



Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq al-Halabī

By Shaykh Shoayb Ahmad

With an Additional Word from Shaykh Farāz Rabbani

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Early Life and Upbringing:

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq ibn Muhammad Hasan ibn Rashīd ibn Hasan al-Halabī was born in Damascus at his father's home in the suburb of al-Qaymariyya in 1925 (1343H).

The Shaykh grew up in a religious environment as his father regularly attended the lessons of the `Ulemā and his mother was the daughter of the Muftī of Syria, Shaykh Ata`illāh al-Kasm.

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq's father passed away when he had not yet exceeded eight years of age. He was cared for by his mother and his uncle, Muhammad `Id al-Halabī.

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq completed his reading of the Qur`ān when he was about seven years old, thereafter he entered primary school from where he graduated in 1937. The Shaykh entered the next level of his schooling where he remained for about two years after which he abandoned formal studies and began working as a manager between the

years 1939-1952. In 1955 the Shaykh married from the Zabīb family of Damascus. He has been blessed with seven children.

His Education and Teachers:

Throughout his life Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq has devoted himself to attending lessons and acquiring knowledge from the foremost `Ulemā.

The Shaykh memorised the Qur`ān, the text of *al-shātibīyya* and *al-durra* and he completed the ten *qira'āt*. He also studied *fiqh*, various books of *tafsīr*, Hadīth and the Arabic language with various scholars. Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq also memorised the *alfīyya ibn malik* and various other texts.

From amongst his Shuyūkh were:

- **Shaykh Muhammad Sālih al-Farfūr**

Shaykh Muhammad Sālih al-Farfūr is regarded as his foremost teacher. Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq attached himself closely to Shaykh Sālih al-Farfūr and his classes until his teacher passed away ﷺ. Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq loved Shaykh Sālih's lessons. Under Shaykh Sālih's guidance and supervision, Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq read and studied *tafsīr al-nasafī*, *sharh muslim* by Imām al-Nawawī, *al-tarḡīb wal tarḥīb*, *nūr al-idāh* and *al-marāqī* and the *hashīyya* by al-Tahtāwī. He also studied *al-quḍūrī* and its commentaries, *majma` al-anḥūr*, *al-dur al-mukhtār*, *hāshīyyat ibn `abidīn*, *al-manār* and its commentary, *al-bayqūnīyya* and its commentaries and *tadrīb al-rāwī*. After reading the *alfīyya* to Shaykh Sālih al-Farfūr, he was rewarded in that whatever he studied thereafter, Shaykh Sālih simplified it for him.

- **Shaykh Mahmūd Fā'iz al-Dā'ir Atānī**

With him, Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq memorised the Qur`ān and *al-shātibīyya*.

- **Shaykh Muhammad Sa`īd al-Halwānī**

With him he started learning the *qira'āt*. He failed to complete it because his teacher passed away.

- **Shaykh Husayn Khattāb**

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq completed the study of the ten *qira'āt* under him as well as *al-shātibīyya* and *al-durra*. He received Ijāzah from him.

- **Shaykh Abūl Yusr `Abidīn**
- **Shaykh Ahmad al-Qāsīmī**
- **Shaykh Muhammad al-`Arabī al-Ṭabbānī**
- **Shaykh Muhammad ibn `Alawī al-Mālikī**

He also met and is well acquainted with **Shaykh Abūl Khayr al-Maydānī**, **Shaykh Makkī al-Kattānī** and **Shaykh Ibrahīm al-Ghalayyinī**.

His Students:

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq has been actively involved in teaching for over fifty years during which hundreds studied under and benefited from him.

Seven students, in particular, completed the ten *qira'at* and received Ijāzah from him in this. They are:

- Shaykh Ihsān al-Sayyid Badruddīn ibn `Izzat al-Aghwānī
- Shaykh Ahmad ibn `Abdul Rahmān al-Khajā
- Shaykh Ghassan ibn Qāsim al-Hiba
- Shaykh Ziyād ibn Muhammad al-Hūrānī
- Shaykh Rifāt `Alī Dīb
- Shaykh Muhammad Sādiqa
- Shaykh Abū Na'im Muhammad ibn Ahmad Shabū read the entire Qur'ān with the narration of *Hafs* and also received *Ijāzah*
- Shaykh Muhammad ibn Ahmad Hahud al-Tilmasānī read the entire Qur'ān as per the narration of *Warsb* as well as the *arba'in al-ajlunīyya* and he also received Ijāzah.

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq has also granted general *ijāzāt* to other `Ulemā including:

Shaykh Muhammad Adīb al-Kallās
Shaykh Akram ibn `Abdul Wahhāb al-Mūsili
Shaykh Majd ibn Ahmad Makkī al-Halabī
Shaykh Qāsim ibn `Alī Sād al-Hanafī
Shaykh Muhammad Wā'il al-Hanbalī
Shaykh `Abdullāh ibn Ahmad al-Tūm
Shaykh Abū Isād Khālid al-Sibā'i
Shaykh `Umar ibn Muwaffaq al-Nashuqātī
Shaykh Yahya ibn `Abdul Razzāq al-Ghawthanī
Shaykh Khālid Hasan Abū Jūd

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq dedicated his life to teaching and guiding the Ummah. The Shaykh taught at Mahad al-Fath al-Islāmī in its specialisation programme. Some of the texts he has taught include: *sabīh al-bukhārī*, *al-shifā* by Qādī Iyād, *hāshīyyat ibn `abidīn*, *tafsīr al-qurtubī*, *al-ikhtiyār*, *hāshīyyat al-tabṭāwī `alā marāqil falāh*, *tafsīr al-nasafī*, *tafsīr al-khazīn*, *ihyā `ulum al-dīn*, *riyād al-sālibīn*, *sunan abī dawūd*, *jami` al-usūl* and many others.

The Shaykh was appointed as a lecturer and a public speaker (*khātīb*) in numerous mosques - in Jāmi` al-Qittāt for fifteen years, Jāmi` al-Jarāh for twenty-four years and then finally at Masjid Bilāl. He took over the administration of the Grand Ummawī Mosque and was the leading Hanafī scholar there.

When Shaykh Husayn Khattāb, the Grand *Shaykh* of the *qurrā* passed away, people were ready to accept *Shaykh* `Abdul Razzāq as the Grand Shaykh but he relinquished this position for Shaykh Muhammad Kurā'im Rājih.

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq al-Halabī was one of the founding members of Jāmi`at al-Fath Al-Islāmī along with Shaykh Muhammad Sālih al-Farfūr and he took over as the head after Shaykh Sālih's demise.

He has traveled through countries like Egypt, Libya, Iran, Malaysia, Turkey, the Gulf, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, delivering lectures from which many benefited.

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq has combined vast knowledge with the excellent qualities and character of the pious. He is not a person who is attached to worldly glitter and gives abundant *sadaqa*. He firmly adheres to the Sunnah and is not a person who holds any hatred or malice against anyone. The Shaykh is very concerned about the affairs of the people and is loved by all in his country. Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq has performed Hajj over forty times.

May Allah ﷻ protect him and may He ﷻ bless him in his life and in his knowledge.

An Additional Word from Shaykh Faraz Rabbani

Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq al-Halabī is the leading living Hanafī scholar of Damascus. He has taught the *hāshiyā* of Ibn `Abidīn (*radd al-mukhtār*) at least a dozen times, cover to cover. This work is in 5 very large volumes in its old (Bulāq) edition, and the new editions range from 12 to 20-plus volumes. This dars would occur between Maghrib and `Ishā daily, without fail, six days a week—with Fridays off.

He is very serious about completing books with his students, and inculcates a seriousness for study and the subject in his students, as well as having stern disapproval for wasting time, useless questions, and foolish behavior.

The idea that, “Knowledge comes first,” is firmly ingrained in his committed students. Two of his close students—recognized scholars and teachers in their own right—were invited to the wedding of a scholar with whom some misunderstandings had occurred. Attending the wedding would have meant missing Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq’s *hāshiyat ibn `abidin* lesson. Very nervously—and half-expecting the response—they went into Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq’s room in the right corner of the front of the Ummayyad Mosque. They asked for permission. The Shaykh barely looked up from his glasses, stooped over his large desk, and said, “It isn’t possible. Knowledge comes first.”

May Allah preserve Shaykh `Abdul Razzāq and the scholars of our Community, and spread the light of their teachings and example—for this light is the Prophetic inheritance. It is the gift of God to humanity. ¹



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