

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وُلُودِ آدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيُرِضِي بَأْنُ يُصْلِي عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

Imam Shafi as a Scholar

Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi's - *may Allah be pleased with him* - full name is Mohammed bin Idris bin Abbas bin 'Uthman bin Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him*. In his family lineage, it meets the ancestors of the Holy Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - with Abde Munaaf. He travelled to Baghdad Shareef and lived there for two years and then returned to Mecca Shareef. He spent a short time here and then settled in Egypt. He passed away in Egypt.

It is mentioned that the great Imam used to divide his night into three parts. One part was for knowledge, one part for Ibadah and one part for a small rest. (Al Ihya)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Rabee - *may Allah be pleased with him* - also mentions that Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - used to complete one Qur'an every day. He also further states that the great Imam used to complete seventy Qur'ans during the Nawafil Salaah during the month of Ramadan. (Al Ihya)

The historians also say that Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - was born in Palestine and when he was only two years old, his blessed father passed away. His blessed mother then took him to Mecca Shareef. This is where he grew up and spent a long time among the learned Ulama acquiring knowledge. In fact, Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - attained such immense knowledge in Mecca Shareef that at the age of only fifteen, the grand Mufti in Mecca Shareef, Hadrat Sayyiduna Muslim bin Khalid Zanjhi - *may Allah be pleased with him*, encouraged him to start issuing his own Fataawah. (Ibn Habbab)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Hasan Karabasi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - mentions that, "I spent many nights with the great Imam and I noticed that he spent one part of the night in Ibadah and never recited more than fifty verses and if ever there was more than this, then it was a hundred verses. Whenever the great Imam used to read verses of the Qur'an highlighting the Divine Mercy of Allah Almighty, he used to make Du'a for all the Muslims to remain on the straight path. Whenever he used to read verses of the Qur'an in which was mentioned the Divine Punishment of Allah Almighty, he used to also make Du'a for all the Muslims to be protected." (Taarikh Baghdad)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - also admits that, "From the age of sixteen, I have never eaten a stomach full. One of the reasons is that it becomes heavy on the body, the heart becomes severe, it diminishes the intelligence, it makes one sleepy and makes one lazy in Ibadah." (Hulyatul Awliya)

Once someone asked the great Imam a question and he remained silent. When they inquired about why he had not given an answer, Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - replied, "I wanted to verify whether it was better to remain silent or to give an answer." (Al Ihya)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Humaid - *may Allah be pleased with him* - mentions that once the great Imam travelled to Yemen and when he returned to Mecca Shareef, he had ten thousand Dirhams with him. He then camped outside Mecca Shareef and when he finally came out of his camp, he had given away all of this money in charity.

The great Imam had the habit giving away whatever he had on many occasions.

Acheiving spiritual blessing.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Mazani - *may Allah be pleased with him* – said that Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah bin Abdal Hakam - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that, “Once Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - appeared in front of Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - and informed him, ‘I wish to learn the *Mu’atta* in front of you.’

Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then informed him to call a person called Habeeb who was the official scribe. However, Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - said to him, ‘I wish that you listen to at least one page and if my recital is not good, then I will leave.’ Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then asked him to read. Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - recited one page and stopped.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - asked him to read another page. He then recited another page and again stopped. Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - informed him to continue reading. In fact, Hadrat Sayyiduna Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - enjoyed the recital to such a degree that he asked him to continue reading the *Mu’atta* until it was complete. This also happened on another occasion as well. On this occasion, it is mentioned that Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - made special Du’ā for him. (Hulyatul Awliya)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Rabee bin Sulayman - *may Allah be pleased with him* - mentions that the great Imam once stated, “I once took a camel which was fully loaded from Imam Mohammed bin Hasan - *may Allah be pleased with him* - and there was nothing on it except knowledge which I had acquired from him.” (Hulyatul Awliya)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - also mentions that when he was little, he used to attend the classes of other eminent scholars and since they were very poor, he used to write on pieces of stick which he found around the place. (Hulyatul Awliya)

These are those blessed Imams of Islam who reached their destination and their target through their hard work and perseverance. It is with these qualities that they became the Imams of the Muslim Ummah. There is no doubt that we should think of better ways of spending our valuable time instead of wasting it on useless speech and past time.