

Shaykh Hamaad ibn Muhammad al-Ansaaree رحمه الله

He was Abu Abdul-Lateef Hamaad ibn Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn Hinnah ibn Mukhtaar ibn Muhammad al-Basheer, from the lineage of Qays ibn Sa'd ibn Ubaadah al-Khazrajee an-Ansaaree. He was born in 1343 Hijri (1924 C.E.) in a town called 'Taad Makkah' in Mali, West Africa. The name 'Taad Makkah' means "this is Makkah" since it is surrounded by 4 mountains as is Makkah al-Mukarramah. His family was well known in Timbuktu, which was the capital of the eastern region of Mali. His lineage ends at Banee Naseer al-Ansaariyyeen who were the last to rule Gharnaatah (i.e. Granada, Andalus (Spain)). His family was known for their knowledge, giving Fataawa, and adjudication before and after the French colonized Mali.

His Upbringing and Teachers

The Shaykh was brought up in a house of excellence and knowledge and from those who taught him were:

1. His paternal uncle, Shaykh al-Muqri Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Taqqee al-Ansaaree who was nicknamed "Teacher of the Children" due to the time he spent devoted to educating them and teaching them recitation of the Qur'an. Shaykh Hamaad began memorizing the Qur'an when he was 10 years old until he completed memorizing it and reciting it with tajweed at the age of 15.
2. Shaykh Hamaad studied grammar and morphology of the Arabic language under his cousin, the 'Allamah of his time, Shaykh Moosaa ibn al-Kisaa'ee al-Ansaaree.
3. His maternal uncle, Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Muhammad, who was nicknamed 'al-Bahr (the sea)' for the immense knowledge he possessed. Shaykh Hamaad studied Usool-ul-Fiqh and Tafseer under his tutelage as he also studied the Muwattaa of Imaam Maalik, The two Saheeh collections, as well as the books of the Sunan and books of Maliki Fiqh.
4. Shaykh ash-Shareef al-Idreese al-Husaynee Hamood ibn Muhammad, under whose tutelage he studied philosophy, usool-ul-fiqh, and tafseer.

Thereafter Shaykh Hamaad continued studying the major books and also began teaching in the town of Manaqaah until he made Hijrah after the French colonization of Mali. When he reached Makkah he joined the study circles of the Ulema who were present in that time, among them were:

1. Shaykh Muhammad Abdur-Razzaaq Hamzah who used to teach Tafseer Ibn Katheer.
2. Shaykh Abu Muhammad Abdul-Haqq al-Amree al-Haashimee al-Hindee, who used to teach the Saheeh of Imaam al-Bukhaaree.
3. Shaykh Hasan al-Mashaat, who used to teach the Sunan of at-Tirimidhee.
4. Shaykh Muhammad Ameen al-Hanafee, who used to teach the Saheeh of Imaam al-Bukhaaree, and other than them from the Ulema of Masjid al-Haraam in Makkah.

His Journey to Madeenah

Shaykh Hamaad travelled to Madeenah where he studied in Daarul Uloom ash-Shar'iyyah in 1371 Hijri (1952 C.E.), in the faculty of Hadeeth. While in Madeenah, he studied under many of the scholars there, amongst them:

1. Shaykh Muhammad Abdullah ibn Mahood al-Madane, who was the Imaam of al-Masjid an-Nabawee. Shaykh Hamaad benefitted tremendously from Shaykh al-Madane, so much so that he authored a book about him.
2. Shaykh Muhammad ibn Turkee an-Najdee, under whose tutelage he studied Imaam Maalik's 'al-Muwattaa' and Ibn Qudaamah's 'al-Mughnee'.
3. Shaykh Muhammad al-Haafidh ibn Moosaa Hameed, under whose tutelage he studied Sunan an-Nasaa'ee, in which he was granted an ijaazah (permission to teach it).

His Return to Makkah

After completing his studies and graduating from Daarul Uloom ash-Shar'iyyah in 1371, Shaykh Hamaad returned to Makkah where he worked as a teacher alongside his cousin, Shaykh Ismaa'eel al-Ansaaree. During this occupation Shaykh Hamaad met with Shaykh Abdul Lateef ibn Ibraheem Aal ash-Shaykh and his brother Shaykh Muhammad ibn Ibraheem Aal ash-Shaykh. Upon visiting them, he found them in the company of their brother Shaykh Abdul Maalik ibn Ibraheem Aal ash-Shaykh to whom he was introduced.

Later, Shaykh Abdul-Lateef suggested to Shaykh Hamaad that he go to Riyaadh, whereupon he ordered his secretary to call Abdul Azeez al-Lajaawee who was responsible for the teaching staff of all the universities. In accordance with Shaykh

Abdul-Lateef's request, Shaykh Hamaad performed Hajj and then departed for Riyaadh, where he began teaching in the faculty of Sharee'ah. Shaykh Hamaad also taught at the Institute of Imaam ad-Da'wah in Riyaadh, which was setup at that time and where he remained from 1375 Hijri until 1378 Hijri. He then returned to the Faculty of Sharee'ah where he remained from 1379 Hijri until 1385 Hijri.

That same year, he travelled to Madeenah and transferred his occupation to the Islamic University until he retired in 1410 Hijri (1991 C.E.). The Shaykh continued to remain in touch with the university, where he supervised Masters and Doctorate students in preparing their theses.

The Scholars Who Granted Him an Ijaazah

1. Shaykh Ubaydur-Rahmaan al-Mubaarakfuree, who was the author of 'Mir'aatul Mafaateeh' which is an explanation of 'Mishakaatul Masaabeeh'.
2. Shaykh Abdul-Hafeedh al-Filisteenee
3. Shaykh Qaasim ibn Abdul-Jabbaar al-Andeejaanee
4. Shaykh Hamood at-Tuwayjaree
5. Shaykh Abu Muhammad Abdul-Haqq al-Haashimee

His Travels

Shaykh Hamaad had a strong desire to travel to a number of countries, and he did so. The Shaykh was known to say, 'I endeavor to travel the world over, even to China, however, my age has not permitted me to do so.' From the countries to which he did visit were Egypt, Syria, Morocco, India, and other than them from the European, African, and Asian countries. His travels were recorded in his book 'Ar-Rihlaat al-Ansaariyyah.'

His Teachings

In addition to his teaching commitments at the Islamic University, Shaykh Hamaad was very conscientious in teaching the books of the Sunnah and Tawheed. He was a member of the committee of the Centre for Research into the Sunnah and Seerah of the Prophet in Madeenah. He was also a member of the supervisory committee for administration affairs of Masjid an-Nabawee, which he met with twice a week.

His Library

Shaykh Hammaad started his library in 1367 Hijri and in the beginning it contained books covering all aspects of knowledge. Later in 1373 Hijri he gifted his library to his paternal uncle, and thereafter began to build up his library from new, only this time concentrating on the area of hadeeth.

His library grew daily, containing books on hadeeth, ilm ar-rijaal (science of hadeeth narrators), mustalah (science of hadeeth terminology), and all other aspects of hadeeth and aqeedah. Indeed, in building up his vast collection of books, the Shaykh spared no expense in collecting whatever books grabbed his attention.

He bought the books ‘Tareekh Damishq’ of Ibn Asaakir which in itself cost the Shaykh 7,000 riyals (approximately \$2000). Likewise, the book ‘Al-Kaamil’ of ibn Adee which he had imported from Turkey cost him 1,000 riyals (apx \$300). All of this was at a time when his salary was only a mere 1,000 riyals.

The Shaykh kindly kept his library open in the morning and early evening for students of knowledge and researchers alike, such that after his death, his children agreed to take on the responsibility of running the library and keeping it open. May Allah reward Shaykh Hammaad for the benefits being sought from his library, as well as his children for maintaining it, Aameen.

Shaykh Hammaad was an avid collector of books, and would contact the publishers whenever he heard of a new being published to have it sent to him. His knowledge of books was so expansive; it was if he was a walking point of reference. Whenever his students would visit him, they would often begin by asking him about any new books that had been released or if he had purchased any new additions for the library.

The Scholars Praise of Him and His Students

Many of the Ulema bore witness to the great amount of knowledge Shaykh Hammaad possessed. Among them were:

1. Shaykh Abdul Azeez bin Baaz
2. Shaykh Muhammad Naasirudeen al-Albaanee
3. Shaykh Abdul Azees ibn Abdullah Aal ash-Shaykh
4. Shaykh Saalih ibn Muhammad al-Luhaydaan
5. Shaykh Abdul Muhsin ibn Hamad al-Abbaad, as well as other than from the Ulema of Ahlus Sunnah.

From the students of Shaykh Hamaad are:

1. Attiyah Muhammad Saalim
2. Shaykh Dr. Saalih ibn Sa'ad as-Suhaymee
3. Shaykh Dr. Marzooq ibn Hiyaas az-Zahraanee
4. Shaykh Dr. Umar ibn Hasan Fallaatah
5. Shaykh Dr. Wasee-Ullah al-Abbaas and other than them.

His House

The Shaykh used to live in Haarah al-Masaani, in Madeenah, and at that time his house was overflowing with students of knowledge and researchers. Later, he had a larger house built in Haarah ash-Sharqiyyah. Eventually, his library outgrew his house and Prince Sultan ibn Abdul Azeez gifted him a much bigger house in Hayy al-Faysalaiyyah next to the Islamic University. The Shaykh remained in this house, as in the previous house, upon the same habit of opening the doors of his library, welcoming whoever wished to benefit from it.

His Illness and Death

Shaykh Hamaad became ill on the night of 23 Ramadhaan in 1417 Hijri whilst performing his night prayers in Masjid an-Nabawee. His illness became severe and he died on the morning of Wednesday 21 Jumaada Awwal 1418 Hijri, after spending nearly 8 months in the hospital.

His Janaaza was performed after Salaatul Asr in Masjid an-Nabawee and he was buried in the graveyard of Baqee. Indeed the massed who turned out for his funeral was something to behold. It caused one to remember the statement of Imaam Ahmad ibn Hanbal who said: *“Say to the people of bida’ah, between us and you is the funeral prayer,”* implying the great numbers who attend the funerals of Ahlus Sunnah in contrast to the few who attend the funerals of Ahlul Bida’ah.

Many attended his funeral from amongst the scholars, judges, lecturers, and teachers from the universities, as well as many students.

His Children

Shaykh Hammad died leaving one wife and eleven children. Among them were 8 sons, including Abdul Baaree and Abdul Awwal who both graduated from the Faculty of Hadeeth at the Islamic University of Madeenah. Abdul Baaree also attained A Master and now teaches in the Faculty of Hadeeth. As for Abdul Awwaal, he works as a researcher in the Centre for Reasearch into the Sunnah and Seerah of the Prophet in Madeenah. Shaykh Hammad also left behind 3 daugher. May Allah, Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, have Mercy upon his soul, Aameen.

Source: Tafseer Surah Fathiah & Clarifying the Categories of Tawheed in It; Makatabatul Irshad Publications pp 4-15 with slight alteration of the editor. Reprinted with express permission of Maktabatul Irshad Publications, may Allah reward them with good.