

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ أَدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى عَلَيْهِ

Allah *azza wajal*, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,
The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah *azza wajal*, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*

The Power of a True and Sincere 'Aalim

These are the words which were spoken from the mouth of Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* when the people informed him that the Governor of Basra, Mohammed bin Sulayman, wished to ask him a certain question.

Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* was approached by a messenger from the Governor's office.

Another person admits: "When I entered the house of Hammad, I saw that he was sitting on a straw mat and was reading the Qur'an. On one side of the room there was a small chest in which there were some books and on one side there was a small container which

was used to fetch water for making Wudu. This was all that I saw in his room. There was nothing else which I could see that he owned.”

“Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* asked his wife to go and see who was knocking. She returned and informed him that a messenger from the court of Mohammed bin Sulayman was at the door and had brought a message from the Governor himself. He gave permission to this messenger to enter his room. The messenger then handed him the official message from the Governor which read, “May Allah *azza wajaal* allow you to enjoy that blessed morning which He allows His friends and obedient servants to enjoy. There is an issue which has emerged on which I need your guidance. Please be kind enough to visit the Royal Court so that I can hear this answer of yours. Was Salaam.’

“The messenger was under the impression that Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* would immediately accept this invitation as many of other Islamic scholars had done before. However, Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* looked at me and instructed me to write on the other side of this message, “May Allah *azza wajaal* also allow you to enjoy those mornings which He blesses His friends and the pious with. My eyes has also seen those eminent ‘Ulama who have never gone to anyone. If you have any issue which you wish clarification on, then please come here and ask those questions. Also, please do not bring your army or other members of your court. I am only prepared to advice you and you alone.”

“When this reply reached the court of Mohammed bin Sulayman, he was highly impressed by the honesty and dignity of this Islamic scholar. He then decided to go to the house of Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* to inquire about those certain questions he had. He also felt that he needed to visit the houses of those ‘Ulama through whom the heart is cleansed and the rust which one suffers from internally could be cleansed.

“Again there was knock on the door and Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* and he asked his wife to see who it was. She replied that it was the Governor, Mohammed bin Sulayman. Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* asked whether he had come alone and only then did he allow him to enter. When the Governor entered the room. He was awe struck as if he was entering a royal court himself. The Governor was also confused at the extreme fear and awe he was feeling. He then sat respectfully in front of Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* as a simple person would do.

“He then asked Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu*, “Sir, what is the reason that when I see you, I feel this immense fear and awe?”

Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* replied with great power, “When a scholar of Islam searches for the Pleasure of Allah *azza wajal* through his knowledge, then his personality and awe becomes established on everything. If he uses this knowledge to acquire wealth, then he begins to fear everything around him.”

Mohammed bin Sulayman remained silent. He thought in his heart that the great scholar had certainly spoken the truth. If knowledge is coupled with sincerity, then the power of a government is nothing compared to this. The power of the ‘Ulama will remain until that time when they use their knowledge to seek the Divine Pleasure of Allah *azza wajal* and if they use this knowledge to seek the wealth of this world, then the hearts of people would no longer fear them.

While he was leaving, he also presented a small gift to Hadrat Hammad bin Salamah *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* which he refused to accept.

Hammad bin Salamah bin Dinaar *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* was one of the foremost Islamic scholars of his era. He was also a citizen of Basra and his title was “Abu Salmah.” He was a great Mufti and a great authority of Ahadith and who was also considered as one

of the authentic narrators of Hadith. He was also very severe on those who were not part of the Ahle Sunnah wa Jamaah. He passed away in 167 A.H.

Mohammed bin Sulayman Abbasi was a Governor of Basrah during the reign of Mehdi and was then removed from his post. Harun Rashid had him reinstated and he married the sister of Harun Rashid. His name was Abbasiyah binte Mehdi.