat) after the Holy Prophet’s name is written incompletely, we, as the Prophet, peace be upon him and his family, himself recommended, have written it completely.