



The Blessings *of* Imam Shafi'i

رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ



Presented by
Majlis Al-Madina-tul-'Ilmiyyah
Translated into English by
Translation Department (Dawat-e-Islami)

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Du'a for Reading the Book

Read the following Du'a (supplication) before you study a religious book or an Islamic lesson, you will remember whatever you study, **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**:

اَللّٰهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا حِكْمَتَكَ وَاَنْشُرْ
عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَتَكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْاِكْرَامِ

Translation

O Allah **عَزَّوَجَلَّ**! Open the doors of knowledge and wisdom for us, and have mercy on us! O the One Who is the Most Glorious and Honourable! (*Al-Mustatraf, vol. 1, p. 40*)

Note:

Recite Salat upon the Prophet ﷺ once before and after the Du'a.

فيضانِ امام شافعى (رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْهِ)

Faizan-e-Imam Shaafi'i (رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْهِ)

The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i ﷺ

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The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i ﷺ

An English translation of Faizan-e-Imam Shaafi'i (ترجمة الفوائد)



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Table of CONTENTS

Virtue of Sending Salat upon the Prophet ﷺ.....	1
A Great Example of Good Manners	2
The Peak of Honour and Nobility.....	3
The Dream of his Noble Mother	3
Birth	4
Leaving Poetry and Seeking Sacred Knowledge instead.....	4
Passion for Sacred Knowledge.....	5
The Excellence of Imam Shaafi'i in the Words of The Final Prophet ﷺ.....	5
Visiting the Scholar of Madina, Imam Maalik رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ.....	7
Who is a Mujtahid?	7
Imam Maalik's Gift to Imam Shaafi'i	9
Remaining Barefoot in Madinah is the Practise of the Devotees	9
3 Incidents of the Generosity of Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ.....	10
Interest in Two Actions	12
The Blessed Beard of Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ	13
A Study Circle in Masjid ul-Haraam	13
Supplicate for Well-Being.....	13
The Teacher Referring People to his Student.....	14
Imam Shaafi'i meeting Imam Muhammad	14
Why does a Person become Overweight?	16
Imam Shaafi'i's love and respect for Imam Abu Hanifah	16
The Blessings of the Shrines of the Awliya.....	17
The First Caliph of Islam	18
Supplication for the Beloved's Nation	19
Falling Unconscious due to the Fear of Allah	19
Worship and Righteous Habits	20

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The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Du'a of Attar: O Lord of Mustafa! Whosoever reads or listens to the booklet (21 pages), “The Blessings of Imam Shaafi’i”, grant him the eternal treasure of sacred knowledge and forgive him without accountability.

أَمِينَ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Virtue of Sending Salat upon the Prophet ﷺ

Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ stated: “I desire for every Muslim to send abundant Salat upon the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.”¹

*Baithtay uthtay jaagtay saw
Dil mai jalwe basse huwe tere*

*ho ilahi mera shi'aar durood
lab se jaari ho baar baar durood*

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

¹ Tabaqat Al-Kubra Lil-Sha'rani, vol. 1, p. 74

A Great Example of Good Manners

It is reported that on one occasion, Imam Shaafi'i رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ had a long shirt (Qamees) sewn by a tailor. The tailor was unaware of his high rank and status. As a joke, the tailor made the shirt's right sleeve so tight that Imam Shaafi'i رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ would barely manage to get his hand through it after great difficulty, and he made the left sleeve so loose that a person's head could fit through it. When Imam Shaafi'i رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ received the shirt, he said: "May Allah reward you with goodness! Tight sleeves are easier to roll up when performing Wudū and a loose sleeve is ideal for placing a book inside."

During this time, the emissary of the Caliph of the time came to Imam Shaafi'i with 10,000 dirhams [silver coins]. So, he رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ said to the emissary: "Pay the tailor for the clothes he has sewn." When the tailor asked the emissary about him, he said: "This is Imam Shaafi'i رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ." After hearing this, he pursued Imam Shaafi'i, kissed his feet and apologised. From then on, he stayed in his blessed company and joined his circle of companions.¹

May Allah Almighty have mercy upon them and forgive us without accountability for their sake.

اٰمِيْنَ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْاَمِيْن صَلَّي اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهٖ وَسَلَّم

صَلُّوْا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيْب صَلَّي اللّٰهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ *Al-Raud Al-Faa'iq*, p. 208

The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i ﷺ

Dear Islamic brothers! Did you see the excellent conduct of our pious predecessors? Even though this situation was one that provokes anger, Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, an embodiment of knowledge and forbearance, did not retaliate nor take revenge. Not only did he forgive the tailor, but he also paid him for his work.

The Peak of Honour and Nobility

The name of the Imam of millions of Shaafi'is, the esteemed Taabi'i of the second century, Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, was Muhammad, his teknonym was Abu Abdullah and his father was called Idrees. Another title of Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ is Naasir-ul-Hadith [Helper of Hadith]. He would spend the nights in worship, turn away from the luxuries of the world, invite people towards goodness and forbid them from evil. His lineage meets with that of the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Imam Abu Nu'aym Ahmad bin Abdullah Asfahani Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ writes: "It is the peak of honour and nobility that a Muslim's lineage meets with the best of creation, Sayyiduna Muhammad al-Mustafa صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ."¹

The Dream of his Noble Mother

Before the birth of Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, his noble mother had a dream in which she saw Jupiter separate from her body

¹ Hilyat al-Awliya, vol. 9, p. 75, Raqam 13163, Tareekh Baghdad, vol. 2, p. 66, Raqam 454

and fall into Egypt, from there, its light spread into every city. The interpreters of dreams said: "You will give birth to such a scholar from whom, in particular, the people of Egypt, will gain blessings, and then from them, the people of other cities."¹

Birth

On the day that the esteemed Imam Abu Hanifah رحمه الله عليه passed away, Imam Shaafi'i رحمه الله عليه was born in 150 AH, in the region of Gaza or 'Asqalan in Palestine. When he was two years of age, his father passed away, after which his mother took him to Makkah. It was in Makkah that he was raised and where he acquired knowledge of Islam.²

Leaving Poetry and Seeking Sacred Knowledge instead

Imam Shaafi'i رحمه الله عليه states: "When I was young, I would search for poetry and write it. One day, I was walking in Makkah or travelling towards one corner of the city, when I heard someone cry out: 'O Muhammad bin Idrees! Acquire knowledge!' I turned to see who was calling out to me but I saw no-one. Thus, I began to seek knowledge and I would write on pieces of old, torn clothes and store it in a clay pot until it became full. I was an orphan and my noble mother did not have anything to give me for my educational expenses."³

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 83, Raqm 13191

² *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 76, Raqm 13166-13167, *Seyar Alam Al-nubala*, vol. 8, p. 380, Raqm 1539

³ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 83, Raqm 13191

The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i ﷺ

Passion for Sacred Knowledge

Imam Shaafi'i رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ states: “My mother had nothing to give to the teacher. However, he agreed that I could instead look after the madrasa when he left. At the age of 7, I had memorised the Quran so I started attending the Masajid to sit with the scholars in order to learn Hadith and the rulings of Shariah. In Makkah, our house was in the valley of Khayf. I would find bones and write Hadith upon them and when there was no more space to write on them, I would place the bone into an old pitcher.”

Allah Almighty opened the doors of knowledge for him, such that Sayyiduna Muslim bin Khalid Zanjī رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ said to him, whilst encouraging him to write legal verdicts: “Abu Abdullah! Issue Fatawa; by Allah, your time of issuing legal verdicts has arrived.” Imam Shaafi'i was 15 years of age at the time.¹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The Excellence of Imam Shaafi'i in the Words of The

Final Prophet ﷺ

The Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “Do not curse the

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 82, *Raqm* 13186, *Kitab al-Thiqat Li-Ibn Hibban*, *Raqm* 2997, *Siyar Alam al-Nubala*, vol. 8, p. 380, *Raqm* 1539

Quraysh. Indeed, their scholar [from the Quraysh] will fill the earth with knowledge.” Imam Abu Bakr Husayn bin Ahmad Bayhaqi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: “A group of our scholars have said that the scholar mentioned in this Hadith is referring to Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ. This is also what has been reported from Imam Ahmad رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.”¹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Supplicating for 40 Years

Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: “There are 6 people for whom I supplicate at the time of Shu'oor; one of them is Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.”² Sayyiduna Yahya bin Sa'eed Qattaan رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: “[for 40 years after praying] I supplicate especially for Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ.”³ Sayyiduna Abu Bakr bin Khallaad رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said: “I supplicate for Imam Shaafi'i after every prayer.”⁴ Ayyub bin Suwayd رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: “I do not think I will see someone like Imam Shaafi'i after him.”⁵ Mamoon al-Rashid said: “I tested Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ in many ways, but I found him to be successful in every test.”⁶

¹ *Ma'rifat al Sunan wal-Aathaar*, vol. 1, p. 207

² *Tareekh Baghdad*, vol. 2, p. 64, *Raqm* 454

³ *Tabaqat Al-Shafi'iyah Al Kubra*, vol. 1, p. 249

⁴ *Siyar A'lam Al-Nubala`*, vol. 8, p. 383, *Raqm* 1539

⁵ *Hilyat al-Awliya`*, vol. 9, p. 101, *Raqm* 13219

⁶ *Siyar A'lam Al-Nubala`*, vol. 8, p. 382, *Raqm* 1539

Visiting the Scholar of Madina, Imam Maalik رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and his uncle left Makkah and travelled towards Yemen. When they returned from their journey, he studied under Sayyiduna Muslim bin Khalid Zanjī and Sayyiduna Sufyan bin Uyaynah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِمَا. Then, before travelling to Imam Maalik رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, he memorised [his book of Hadith] “Muwatta Imam Maalik” at the age of 10. He himself says: “When I was 12 years old, I went to Imam Maalik رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ so I could read the Muwatta to him. Considering me to be young, Imam Maalik رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said: ‘Find someone who can read it to you.’ I replied: ‘If you like my reading, you can listen to me, otherwise I will bring someone else to read it.’ So, Imam Maalik told me to read. Thus, I continued reading before him until I reached Kitab al-Siyar. Whereupon, he said to me: ‘Son! Preserve this and now acquire jurisprudence (Fiqh), busy yourself in this.’”¹

Who is a Mujtahid?

Dear Islamic brothers! There have been 100 or more Mujtahids in Islam. A Mujtahid is the one who possesses such knowledge and aptitude that he understands the subtleties and secrets of the Quran, and the implication of every Ayah. He is also able to derive rulings from them and has complete knowledge of what is

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliya, vol. 9, p. 78,79,83, selected*

Naasik and Mansookh [knowledge of the abrogating and the abrogated]. Moreover, he has mastery in Arabic morphology, etymology, rhetoric and other sciences, and he is also aware of all the Quranic verses and Ahadith that deal with rulings.¹

Sayyiduna Imam Shaafi'i رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ is a Mujtahid Mutlaq and the founder of the Shaafi'i school of jurisprudence. His followers are known as the 'Shawaafi'. After the Hanafis, the Shawaafi are the greatest in number. Allah Almighty granted Imam Shaafi'i great acceptance. Those holding the correct beliefs of Islam, regardless of whether they are a Hanafi, Maaliki, Shaafi'i or Hanbali, are all brothers.

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ! There is no prejudice or intolerance between any of the groups, and how can there be any intolerance between them; none of the Mujtahideen had such feelings towards each other, so how can their followers? Therefore, wherever there is a Shaafi'i, Maliki or Hanbali anywhere in the world, who holds the correct beliefs of Islam, he is our brother. O Allah Almighty! Grant us the blessings of these four pious individuals.

*Maliki ho Hanbali ho Hanafi ho ya Shaafi'i
Mat Ta'asub rakhna aur karna na un se dushmani²*

صَلُّوْا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ Ala Hazrat say suwal jawab, p. 44

² Wassail e Bakhshish, p. 699

Imam Maalik's Gift to Imam Shaafi'i

Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: "In Madinah, I saw some horses of Egypt or Khurasan tied near Imam Malik's home that were gifted to him. I had never seen such fine horses. Thus, I said: 'How marvellous are these horses!' Imam Maalik رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ said: 'I gift all of them to you.' So, I replied: 'Keep at least one for yourself.' He said: 'I feel ashamed before Allah Almighty that I trample under the hooves of my horse this blessed land in which the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is present, i.e. his blessed shrine.'"¹

Haan Haan rah e madina hai ghaafil zara to jaag

Au paaon rakhne waale ye jaa chashm aw sar ki hai

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Remaining Barefoot in Madinah is the Practise of the Devotees

O devotees of the Prophet! The practices of the devotees are indeed unique; they love everything that is linked to the Beloved. The esteemed Imam Maalik رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, who was known as the scholar of Madinah, would walk barefoot in Madinah. That was a blessed era, and now, we are living in such a time where ignorant people fall prey to the whispers of Satan in regard to whether we can walk barefoot in Madinah or

¹ Hilyat al-Awliya', vol. 1, p. 48; Al Raud Al-Faa'iq, p. 217

² Wassail e Bakhshish, p. 217

not. Remember! Anything which does not conflict with Shar'iah, is permissible, and to criticise a Muslim for performing a permissible action is a grave sin. Our eyes are closed upon our pious predecessors. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**, we will not fall victim to someone who puts satanic whispers and doubts in our heart because we are people of devotion; why make this a matter of dispute?

3 Incidents of the Generosity of Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

1. Distributed 1000 Gold Coins

By the command of Khalifah Haroon Rashid, Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was given 1000 dinars [gold coins]. The Khalifah addressed his servant Siraaj and said: "Follow him [Imam Shaafi'i] and observe his actions." Thus, the servant trailed behind him and saw Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ giving away handfuls of Dinars on his way home. He رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ returned to his home with a handful of Dinars which he gave to his servant and said: "Take benefit from this." Siraaj informed Haroon Rashid of what he had seen. Whereupon, he said: "This is why his heart is free from want and he is upright."¹

2. 50,000 Gold Coins

On one occasion, Harthama came to Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, conveyed the Salaam of Haroon Rashid and said: "The Caliph

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 139, Raqm 13410

The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i رحمته الله عليه

has ordered for you to be given 50,000 Dinars.” Thus, this money was given to him. Imam Shaafi'i رحمته الله عليه called a barber and after he had cut his hair, he gave 50 Dinars to him. He then made small bags out of pieces of cloth, filled them with Dinars and gave them away to the Qurayshis and people of Makkah. When he رحمته الله عليه returned home, he had less than 100 dinars remaining.¹

Dear Islamic brothers! Being generous is a very noble trait. May Allah Almighty also grant us the ability to spend on our Muslim brothers with good intentions. Spending your wealth in the way of Allah Almighty is a means of gaining reward in the Hereafter. Along with this, the one with a generous heart attains honour, and love for him increases in the hearts of people. Whereas, the one who is stingy and miserly is disgraced in this world and the Hereafter.

However, we should not beg from others without a valid Shar'i need, as it reduces the respect others have for us. Not only was Imam Shaafi'i رحمته الله عليه very generous, he was extremely kind, courteous and he entrusted his affairs to Allah. It was written on his ring: بِاللّٰهِ تَعَالٰى لِمُحَمَّدٍ بِنِ اِدْرِيسَ “Relying upon Allah is sufficient for Muhammad bin Idrees.”²

3. Good Conduct towards his Students

Abu Thawr رحمته الله عليه states: “As a result of the generous heart of

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 140, Raqm 13413

² *Tabaqat Lil-Sha'rani*, vol. 1, p. 74

Imam Shaafi'i, he would not keep much for himself.”¹ Imam Muzani رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ mentions: “I have not seen anyone as generous as Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ. On the night of Eid, we left the Masjid whilst discussing a Shar'i ruling. We reached his house and saw a slave by the door who said: ‘My master sends his Salaam and has given you this bag of money.’ He رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ took the bag and placed it in his sleeve. Not long after, a student of his arrived and said: ‘O Abu Abdullah! I have just been blessed with a child but I have no money.’ Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ gave the bag of money to him and went home empty-handed.”²

Sayyiduna Rabee' bin Sulayman رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: “I had just married, and Imam Shaafi'i asked me: ‘What are you giving as a dowry?’ I replied: ‘30 Dinars.’ He then asked: ‘How much of it have you given?’ To which I said: ‘6 Dinars.’ Imam Shaafi'i then went home and sent me a bag in which there were 24 dinars.”³

Interest in Two Actions

Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: “I had great interest in two actions: archery and acquiring knowledge. I have achieved such mastery in archery that when I shoot ten arrows, all ten hit their targets.” The narrator says that Imam Shaafi'i remained silent when it came to his vast knowledge, so I said: “By Allah Almighty! The level of your knowledge is even

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 141, Raqm 13418

² *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 140, Raqm 13415

³ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 140, Raqm 13414

The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i رحمته الله عليه

greater than your proficiency in archery.”¹

The Blessed Beard of Imam Shaafi'i رحمته الله عليه

Imam Muzani رحمته الله عليه said: “I have not seen anyone more beautiful and handsome than Imam Shaafi'i رحمته الله عليه. His cheeks were tender and his beard was a fistful in length. When he would hold his beard, it would not extend beyond a fistful. He would apply henna to it, and he loved applying perfume.”²

A Study Circle in Masjid ul-Haraam

Dear Islamic brothers! In Masjid-ul-Haraam in Makkah, the Noble Companion, Sayyiduna Abdullah bin Abbas رضي الله عنهما would lead a study circle in which they would discuss Islamic verdicts. After him, the esteemed Tabi'i, Sayyiduna 'Ataa bin Abi Rabaah رحمته الله عليه would lead the study circle. After this, Sayyiduna Abdul-Malik bin Abdul Aziz Jurayj رحمته الله عليه would give verdicts. After him, Sayyiduna Muslim bin Khalid Zanj رحمته الله عليه was given the responsibility of holding these circles. After Sayyiduna Sa'eed bin Saalim Qaddaah رحمته الله عليه, Sayyiduna Imam Shaafi'i رحمته الله عليه occupied this position, despite being young at the time.³

Supplicate for Well-Being

Once, Imam Shaafi'i رحمته الله عليه fell extremely ill and made this

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliya'*, vol. 9, p. 86, *Raqm* 13196

² *Siyar A'lam Al Nubala'*, vol. 8, pp. 379,415, *Raqm* 1539

³ *Hilyat al-Awliya'*, vol. 9, p. 100, *Raqm* 13216

supplication: “O Allah Almighty! If you are content with this illness, then increase it.” Sayyiduna Idrees bin Yahya Ma’afiri رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ sent him a letter from the outskirts of the city, saying: “O Abu Abdullah! It is better for us to ask Allah Almighty for well-being.” After this, Imam Shaafi’i retracted his statement and said: “I seek forgiveness from Allah Almighty and repent in His court.” He then supplicated: اَللّٰهُمَّ اجْعَلْ خَيْرَ رِقٍ فَيَا اَحَبُّ – “O Allah Almighty! Place my betterment in those matters that I prefer.”¹

The Teacher Referring People to his Student

The grandson of Imam Shaafi’i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, Ahmad bin Muhammad رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ states: “I heard from my father and uncle that whenever Sayyiduna Sufyan bin Uyaynah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was asked about Tafseer or the interpretation of dreams, he would turn to Imam Shaafi’i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and say: ‘Ask him about this matter.’”²

Imam Shaafi’i meeting Imam Muhammad

Dear Islamic brothers! The esteemed student of Imam Abu Hanifah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, Imam Muhammad bin Hasan Shaybaani رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was one of the teachers of Imam Shaafi’i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. When Imam Shaafi’i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ went to Iraq, the accomplished student of Imam Abu Hanifah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, Imam Abu Yusuf

¹ Qoot al-Quloob, vol. 1, p. 270, selected

² Hilyat al-Awliya`, vol. 9, p. 98, Raqm 13207

The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i ﷺ

رحمته اللہ علیہ had passed away.¹ Imam Muhammad رحمته اللہ علیہ married the widowed mother of Imam Shaafi'i رحمته اللہ علیہ and gave him all his wealth and books. This is the main reason as to how Imam Shaafi'i رحمته اللہ علیہ gained expertise in Islamic Jurisprudence and how he became a Mujtahid.

He himself states: “Whoever wishes to attain the knowledge of Fiqh should remain in the company of Imam Abu Hanifah رحمته اللہ علیہ, and his students and companions رحمہم اللہ. This is because the realities of everything have been revealed to them and reaching correct meanings and understandings has been made simple for them.” He then said: “By Allah! I would not have become a Faqih (i.e. jurist) if I did not stay in the company of Imam Muhammad bin Hasan Shaybaani رحمته اللہ علیہ and if I did not have his books.”²

Sayyiduna Rabee' bin Sulayman رحمته اللہ علیہ states: “I heard Imam Shaafi'i رحمته اللہ علیہ say: ‘I acquired knowledge from Imam Muhammad رحمته اللہ علیہ equal to the burden a Khurasani camel can bear, and I heard all of it in person.’”³ On one occasion, Imam Shaafi'i رحمته اللہ علیہ said: “In regards to Fiqh, the one who favoured me the most was Imam Muhammad bin Hasan Shaybaani رحمته اللہ علیہ.”⁴

¹ *Tareekh Baghdad*, vol. 2, p. 55, Raqm 454; *Seyar A'lam al-Nubala*, vol. 8, p. 397, Raqm 1539

² *Bahar-e-Shari'at*, vol. 3, p. 1040, part 19

³ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 86, Raqm 13198

⁴ *Tareekh Baghdad*, vol. 2, 173, Raqm. 593

Why does a Person become Overweight?

Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said: “Apart from Imam Muhammad رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, no portly individual has become successful.” It was asked: “Why is that?” He replied: “An intelligent person will definitely have one of two habits: He will remain sorrowful regarding his Hereafter or he will remain sad over matters of the world, and one does not become fat due to sorrow. Therefore, when an individual is free of these two worries, he becomes overweight like an animal.”¹

*Bahut khanay pinay say perhayz karna
kay beysar kouri mayn nuqsan bara hay*

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Imam Shaafi'is love and respect for Imam Abu Hanifah

The degree of love and respect Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ had for Imam Abu Hanifah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was such that he says: “I acquire blessings from Imam Abu Hanifah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and visit his grave. Whenever I face a need, I offer two cycles of Nafl prayer, then go to his grave and ask Allah to fulfil my need. After doing so, my need is quickly fulfilled.”

It is mentioned in another authentic narration that Sayyiduna Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ offered the Fajr prayer near the shrine of Imam Abu Hanifah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ but did not recite the

¹ Hilyat al-Awliya, vol. 9, p. 155, Raqm 13495

The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i ﷺ

supplication of Qunoot. Whereas, according to Shaafi'i jurisprudence, the Qunoot is to be recited in the Fajr prayer. Somebody asked as to why he did not recite Qunoot in the Fajr prayer. To which he replied: "This is out of respect and honour for the one in the grave [i.e. Imam Abu Hanifah]."¹

*Hay naam Nu'man ibn thaabit, Abu Hanifah un ki kunyat
Pukaarta hai ye keh ke aalam, imam e aazam Abu Hanifah*

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The Blessings of the Shrines of the Awliya

O devotees of the Awliya! We deduce from this incident that visiting the shrines of the Awliya is a long-standing tradition of the pious. The ones who needlessly prevent others from visiting the shrines of Awliya are afflicted by a great misunderstanding. They should protect themselves from such satanic whispers and visit the shrines of the Awliya, and they should not prevent the devotees of the Prophet from doing so either. However, if impermissible actions, such as a lack of veiling, are occurring near the shrine, then know in your heart that it is evil but to deprive yourself of visiting the shrine for this reason is foolish. If a fly sits on your nose, you will make it fly away; you will not cut your nose off [i.e. do not harm or deprive yourself of something beneficial because of the actions of a third party].

¹ *Bahar-e-Shari'at*, vol. 3, p. 1046, part 19

The First Caliph of Islam

Sayyiduna Imam Shaafi'i رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ said: “The people were unanimous in selecting Sayyiduna Abu Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ as their Caliph. He then made Sayyiduna Umar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ the next Caliph. Sayyiduna Umar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ formed a council of six people to decide his successor, and they chose Sayyiduna Uthman رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. After the passing of the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, the people were anxious, so they appointed the one who they considered to be the most superior amongst them; Sayyiduna Abu Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ¹.”

Sayyiduna Rabee' رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ states: “I heard Imam Shaafi'i رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ say: ‘The most superior being after the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is Sayyiduna Abu Bakr, then Sayyiduna Umar, then Sayyiduna Uthman and then Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ.’”²

*Sayaa e Mustafa myaa e istafaa
izz aw naaz e khilaafat pe laakho salaam*

*Ya'ni uss Afzal ul khalq ba'da al-rusul
thaani athnayni hijrat pe laakho salaam*

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ Hilyat al-Awliya, vol. 9, p. 122, Raqm 13324

² Hilyat al-Awliya, vol. 9, p. 122, Raqm 13324

Supplication for the Beloved's Nation

Sayyiduna Hasan Karaabisi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ mentions: “I have spent many nights in the company of Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. He would spend about a third of the night in prayer and I did not see him recite more than 50 verses. If he read more, then he would read 100 verses. When he would recite a verse of mercy, he would make a supplication of mercy for himself and all Muslims. Whenever he recited a verse that mentioned punishment, he would seek refuge from it, and then seek protection for himself and for every Muslim.”¹

Falling Unconscious due to the Fear of Allah

These verses were once recited in front of Imam Shaafi'i in a beautiful voice:

«هَذَا يَوْمٌ لَا يَنْطِقُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾ وَلَا يُؤْذَنُ لَهُمْ فَيَعْتَذِرُونَ ﴿٣٦﴾»

This is a Day in which they will not be able to speak. Nor will they be given permission to present excuses.

After hearing these verses, the colour of his face changed, his hair stood on end, his body began to tremble, and he fell to the floor unconscious. When he recovered, he said: “O Allah Almighty! I seek refuge in You from the abode of liars and the turning away of heedless people. O Allah Almighty! The hearts

¹ Ma'rifat al-Sunan wal-Aathaar, vol 1, 196

of those who recognise You have submitted, and the necks of those who yearn to meet You have been lowered due to Your awe. O Allah Almighty! Bestow upon me Your grace and bounty, and keep me concealed in Your veil of mercy, and forgive my shortcomings through Your grace.” (Ref)

Ya khuda meri maghfirat farmaa

Baagh e Firdaws marhamat farmaa

Tu gunaaho ke kar mu'aaf Allah!

Meri Maqbool ma'zirat farmaa

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Worship and Righteous Habits

Imam Shaafi'i رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ divided the night into three portions: One third for knowledge, one third for worship, and the last for resting.¹ During Ramadan, he would recite the entire Quran 60 times, and would complete all of them during the prayer.² He رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ stated: “I have never taken an oath by Allah Almighty, whether truthful or false, and I have never lied.”³

O devotees of Imam Shaafi'i! If only we had the honour of reciting or listening to the Quran daily. If only we would cry in the fear of Allah Almighty and repent. If only we would lower our heads in prostration to Allah Almighty and punctually

¹ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 143, Raqm 13431

² *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 142, Raqm 13426

³ *Hilyat al-Awliya*, vol. 9, p. 136, Raqm 13391

The Blessings of Imam Shaafi'i ﷺ

offer our five prayers in congregation. If only, through the blessings of Imam Shaafi'i, we never lie again; we should not lie as a joke too.

Some shopkeepers do not refrain from taking false oaths by Allah Almighty in order to attract customers. Swearing a false oath is a major sin and an action that leads to Hell. It causes products to be sold but blessings depart. The one who swears an oath over every minor thing causes others to not trust him, even if he is telling the truth. Live your life in accordance to the 72 Pious Deeds. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ** you will gain abundant goodness in this world and the Hereafter. Also, travel in the Madani Qafilah in order to learn about the Sunnahs. You will attain blessings in your sustenance, the mindset to perform good actions and help in refraining from sins.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Next Week's Booklet



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