

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وَدِدِ أَدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى 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*

The Great Status of the 'Ulama

Shaikh Abu Nasr Fathah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - was considered as an eminent Zaahid and Muhaddith of his time. It is reported that for thirty years he never consumed bread and only survived on a few fruits which he could find. He never raised his head and looked at the sky out of respect and fear. However, one day he raised his head unintentionally towards the sky and when he did this, he made Du'a, "O Allah I cannot bear to remain away from You any longer, please call me quickly in Your Divine Court." A few days later, he passed away.

Mohammed bin Jafer narrates, "When we started to give him Ghusal and removed his clothes, we noticed that the Kalimah was imprinted on his body. We thought that perhaps someone had hand written this on his body, but when we looked closely, we noticed that it was actually imprinted in his bones. He passed away in Baghdad Shareef and the people had so much of respect and love for him that his Janazah Salaah was performed nearly thirty three times. Thousands of people also took part in his Janazah."

Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Wahb - *may Allah be pleased with him* - was also such an eminent Muhaddith that he had memorized nearly a hundred thousand Ahadith. He had such extreme fear for the Allah Almighty that one day, while listening to the Qur'anic verse which describes the Day of Judgement, he actually collapsed.

The Governor of Egypt Abaad bin Mohamed wanted to nominate Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Wahb - *may Allah be pleased with him* - as the Chief Justice. When he came to know about this, he disappeared from the public and was not seen again.

A member of the corrupt Sabaa sect also spread a false rumour about him that he was actually greedy for the position of the Chief Justice. The Governor was also told that since he came to know that he was going to be nominated as the Chief Justice, in an act of spite, he had disappeared. When the Governor heard about this, he had the house of the great Saint demolished. Finally, Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Wahb - *may Allah be pleased with him* - became angry and cursed the Sabaa'i and through this curse, the person became blind within eight days. Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Wahb - *may Allah be pleased with him* - passed away in 197 A.H. (Tadkitarul Huffaaz, 281)

Shaikh Abu Inwaan Waasiti - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates "Once, we were travelling in a boat when the boat capsized and broke apart. I was also accompanied by my wife. We then grabbed a large piece of timber and during this time, my wife gave birth. One day, my wife felt extreme thirst and I raised my hands towards the heavens and made Du'a. Suddenly, I saw a person standing in the sky. He had a bucket which was fastened with a chain. He also instructed us to drink from this bucket. The water was extremely sweet smelling and extremely tasty. I then asked this person who he was and he mentioned that he was a pious slave of Allah Almighty. I then asked him how he had attained this position. He replied that he had attained this position through refraining from non-permissible actions and also from refusing to obey his Nafs. He then took both of us and placed us on dry land through the movement of the wind. After we landed on dry land, he disappeared." (Tafseer Ruhul Bayan, 2/30)

Hadrat Hafz bin Abdullah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates, "I once saw Imaamul Muhadditheen, Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Zar'a - *may Allah be pleased with him* - in a dream. He was leading the Angels in Salaah in the first heaven. I asked him how

he had attained such a high rank and he explained, ‘While I was on earth, I had recorded nearly a hundred thousand Ahadith by hand. At the same time, during each Hadith Shareef; I had written the Durood Shareef in full when the blessed name of the Holy Prophet – *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - appeared. You are also aware that the Holy Prophet – *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - has also stated that whoever recites a single Durood Shareef, the Allah Almighty will reward him tenfold. Whatever you see, all of this is through the Barakah of the Durood Shareef and it is through the Barakah of the Durood Shareef that I have achieved this rank and position.” (Sharahus Sudur, 23)

This is a very important point. There are many people who do not write the Durood Shareef in full. When they write the blessed name of the Holy Prophet – *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - they are in the habit of abbreviating the Durood Shareef. The only thing that they are doing is robbing themselves of immense reward. In fact, if they are doing this as an act of spite, then they are committing a serious sin. We make Du’a that Allah Almighty protect us from this sin. Ameen.

Qudwatul Muhaditheen, Abu Bakr bin Abi Daud - *may Allah be pleased with him* - experienced immense poverty during the time when he was a student. When he arrived in Kufah, he only had a single Dirham with him. Abu Bakr bin Abi Daud - *may Allah be pleased with him* - purchased some seeds and continued to survive on this while he recorded the Ahadith. Only when he had completed recording nearly thirty thousand Ahadith, the grain finally finished. He then decided to leave the Madressah after this. Such was his immense status and stature that in spite of his poverty that he earned the title of “Imam Ahle Iraq.” The King of that period had a special Mimbar built for him on which he could deliver his lessons on Hadith. There were thousands that attended his classes. It is mentioned that when Abu Bakr bin Abi Daud - *may Allah be pleased with him* - passed away, nearly three hundred thousand people took part in his Janazah and his Janazah Salaah was performed nearly eighty times over. He passed away in Zil Hajj 316 A.H. at the age of eighty seven. (Tadkiratul Huffaaz. 2/302)

Besides becoming aware of the great status of these eminent ‘Ulama, we also come to realise that during the early period in Islam, immense respect and reverence was displayed for the ‘Ulama in general. Sadly, this is not displayed in the present age and hence, the ‘Ulama in general have had to spend more time earning their daily bread then

actually teaching Islam. There is no doubt that on the Day of Judgement, many people would be held accountable for this.