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IMAM
MALIK
IBN
ANAS

رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ

The Imam of Darul Hijrah



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A HIVE OF ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE

Note: The content of this book is based on the Qur'an, Hadith, and Islamic texts that have been written, verified, and approved by three scholars.

Imam Malik, whose full name is Malik ibn Anas ibn Malik ibn Abi Amir al-Asbah, stands as one of the four greatest Imams and is recognized as the founder of the Maliki school of thought. He was born in Madinah in the year 204 A.H.

Malik ibn Abi Amir, the grandfather of the Imam, was one of the esteemed scholars of the Tabieen (successors of the Prophet's companions). The Imam descended from a noble lineage, renowned for transmitting and contributing to knowledge.

During Imam Malik's upbringing and the period just before his time, Madinah thrived with distinguished scholars who directly inherited knowledge from the companions of the Prophet ﷺ.

Imam Malik was consistently enthusiastic about acquiring knowledge, dedicating himself to gatherings of esteemed scholars. He immersed himself repeatedly in the refreshing and enriching streams of knowledge.

Imam Malik encountered a remarkable multitude of individuals who had connections with the Companions or the famous Tabieen. He selectively obtained knowledge from those he observed to possess piety, conscientiousness, a good memory, and profound knowledge and understanding.

Blessed with an exceptional memory, Imam Malik graduated at a remarkably young age, mastering the science of Hadith by the time he was 17. His authority to issue fatwas came after 70 scholars attested to his eligibility for such a significant role.

Due to Imam Malik's inclination toward comprehension, piety, and his unwavering commitment despite the obstacles encountered on his path to knowledge, he emerged as one of the most revered scholars of Islamic jurisprudence (the study of Islamic law).

During the time of Imam Malik and in the generations that followed, eminent scholars unanimously acknowledged his outstanding worth. They regarded him as a pillar of knowledge, renowned for his Taqwa (piety), remarkable memory, trustworthiness in transmitting knowledge, and proficiency in issuing fatwas.

Imam An-Nasai remarked, “The custodians appointed by Allah to preserve the knowledge of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ were Shu‘ba ibn al-Hajjaj Mālik ibn Anas, and Yahya ibn Sa‘īd al-Qattān.”

Imam Dhahabi expressed, “In Madinah, there is no scholar among the successors to the Tabieen who can be compared to Imam Malik in terms of knowledge, jurisprudence, eminence, and memorization.”

Muhammad ibn `Umar described, “Malik’s gathering displayed a sense of dignity and courtesy. He carried himself with majestic countenance and nobility. There was no room for self-display, empty talk, or loud speech in his assembly.”

Imam Malik authored al-Muwatta, a compilation of authentic narrations from the Prophet, sourced from the people of the Hijaz. This compilation also includes the statements of the Companions, the Followers, and subsequent scholars.

Imam Shafi'i lauded al-Muwatta as the most reliable book on earth, second only to the Qur'an. He deemed it the closest book in correctness and benefit to the Qur'an, as per four distinct narrations.

In the Muwatta, Imam Malik narrated hadiths from a total of ninety-five teachers, all hailing from Madinah. This consolidation of knowledge, bringing together scholars from different places under the guidance of one individual, earned him the title “Imam of Darul-Hijrah.”

Imam Malik had notable students, and among the most prominent were Imam Shafi'i and Imam Muhammad ibn al-Hasan, a companion of Abu Hanifa. Other esteemed students included al-Layth, al-Awzai, Ibn al-Mubarak, Shuba ibn al-hajjaj, and Abd ar-Razzaq, all of whom became renowned scholars.

Imam Malik held the Hadith of the Prophet ﷺ in immense regard. He maintained such reverence for the Prophet's hadiths that he refrained from narrating anything or issuing a fatwa unless he was in a state of ritual purity.

It is noteworthy that in hadith collections such as Sahih Al Bukhari and Sahih Muslim, the name of Imam Malik is consistently mentioned by the narrators, underscoring his significance and esteemed position in the realm of Islamic scholarship.

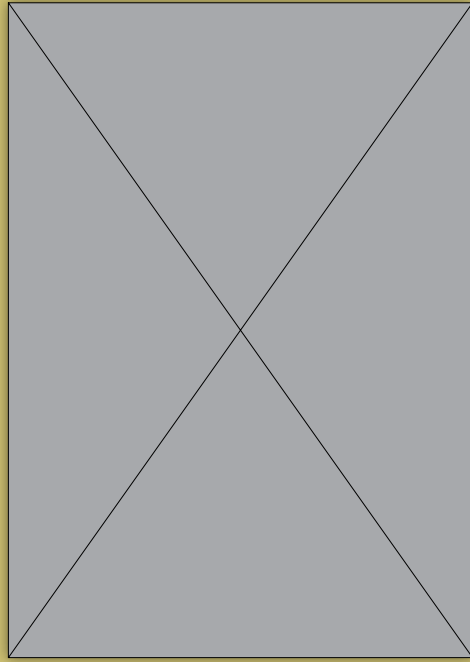
In the realm of Hadith, Imam Malik led a chain of narrators renowned for its authenticity, often referred to as the “Silsilatul-Dhahab” or “The Golden Chain of Narrators.” This chain involved narrations from Malik, transmitted through Nafi’ from Abdullah Ibn `Umar (May Allah be pleased with Him).

Imam Malik's jurisprudential teachings reached from Medinah to Andalusia (Spain) during his lifetime or shortly thereafter. Students from various parts of the Muslim world sought knowledge from him in Medinah. Despite reaching the peak of knowledge and fame, he remained humble, often admitting "I don't know" if he lacked an answer.

Imam Malik passed away at the age of 87 in the year 179 Hijri, leaving behind a valuable legacy of knowledge. May Allah have mercy on him, as he remains one of the greatest Imams of this nation.

REVIEW YOUR READING

1. Who is the author of the Muwatta?
2. In what state was Imam Malik while issuing fatwas?
3. At what age did Imam Malik graduate, mastering the science of Hadith?



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