

## **How to Be a Student of Knowledge?**

Br. Abdulrahman Seleim

### **Importance of Knowledge:**

- The first verse revealed was "Iqrah" (read) at a time when the Prophet PBUH did not know how to read or write
- The time before Islam is referred to as the period of "Jahalia" (ignorance)

### **Hadiths that Highlight Why We Should Become Students of Knowledge:**

- The Prophet PBUH said, "Whoever follows a path to seek knowledge, Allah will make the path to Jannah (Paradise) easy for them." (Saheeh Muslim, Vol.3 Hadith No. 99)
- "The inhabitants of the heavens and the Earth and (even) the fish in the deep waters will ask forgiveness for the learned man. The superiority of the learned over the devout is like that of the moon, on the night when it is full, over the rest of the stars" (Sunan of Abu-Dawood, Hadith 1631)
- "Scholars are the inheritors of the prophets." (Reported by Imaam Abu Dawood)
- "The ink of scholars (used in writing) is weighed on the Day of Judgment with the blood of martyrs and the ink of scholars out-weighs the blood of martyrs." (Reported by Imam al-Suyuti, Al-Jaami' al-Saghîr)

### **How to become student of Knowledge**

- "You cannot have knowledge with a body that is stress free." "You cannot gain knowledge when the body is in comfort." You must become exhausted for it to become significant.—Yahya Ibn Abi Khatir
- "You should seek knowledge as a woman seeking her lost child." This woman wouldn't procrastinate. —Imam Shafi
- Imam Ahmed (one of the best scholars) was asked, when you will stop seeking knowledge. He answered when my foot enter Jahannah. For two years constantly he never slept on his bed because he was always studying.

### **Baqi ibn Makhlad: Dedication to seeking knowledge**

- Andalusian Scholar
- Gained knowledge from all the scholars in Andalusia so he continued onto Baghdad to learn from Imam Ahmed
- It took him 2 years to travel to Baghdad because he had no money to buy food so he worked in cities along the way to fund his trip
- When he arrived, Imam Ahmed was in house arrest (allude to Imam Ahmed's struggle with Caliphates Ma'mun and Mutassim) so he visited other scholars in Baghdad
- Afterwards, he dressed like a beggar and asked Imam Ahmed for hadiths

### **Consequences of Not Seeking Knowledge:**

- We will be questioned about why we didn't seek knowledge → we will have to compete with scholars on the day of judgement
- The one thing that all human beings have equally is time (we differ in other strengths and resources available to us). We are different in how we utilize that resource

**Criteria of a Student of Knowledge:**

- 1) Ikhlas (sincerity)
  - The scholar without ikhlas will be one of the three people that will be used to ignite the fire of hell. Work without Ikhlas is for the dunya and would not benefit you in the akhira.
- 2) Implementation the knowledge.
- 3) Spreading the knowledge.
- 4) Humbleness:
  - The prophet (S.A.W) said, “Anyone who as an atom of arrogant in his heart will not go to paradise.”
  - Even “experts” must be humble enough to accept that there are other more knowledgeable individuals than them that you should be willing to learn from.

**What Knowledge is Obligatory to Seek?**

- Acquiring knowledge is a Fard (obligatory) on all Muslims
- According to Imam Ghazali, it is obligatory to acquire all the knowledge relevant to living one’s life
  - Ex. Poor people don’t need to learn about the fiqh of giving Zakat as they do not give it. However, it’s a sin for rich people not to learn about giving zakat.