

SUMMER IMMERSION

HADITH MASTERS

SESSION 2



Mufti Aasim Rashid

Malik ibn Anas

- His full name was Malik ibn Anas ibn Malik ibn Abi Amir Al Asbahi Al Madani
- He was born 93 AH and died 179 AH
- Imam Malik was one of the closest students of Imam Zuhri
 - They were both from Medina
- He is referred to as Imam Darul Hijra - the Imam of the place of hijra
- He spent his whole life in Medina
- His family was known for their knowledge and piety
- Abi Amir was a sahabi who was very close to the Prophet (SAW)
 - Malik ibn Abi Amir, his son was a tabi'i and muhaddith
 - His narrations are found in Sahih As Sitta
- Malik ibn Abi Amir had a few sons, including Anas (the father of Imam Malik), Nafi Abu Suhayl (another muhaddith whose narrations are found in sahih books) as well as Rabi' who narrated hadith as well (his narrations are not in sahih books)
- Imam Malik had a brother who was much older than him named Nadr
 - Nadr was a scholar
 - As a child, Imam Malik's father tested him and his brother on their knowledge, and Nadr knew something Imam Malik didn't know

- His father criticized him for not knowing due to all of his playing, which put a spark in Imam Malik's mind to seek knowledge
- His mother (Aliya bint Sharik) would dress him in the clothing of the scholars and tell him to learn adab (etiquettes) before 'ilm from Rabī'ah Al-Ra'ī (a scholar at the time)

Teachers of Imam Malik

- He studied with Rabī'ah Al-Ra'ī for a long time
 - Rabī'ah Al-Ra'ī was a prominent scholar, and his views were relied upon by all the judges of Medina
 - It was hard to get access to him
 - Rabī'ah Al-Ra'ī was a faqih as well as a muhaddith
 - One of his principles was that he would give preference to the actions of the people of Medina because they witnessed the sahaba and their students firsthand - Imam Malik got this principle from him
- Ibn Hurmuz
 - He was a student of the seven great fuqaha of Medina (these were seven tabi'i scholars of fiqh who were always referred to in courts)
 - Initially, it was hard for Imam Malik to get close to Ibn Hurmuz
 - Eventually, Ibn Hurmuz became very attached to Imam Malik due to his behavior
 - This was something that happened often with Imam Malik and his teachers
 - Imam Malik would always bring dates to the house of Ibn Hurmuz to give to his children
 - Imam Malik would have the children tell anyone who arrived at the house while he was there that Ibn Hurmuz was busy (so Imam Malik could have one-on-one time with him)

- Sometimes Imam Malik would wait for long periods of time for his teachers to be available
 - The conditions and weather didn't dissuade him from this
- Imam Naafi
 - He was the freed slave of Abdullah ibn Umar and he spent thirty years with him
 - He was a great tabi'i
 - He is known as the most authentic narrator from Abdullah ibn Umar
 - It was hard to speak or approach him, there was an awe that people had of him
 - Imam Malik was still a young boy
 - Imam Malik would wait until Imam Naafi came out of his house
 - Malik would pretend as if he didn't see him
 - Then he would pretend to suddenly see Imam Naafi and say salaam
 - This was so that Imam Naafi would remember him as a boy who said salaam to him
 - Then when Imam Naafi went to the masjid, Imam Malik would catch up with him
 - Then he'd ask about a narration, get the reply, and leave
 - Slowly, a relationship formed between them and Imam Malik narrated hundreds of ahadith from Imam Naafi
 - Imam Bukhari said that the most authentic chain of narrators is Malik – Naafi – Abdullah ibn Umar
 - Abdullah ibn Umar would say, "Allah has favored me by giving me Naafi"

- Imam Zuhri
 - Imam Malik would have to be patient to get Imam Zuhri's attention and time
 - Imam Malik would sit outside of his house and wait for him to notice
 - In order to find a time when nobody would be at Imam Zuhri's door, Imam Malik went to his house on Eid right after the Eid salah
 - Imam Zuhri was surprised to find him there right after salah
 - He offered food, but Imam Malik asked to learn hadith from him
 - Imam Zuhri understood why he came at that time
 - Imam Zuhri recited forty hadith to Imam Malik, and he wrote them down
 - Hadith teachers would usually just do forty to give students a chance to memorize
 - Imam Malik asked for more hadith
 - Imam Zuhri said, "if you memorize what I just recited to you, that itself would be an achievement"
 - Imam Malik said that he already memorized them, and he recited all forty hadith perfectly without looking at his books
 - Imam Zuhri said, "go, for indeed you will be one of the vessels of knowledge"
- Imam Jafar Al-Sadiq
 - He was a direct descendant of Ali through Hussain (RA)
 - He was known for his devotion to Quran and his knowledge of hadith
 - Some of his hadith are in the Muwatta

- Imam Jafar told Imam Malik, “I see that you have settled in Medina and haven’t left it.” Imam Malik replied, this is where the Prophet (SAW) and his companions lived, where wahi came - I don’t see any other place more worthy of living in than this.
 - Imam Malik never left Medina in his life

Incidents and Statements of Imam Malik

- Al Mahdi, the khalifa, sent a gift of two thousand dinars (gold coins) to Imam Malik when he was going to Hajj
 - Imam Malik told his servant to not touch the money because he knew there was an incentive behind it
 - After Hajj, the khalifa requested that Imam Malik accompanied him to Baghdad
 - Imam Malik said to take the money back
 - The khalifa was upset about this, but after thinking about it, he knew that Medina was best for what Imam Malik was doing
 - He sent six thousand dinars to Imam Malik, to which he said “when you leave something for the sake of Allah, Allah gives you something much better.”
- Imam Malik would look at Ibn Al Munkadir whenever his heart was hard or he needed to be reminded of akhira
 - Just one glance at him would make him realize all that he needed to fix
- Imam Malik would tie knots on his string (to count how many hadith had been recited) while he was memorizing hadith in the class of Imam Zuhri
 - He missed one hadith out of thirty, and Imam Zuhri was upset when he asked for it to be repeated
 - Imam Malik apologized and heard the hadith again from Imam Zuhri

- Once, someone asked Imam Malik a simple question, and his student immediately answered that person
 - Imam Malik said, you had the audacity to give fatwa? I never positioned myself to give fatwa until my shuyukh told me that I could
- Imam Malik said that before someone wants to teach, they should consult people of 'ilm and taqwa first
- Abdul Rahman ibn Mahdi went to Imam Malik when he was walking once, and asked about a hadith
 - Imam Malik replied, "I don't feel it's appropriate to narrate hadith while I'm walking. I thought I taught you the adab of knowledge. Either you come to my class or to my house and I will narrate it to you."
 - It's against the status of 'ilm for scholars to answer anything anywhere
- Harun Al-Rashid, the khalifa, sent a message to Imam Malik when he was in Medina, asking if he could go narrate hadith to him
 - Imam Malik responded, "knowledge is sought, it doesn't go to people."
 - Later, Imam Malik went to visit him and said, "the status you have is because of your 'ilm. Don't be the first to lower the status of 'ilm."
 - Prophet (SAW) was once lying on the lap of Zayd ibn Thabit (RA) when ayah 95 of Surah Nisa was revealed saying that there was no comparison between those who stay at home and those who fight for Allah's sake
 - Abdullah ibn Umm Makhtum asked what he would do, since he was blind
 - Then, Zayd noticed the Prophet (SAW) getting pale, trembling, and sweating and he could feel the weight on his leg get heavier.

- Then more of the verse was revealed - غَيْرُ أُولَى الْضَّرَرِ
- This meant that people who are unable to go out and fight were excused
- Imam Malik told Harun, "Jibreel (AS) came down from the Heavens to deliver these three words to the Prophet (SAW). Don't you think this knowledge has some esteem?"
- Harun agreed and went to Imam Malik's home with him
- Harun said that he would like to read hadith to him
- Imam Malik asked if he really wanted to do that
- Harun said, "I haven't read hadith in a really long time, maybe it's better that everyone else leaves first."
- Imam Malik replied, "When knowledge is withheld from the masses and kept aside for the elite, then even the elite won't benefit from that knowledge."
- He has one of his students read
- Imam Malik tells Harun, "Amir Al Mumineen, we have learned from our teachers that Allah loves humility, and this is something required in knowledge."
- Harun Al-Rashid immediately understood the message and got down from the platform he was sitting on to sit with the students.
- Abdullah ibn Wahab said he stayed with Imam Malik for twenty years, and as for learning knowledge, he did that in one year. He spent nineteen years with Imam Malik learning adaab (etiquettes). He said, "I wish all twenty of those years were for adab."
- The majlis (study circle) of Imam Malik was quiet and calm
 - Questions were to be well thought-out
 - There were no follow ups to his answers
 - Imam Malik had a specific set of etiquettes for hadith

- Later in his life, he wasn't able to go to the masjid to teach, so he would first let in his dedicated students in his home
- If there was room, he would allow more
- If students came outside his door to ask about fiqh, he would answer their questions. However, if they came for hadith, he would take a shower, put on fresh clothes, apply itr, tie his turban, light bukhoor and then narrate hadith to them.
- Imam Malik sat in the spot where Umar (RA) used to sit for his majlis, and Umar chose that spot because that's where the Prophet (SAW) sat for his majlis
- He refused to ride on an animal in Medina, even when he got old
 - He didn't want to ride an animal where the Prophet (SAW) and sahaba walked
- Imam Malik gave a fatwa that the divorce of a person who is coerced into divorce is invalid
 - People created fitna by telling Jafar ibn Sulayman (the governor of Medina) that the fatwa actually referred to his forcing of people to pledge allegiance to the khalifa
 - Jafar sent a spy to Imam Malik's circle to probe him by asking if allegiance is invalid if it's forced
 - When Imam Malik said yes, Jafar had him arrested and whipped
 - He humiliated by him by making him go around in Medina on a donkey
 - Jafar caused his shoulders to be dislocated by tying his arms
 - Imam Malik endured this, but when Abu Jafar Al Mansur (the khalifa) found out, he told Imam Malik to carry out retribution against the governor
 - Imam Malik said, "at every whip, I forgave him, because his is from Ahlul Bayt"

- Despite the khalifa insisting, Imam Malik didn't want to carry out retribution
- Imam Malik was a devout worshiper
- The Muwatta became a key text of hadith
 - Compiling it took many years
 - Abu Jafar wanted the Muwatta to become the standard source of fiqh
 - Imam Malik refused because he was aware of the differences of opinion
 - Someone told Imam Malik as he was compiling it that someone else had just published a book like the Muwatta and it was being shared, so there was no need for Imam Malik to continue
 - Imam Malik replied, "the work of the one who did it only for Allah's sake will remain on Earth"
 - This is what happened

Final Notes

- The whole of Medina had an uproar when Imam Malik was unjustly tortured
 - He had control over the hearts of people, despite not being in a political role
 - He was respected
- It is only through learning about the lives of these scholars that we appreciate our Islamic heritage
- Knowledge spreads through embodiment of knowledge
- Until we learn adab, we can't access 'ilm