

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُدُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَالسَّلَامَ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وُلْدِ آدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيُرْضِي إِنْ يُصْلِلَ 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*

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## The Simplicity of both Imams

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Hadrat Sayyiduna Hilal bin 'Ala - *may Allah be pleased with him* - mentions that the Islamic world owes a great debt to four people in that era. They are:

1. Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him* - who remained steadfast in the face of immense oppression and never accepted that the Qur'an was a creation.
2. Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - who placed the foundation of Fiqh on Qur'an and Sunnah.
3. Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Abdullah Qasim bin Salaam - *may Allah be pleased with him* - who placed the foundation on the Sharah of Ahadith.
4. Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Zakariyah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - who gave us a set of principles to determine authentic from non-authentic Ahadith.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Mohammed bin Moosa mentions that, “Immense wealth came to Hadrat Sayyiduna Husain bin Abdul Aziz - *may Allah be pleased with him* - as part of his inheritance and he sent three bags of this to Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him*. In each bag there was a thousand Dinaars and said that the great Imam could spend it personally on himself and his family. However the great Imam replied, ‘I have no need for wealth. My Divine Creator is sufficient for me.’ He then returned all of this.” (Hulyatul Awliyah)

His blessed son, Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - explains, “My blessed father used to complete one Manzil of the Qur'an every night and used to complete the Qur'an in seven nights. He used to then stand in Ibadah the entire night. Every day, he completed three hundred rak'ah of Nafil Salaah. However, when he was whipped in public, he became extremely weak and could only manage one hundred fifty rak'ah every day. Every night, he used to remain calm on three portions of the night and three portions, he used to scream in (spiritual ecstasy).”

**His answer made one speechless.**

Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - mentions, “One day, my father was sitting in the blessed company of Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him*. Hadrat Sayyiduna Shaybaan Raa'i - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then passed by. He was wearing a woollen jubbah. Hadrat Sayyiduna Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then mentioned to Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him*, “O Abu Abdullah! Shall I not make this person aware of something which he is unaware of?” However, Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Shafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - advised him that he should leave this person in that state and not to interfere. In spite of this, Hadrat Sayyiduna Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him* - insisted that it was necessary to ask him a question.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then called Hadrat Sayyiduna Shaybaan Ra'i - *may Allah be pleased with him* - to him and asked, “O Shaybaan! What do you have to say about that person who had forgotten to perform his Salaah on a certain day and cannot remember which Salaah that is? What has become Waajib on such a person?”

Hadrat Sayyiduna Shaybaan - *may Allah be pleased with him* - replied, “O Ahmed! The heart of such a person is oblivious of the Dhikr of Allah Almighty. He is someone who has forgotten and certainly oblivious. He should first be thought not to forget in future. Secondly, he should make Qada of all the Salaah of that day.”

He then turned to the two Imams and asked, “Are you refuting my answer?” Hadrat Sayyiduna Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then screamed out, “No, your answer is indeed correct.”

It is mentioned that both eminent Imams never used clothing which was sewn on most occasions. On most occasions, they used to cover themselves with ordinary cloth and tie each section and inform people that this was sufficient for someone who was going to eventually leave this world. In other words, these Imams were true spiritual masters and not only eminent leaders in Islamic law.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Ahmed bin Hambal - *may Allah be pleased with him* - used to mostly eat vegetable and used to mention, “By Allah! These are those Halaal items on which there will be no accountability.”