

## **Life of Imam Al-Shafi'i Part 2**

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### **Brief points about Imam Shafi'i:**

- Imam shafi'i was an incredible human being
- He had lot of unique and amazing opportunities.
- He had many abilities and talent.
- He was a student of Imam Malik. He remained with Imam Malik until he had passed away. Thus, he was part of the tree of knowledge.
- It is our responsibility to learn from his stories and apply them to our daily life.

### **Imam Shafi'i in Society:**

- How he dealt with people, and how he was generous.
- What made him so unique to us was his lineage and his poor status. His lineage was linked to the Prophet (S.A.W.). He had high status but no money. He was so unique, lovable, down to earth, and easy for us to relate to him because he was poor and simple.
- He said there is "No joy that equal the companionship of brothers and no sadness that equals leaving their companionship." The best of things in this life is good brotherhood and sisterhood.
- He linked joy and sadness to human beings, these two things are so integral to the society, and you can't live in a society if you don't love people. If you don't have love for your brothers and sisters you have to check your heart deeply. He advised that we should love the people.
- Imam Shafi'i loved the society. When he used to pray, he used to make dua for himself but also to the entire Ummah. Furthermore, when he came across a verse about the hellfire he would as for refuge from the hellfire for himself and for all the Muslim ummah. We also have to implement this in our lives; we must make Duaa for our brothers and sisters. How do you expect the Muslims to be stronger, useful, and united if you don't make dua for one another? It is a weakness in our heart if we don't pray for our fellow brothers and sisters.
- Who should you love? Anything that Allah loves.

### **Imam Shafi'i wanted a heart like the Prophet (S.A.W.):**

- As Imam Shafi'i heard about the story of the bedouin man that urinated in the masjid- A bedouin urinated in the mosque and the people ran to (beat) him. The people in mosque were yelling and screaming. The Prophet (S.A.W) said, "Do not interrupt his urination (i.e. let him finish)." Then the Prophet asked for a tumbler of water and poured the water over the place of urine (Narrated by Anas bin Malik). Imam shafi'i prayed to have the kind heart of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) had. This is not about being powerful, it is all about the heart.
- It was reported that Imam Ahmad said that "I've never written a hadith that I did not try to implement. We need to learn to have a big heart and also learn to implement the hadiths in our lives.

- Imam Shafi'i was very sensitive about to his brothers to the extent that he became sick when he wanted to go visit one of his friends that were sick. We must always check our hearts and be connected to the society.
- He loved his society, brothers, and opponent. Muhammad Abu Uthman (the son of Imam Shafi'i) said I have never heard my father debate with anyone and he raised his voice. Imam shafi provides us with an ethnic character.

### **Imam Shafi'i was Very Generous:**

- Even though he was very poor he had great generosity for the poor. Generosity has nothing to do with financial conditions, it is an attitude. Example, a smile is a form of sadaqah.
- One day when Imam Shafi'i was invited to Yemen to work as a judge for the Abbasid governor. However, the Abbasid rulers did not like his honesty and fairness. Thus, they removed him by creating rumors about him that he was Shia. As a result he was arrested and jailed in Baghdad. He was then present to Harun al-Rashid, who was the Abbasid Caliphate at that time. However, Imam Shafi'i gave an impassioned and eloquent defense, which greatly impressed Harun al-Rashid. He was released from jail and Harun al-Rashid insisted that he stays in Baghdad to spread islamic knowledge. He was also given 50,000 dinar as a gift. When he received the money he called on the poor to gather and he distributed it amongst them. This is an indication of his generosity.

### **Advices from Imam Shafi'i:**

- He gives us some guidelines on how to deal with the foolish people. The best thing to do is to ignore them. If you answer them it makes them more furious. The more they abuse you, the more you should be patient.
- Be aware of marrying from the same family because it leads to weak minded children.
- A good friend is the one that sees you commit a mistake and hides you. The good friend provides you with good advice.
- Imam Shafi'i created close relationships with his students. They were able to approach him with any kinds or questions or concerns.
- Imam Shafi'i always looked ahead, looking into the future because that is how you would motivate a generation.

### **References:**

1. Imam Al-Shafi'i, *Al-Risala*
2. Al-Bayhaqî, *Manâqib Al-Shâfi'î*
3. Shafii Institute, <http://www.shafiqh.com>