

# SUMMER IMMERSION HADITH MASTERS



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## SESSION 4

### Abdullah ibn al-Mubarak

- He was known for his good manners
- Harun Al-Rashid, the khalifa at the time, was walking with his wife and servants
  - They heard a loud noise
  - Someone said, that was Abdullah ibn Mubarak walking with his students. He sneezed, and the sound was his students saying “yarhamuk Allah”
  - Harun told his wife, “that’s real power.”
- Once, someone asked Sufyan Al Thawri a fiqh question
  - Sufyan asked where he was from
  - The man said, “I’m from the East.”
  - Sufyan replied, why would you come ask me a question when you have with you the best scholar of the East?
    - He was referring to Abdullah ibn Mubarak
- He had a house with a large courtyard
  - It was always full of people
  - When Abdullah ibn Mubarak would come out, they all crowded around him
- He later moved to Kufa, and didn’t have a courtyard
  - He spent most of his time at home
  - Someone asked if he was lonely since he was no longer surrounded by people who knew him

EDUCATION | PRESERVATION | APPLICATION

- Ibn Mubarak said, this is why I moved.
  - He didn't want everyone to know him and have all the attention
  - It's not good to seek to be known
- He went to his teacher Hammad ibn Zayd to say salaam to him
  - People asked Hammad to request that Ibn Mubarak narrate some hadith to them
  - Ibn Mubarak said, "how can I narrate hadith when you're present?"
  - Hammad said, "they're requesting, you should fulfill their request."
  - Ibn Mubarak narrates many ahadith that he heard from Hammad ibn Zayd
    - He had so much reverence for his teacher
    - In his presence, he mentioned only ahadith from him
- Ibn Mubarak never wanted to lower the integrity of knowledge (like many other scholars)
  - When the khulafa asked him to come to his place and narrate hadith, he refused
  - Once, Ibn Mubarak went to visit the khalifa after he rejected the offer
  - The khalifa had just mounted his horse to go somewhere
  - Ibn Mubarak held the reign of the horse and guided it
  - The khalifa was confused and said, "you reject my request to narrate hadith to me, but now you act like my servant?"
  - Ibn Mubarak replied, "I can humble my body for you, but I can't humble knowledge for you."
- His adopted son, Nadr ibn Muhammad, got married
  - At the walimah, Ibn Mubarak served the guests
  - Nadr saw this and ran up to him to stop him from serving guests at his status
  - Ibn Mubarak refused and continued to serve people

- Ibn Mubarak divided his year into three parts
  - Four months were in the journey of Hajj
  - Four months were for jihad
  - Four months were for teaching hadith
  - He also had his own business, which was the source of his wealth
    - The profits were spent on his journey of Hajj and jihad

## His Hajj

- First, he would travel to Baghdad
  - He had a lot of people with him
  - He asked everyone to give him the money they had for expenses, and acted as the caretaker of their money
  - The whole journey, he fed people with the best food
  - Upon reaching Baghdad, he would buy clothes for everyone
- Then they would reach Medina
  - He asked everyone what their families had requested from Medina
  - He would buy all of those things
- Then in Mecca, he would again buy everything for the people
- Then he would return from Hajj and make sure everyone's homes were repaired
  - He then made a feast for them
- Afterwards, he returned all of the sacks of money (labeled with people's names) to the people
  - The entire Hajj trip was funded by Ibn Mubarak alone
- Ibn Mubarak was a zahid, he fasted all year, but when it came to others, he was very generous in spending

## Generosity

- Once, a friend of his wrote to him about being in debt with seven hundred dirhams
  - Ibn Mubarak knew someone in that city, so he asked this secretary to give the man seven thousand dirhams
  - The secretary asked the man how much he needed
    - The man said he needed seven hundred dirhams
    - The secretary was confused, because Ibn Mubarak said seven thousand in the letter
  - The secretary wrote to Ibn Mubarak to confirm that he really meant seven thousand dirhams
    - Ibn Mubarak wrote back saying, “give him fourteen thousand dirhams.”
  - The secretary was shocked and wrote back saying that if he kept giving people so much money, Ibn Mubarak would have to sell his property
  - Ibn Mubarak wrote saying, “if you are my wakeel, then do as I say. If I am your wakeel, then I’ll sit in your place and do as you tell me to.”
    - He then narrated a hadith from Ibn Abbas: A person who surprises his brother with something good, then Allah pardons all of his sins.
      - Ibn Mubarak said, “I wanted to surprise him twice.”
- Ibn Mubarak spent 100,000 dirhams on people every year
- Ibn Mubarak was asked why he spent so much on these people when there were many poor people in the area as well
  - He replied, “In my eyes, the greatest deed is spreading knowledge. The people who I spend on are all students or teachers of knowledge. If they fall into poverty, those who are seeking knowledge won’t be able to pursue it, and those teaching knowledge will have to look for another job.”

- This was his intent with spending that much money on this class of people

## Attention to Detail

- Ibn Mubarak was extremely pious and careful with his money
  - He said, "I'd rather turn away one dirham with some doubt in it then spend seven hundred dirhams in the path of Allah. The one dirham that has doubt will destroy my wealth and I would have to be held accountable for that. There is no accountability for spending the seven hundred dirhams."
- Once, he was in Syria for work and he needed someone's pen to write something down.
  - When he went back home, he realized the pen was still in his bag and traveled all the way back to Syria to give it back
- He was traveling in Iraq, and there was usually a young man who would spend time with him
  - One time, the young man wasn't there
  - When Ibn Mubarak asked about him, he realized the young man was in jail for a debt of ten thousand dirhams
  - He paid the man who was owed money
  - He told the man to make sure the judge knew that the debt was paid off
  - He also told the man to not tell anyone about it until Ibn Mubarak died
  - The young man, upon being released, was told that Ibn Mubarak had been there
    - He chased after Ibn Mubarak and told him about how someone paid for his debt
    - Ibn Mubarak said, you should thank Allah and commit yourself to His deen

## Other Qualities

- Abdullah ibn Mubarak had many academic achievements
- In terms of knowledge, there were great people, but there was no one who was a greater well wisher for people than Abdullah ibn Mubarak
- One year, on his way to Hajj, he saw a town with a heap of rubbish
  - Someone left a dead chicken
  - A young girl wrapped the dead bird in a cloth and walked away with it
  - Ibn Mubarak was disturbed by this, so he followed the girl to her house
  - He asked why she did that
  - The girl said, "our mother passed away long ago, our father was a wealthy man but someone robbed him and killed him. Now it's just my younger brother and I, and we've been starving for days. Now dead animals are halal for us. Our source of food is that pile of garbage."
  - Ibn Mubarak returned to his group
    - He asked how much money they had
    - The money manager said that they had one thousand dinars (one dinar is usually equal to ten dirhams)
    - He said to take out twenty dinars and put them aside, then to take the rest of the money and give them to the girl
- Alone, Ibn Mubarak would cry profusely and worship Allah
  - He didn't share his intimate connection with Allah with anyone
- People loved him because he gave himself to the ummah
- This is the kind of person one should become upon studying hadith. It's an entire lifestyle

- People asked him if he would get lonely
  - He said, “how can I be lonely when I’m with the Prophet (SAW) and his companions?” he was with them in the books of knowledge
- Knowledge was spreading through him directly and indirectly
  - He spent so much on people who spread knowledge
  - We should plan for our own lives and how to spend them
- Allah has gifted this ummah with many examples to follow

