

Autobiographies of some of the Ulama who were the Foundation of the Hanafi School of Jurisprudence

Muta'allimah Mariam Bobat | Jaamia Zainab

Introduction

One generation plants the trees, the other enjoys the shade. This is a perfect quote that describes the fruits of fiqh we the Ummah of today are enjoying. And this was only possible due to the firm and steady roots placed by our Ulamaa.

Alhamdulillah, We live in a time where any rulings we require, can easily be found in numerous Kitaabs. But this was not always the case. For the ease we have today with respect to the rulings of Fiqh, it entailed the immense effort and dedication of our pious predecessors.

The Ummah is greatly indebted to the 4 Imams who have simplified and coded the laws of fiqh for us. The first to do so was Imam Abu Hanifa. But prior to the Great Imam, there was the sweat and hardwork of the Ulamaa before him. This project will focus on the chain of Ulamaa above Imam Abu Hanifa going upto Nabi (Alai his salaam).

Imām Abū Ḥanīfah’s chain of knowledge is as follows:

- Imām Abū Ḥanīfah
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- Ḥammād Ibn Abī Sulaymān
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- Ibrahīm al-Nakhaī
- |
- ‘Alqamah Ibn Qays
- |
- ‘Abdullāh Ibn Mas‘ūd
- |
- Rasūlullāh ﷺ

Hadith (wte) : if Imaan was on the Thurayyah constellation of stars, a man from the people of Persia would find it there



Abdullah Bin Mas'ood رضى الله عنه

Name And Lineage

- His name was Abdullaah and he was commonly called Abu Abdur Rahmaan or Ibn Umie Abd.
- His father's name was Mas'ood and his mother's name Umie Abd.

His ancestry is as follows:

Abdullaah, the son of Mas'ood, who was the son of Ghaafil, who was the son of Hubaib, who was the son of Shamakh, who was the son of Faar, who was the son of Makhzoom, who was the son of Masaahilah, who was the son of Kaahil, who was the son of Haarith, who was the son of Tameem, who was the son of Sa'ad, who as the son of Nahdeel, who was the son of Mudrikah, who was the son of Ilyaas, who was the son of Mudhir.

- The majority of his childhood days were spent tending and rearing sheep as was the practice at the time. This was their first teaching ground, where they learnt practical lessons of simplicity, diligence, faithfulness and honesty.
- When Nabi (Alai his salaam) first began preaching in Makkah, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood was once tending to the sheep of Uqbah bin Mu'eeth when Nabi (Alai his salaam) and Hadhrat Abu Bakr (Radiyallaahu anhu) passed. Nabi (Alai his salaam) asked for some milk but he replied that the goats were left in his trust and that he was a trustworthy person. Nabi (Alai his salaam) then asked for him to bring a goat which had not yet come of age. He brought the goat to Nabi (Alai his salaam) and he touched its udders and it miraculously filled with milk. Nabi (Alai his salaam) then extracted its milk into a bowl and drank some with Hadhrat Abu Bakr (Radiyallaahu anhu). Nabi (Alai his salaam) then ordered the goat to return back to its previous condition and no milk remained in its udders. Hadhrat Ibn Mas'ood narrates that he went to Nabi (Alai his salaam) and asked him to teach him the supplication he recited upon which Nabi (Alai his salaam) gently placed his hand on his head and said, "May Allaah have mercy upon you, you have a great yearning for knowledge."

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- After accepting Islam, he went through a lot of persecution at the hands of the kuffaar and was unable to defend himself at times.
- He migrated to Abyssinia when permission was granted to the Muslims due to the immense suffering at the hands of the kuffaar. When Ja'far (Radiyallaahu anhu) gave his speech in the court of Najaashi, he was present and when Najaashi refused to entertain the Kuffaar of Makkah and had them sent back, he returned to Makkah.
- He then migrated to Madina Munawwarah and when the bonds of brotherhood were established, his Ansaari brother was Muaadh bin Jabal (Radiyallaahu anhu).
- Nabi (Alai his salaam) awarded him a piece of land directly adjacent to the Masjid for him to reside in.
- He participated in all famous and important battles of Islaam, displaying immense courage and bravery.
- During the battle of Badr two youths from the Ansaar had wounded and incapacitated Abu Jahal. Nabi (Alai his salaam) instructed the Sahabah to find Abu Jahal and Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood went out in search of him and found him lying wounded in the battlefield. He still had some life in him; Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood grabbed his beard and finished him off.
- He frequented the home of Nabi (Alai his salaam) so often that Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari mentioned that they thought he was a member of Rasulullaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)'s family.
- Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood was amongst the special attendants of Nabi (Alai his salaam) . He was in charge of keeping Nabi (Alai his salaam) Miswaak ready, placing his shoes, removing and placing the saddles on Nabi (Alai his salaam) camel while on a journey and holding the staff of Nabi (Alai his salaam) . In addition to these duties, he was also the confidant of Nabi (Alai his salaam) and would be present in private discussions as well. He was allowed to enter without permission and listen to the secret discussions of Nabi (Alai his salaam) It is for the reason that he was awarded the honorable title of being the bearer of Nabi (Alai his salaam) bedding, Miswaak and water for Wudhu.

- Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Abil Aas narrates that there were two people who were beloved to Nabi (Alai his salaam) when he passed away; Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood and Hadhrat Ammaar bin Yaasir .
- Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood had unusually thin legs and was extremely conscious of it, such that he would always conceal it from others. On one occasion he climbed a tree with the intention of breaking a branch for Nabi (Alai his salaam) so that he could use it as a Miswaak. When he climbed the tree, people could see his thin legs and began to laugh. Nabi (Alai his salaam) said, "You laugh at his thin legs whereas on the Day of Qiyaamah his shins will be heavier than Mount Uhud on the scale of deeds."
- His love and enthusiasm for adhering to the Sunnat had made his character and personality resemble the noble personality of Nabi (Alai his salaam) greatly.

Knowledge And Excellence

- Rasulullaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said that the person who desires to recite the Qur'aan as if it was just revealed, should recite according to the recitation of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood.
- Rasulullaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said, "If I was to appoint a deputy without any consultation, I would appoint Abdullaah bin Mas'ood ."
- He would recite the Quraan in a beautiful melodious manner and Nabi (Alai his salaam) had requested him to recite the Qur'aan Shareef.
- Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood was regarded as the highest authority of the Qur'aan after the four Khulafaae Raashideen.



- The books of Ahadeeth are filled with Rasulullaah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wasallam)'s praises for Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood .
- He is amongst those Sahabah whose knowledge and excellence has been accepted by the entire Islaamic world and is remembered by the title of 'Afqahus Sahabah' (The most expert in Jurisprudence amongst the Sahabah).
- Majority of the narrations and teachings of the Hanafi school of thought have been reported because of him. Imaam Abu Hanifa sought his knowledge from Hadhrat Ibraheem Nakhie, who sought knowledge from Hadhrat Alqamah , who in turn was a student of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood who learnt directly from Nabi (Alai his salaam).
- Hanafi Fiqh is based primarily on the practices and teachings of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood
- His expertise in Fiqh as well as the depth of his knowledge was such that if a short list of those Sahabah who were regarded as Fuqahaa during the lifetime of Nabi (Alai his salaam) had to be made, then the name of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood cannot be left out.
- Hadhrat Umar acknowledged the fact that Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood was proficient in Fiqh and Ahadeeth and therefore appointed Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood to be the leading authority of Ahadeeth in the newly occupied region of Iraq during his Khilaafah.
- He spent his life teaching Ilm and Kufa became the dome of Islaam such that Once Ali (Radiyallaahu anhu) was walking in the streets of Kufah and after overhearing two women discussing the laws of Deen, he said, "May Allaah have mercy upon Ibn Mas'ood . He has filled Kufah with knowledge."

Demise

- In the thirty-second year after Hijrat, when Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood had passed the age of sixty, a person came to him and said, "Allaah Ta'ala has not deprived me from seeing you. I had a dream last night that Nabi (Alai his salaam) was sitting on a high Mimbar and you arrived, on which Nabi (Alai his salaam) said, "O Ibn Mas'ood ! You have suffered many trails because of me, so come to me now." When Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood heard this he enquired if he had truly seen

this, and when he affirmed that he had indeed seen this dream, Abdullaah bin Mas'ood said, "Then please participate in my Janaazah before you leave Madinah."

- This dream proved to be true and a few days had only passed when he fell extremely ill and people lost any hope of recovery.
- Once Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood was sure that this was going to be his final moments, he called Hadhrat Zubair and Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubair and made various bequests regarding his wealth, possessions, children as well as relating to his burial.
- He passed away in the year 32 A.H having just passed the age of sixty.
- According many authentic narrations, Hadhrat Uthmaan performed his Janaazah and he was buried alongside Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Math'oon. A great loss to this Ummah.

Alqamah Bin Qays

- Alqama ibn Qays al-Nakha'I was a well-known scholar from among the Taabi'een and pupil of Abdullah ibn Mas'ud.
- He succeeded Ibn Masood as a beacon of knowledge. Although he was not a Sahabi, he was so proficient in the knowledge of Islam, that many Sahaba inquired rulings from him.
- He followed in the footsteps of Ibn Mas'ud in praying and conduct and in practising Islam as a whole.
- Amr ibn Sharahil al-Shabi, who was among the scholars who narrated ahadith from Alqama, frequently suggested to those near him: 'Come and let us go to the one who resembles Ibn Mas'ud the most in conduct and attitudes.'
- His major student was Ibrahim al-Nakhai, a faqih from Kufa
- Imam Abu Hanifa, who is generally accepted as one of the greatest of Muslim jurists also admired Alqama Bin Qays.

Ibraheem Al Nakha'i

- He was a theologian, jurist and scholar of Islam who was born in 670.
- He was from the Taabieen and met many Sahaba including Hadhrat Anas ibn Malik and Hadhrat Aisha bint Abu Bakr.
- He was born into a family of Scholars and he succeeded Alqamah Ibn Qays, his maternal uncle.
- He was also regarded as those who were most knowledgeable in regards to opinions and views of 'Abdullāh Ibn Mas'ūd.

Hammad Ibn Sulaymaan

- Abu Isma'il Hammad ibn Abi Sulayman al-Ash'ari was the first and primary teacher of Imam Abu Hanifah.
- He narrated from the Sahabi Anas ibn Malik and from the famous Tabi'i, Sa'id ibn Jubayr and others.
- His primary teacher was Ibrahim al-Nakha'i, a major scholar of hadith and fiqh from the Tabi'in, who was the most learned regarding the opinions of 'Abd Allah ibn Mas'ud and his students.



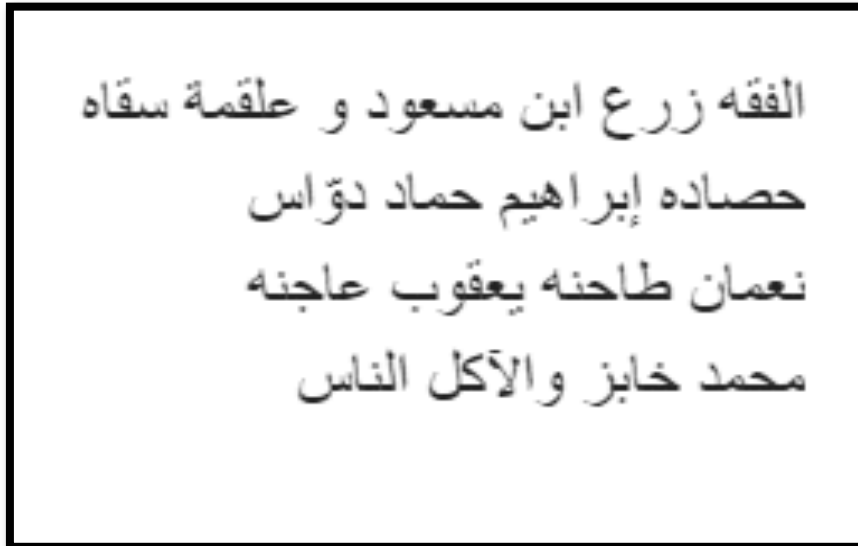
•Ibn Abi Hatim narrated with his chain from 'Abd al-Malik ibn Iyas: "I asked Ibrahim [al-Nakha'i]: 'Who should we ask after you?' He said: 'Hammad.'

•Yahya ibn Ma'in and al-Nasa'i said he is thiqah. Al-'Ijli said: "Hammad ibn Abi Sulayman, a Kufan, trustworthy. He was the

greatest jurist from the companions of Ibrahim)

- Al-Dhahabi said under the biography of Hammad ibn Abi Sulayman in *Siyar A'lam al-Nubala'*: “The greatest faqih from the inhabitants of Kufa were ‘Ali and Ibn Mas’ud. The greatest faqih from their companions was ‘Alqamah. The greatest faqih from his companions was Ibrahim [al-Nakha’i]. The greatest faqih from the companions of Ibrahim was Hammad [ibn Abi Sulayman]. The greatest faqih from the companions of Hammad was Abu Hanifah. The greatest faqih from his companions was Abu Yusuf. The companions of Abu Yusuf spread to the furthest regions, and the greatest faqih from them is Muhammad [ibn al-Hasan al-Shaybani]. The greatest faqih from the companions of Muhammad is Muhammad Abu ‘Abd Allah al-Shafi’i. Allah have mercy on them all.”
- From amongst his students is Imam Abu Hanifa, who, when he noticed his potential, made him sit in front of him during class.
- Hadhrat Hammad would leave Imam Abu Hanifa in charge as his deputy when he had to go Basrah

A poet has said:



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