

أَسْئَلُكَ يَا رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ بِسَمْعِكَ
وَبَصَرِكَ وَسَمْتِكَ
وَبِحَبْلِ قَدْرِكَ
وَبِحَبْلِ حَقِّكَ
وَبِحَبْلِ حَقِّكَ
وَبِحَبْلِ حَقِّكَ

The Fundamentals of the *Sunnah*

الإمام أبو بكر عبد الله بن
أبي ربيعة الزبيري
الهمداني

By *Imaam* Abu Bakr `Abdullaah bin az-Zubair
al-Humaidee
(D. 219 Hijri)

Translated by Amr bin Jalal Abualrub

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Biography of the author:

Name and Lineage:

He is `Abdullaah bin az-Zubair bin Eesa bin `Ubaidullaah bin Usaamah, Abu Bakr al-Qurashee al-Asdee al-Humaidee al-Makkee, the Shaykh of the Haram, and the author of, *al-Musnad* (1).

His Teachers:

He narrated from Fudhail Ibn `Iyyaadh and Sufyaan Ibn `Uyainah, and he was often found around him, and Wakee`, ash-Shaafi`ee, and others.

His Students:

Al-Bukhari narrated from him in the first Hadeeth in his Saheeh, as well as ath-Thuhlee, Abu Haatim ar-Raazi, Abu Zur`ah ar-Raazi (2), Abu Bakr Muḥammad bin Idrees al-Makkee, and others.

The Scholars Praise for him:

Imaam Aḥmad bin Hanbal said, "Al-Humaidee, to us, is an *Imaam*".
Abu Haatim said, "The people have established that al-Humaidee is with Ibn `Uyainah, and he is the head of the students Ibn `Uyainah, and he is a *Thiqah* (3) and an *Imaam*."
Ya`qoob al-Fasoowi said, "Al-Humaidee informed us – and I have never seen anyone more sincere to Islaam and its people than him."
Al-Haakim said, "Al-Bukhari used to, when he would find a Hadeeth with al-Humaidee, he would not give it up for someone else."

Muḥammad bin Sahl al-Qahstaani said, "ar-Rabee` bin Sulaimaan informed us saying, 'I heard ash-Shaafi`ee say, '... He recorded from Sufyaan bin `Uyainah 10,000 Aḥadeeth.'" (*Siyaru A`laam an-Nubalaa`*, 10/618; Tabaqaat ash-Shaafi`iyyah, by as-Subki, 2/140)

Muhammad Ibn Is-haaq al-Maroozi said, "I heard Is-haaq bin Raahwiyah say, 'The *Imaams* in our times [are]: Ash-Shaafi`ee, al-Humaidee, and Abu `Ubaid.'" (*Siyaru A`laam an-Nubalaa`*, 10/619; Tabaqaat ash-Shaafi`iyyah, 2/140)

`Ali bin Khalaf said, "I heard al-Humaidee say, 'As long as I am in the Hijaaz, and Aḥmad bin Hanbal is in `Iraq, and Is-haaq [bin Raahwiyah] is in *Khurasaan*, no one will bother us.'" (*Siyaru A`laam an-Nubalaa`*, 10/619; Tabaqaat ash-Shaafi`iyyah, 2/140)

Abu Muḥammad al-Karmaani, and al-Laalikaa'i, and Ibn Taimiyyah and others ascribed *Imamate* in the *Sunnah* to him.

Some of his authorships:

1. *al-Musnad*
2. *ar-Radd `Alaa an-Nu`maan*
3. *at-Tafseer*
4. *ad-Dalaa'il*

Uṣool as-Sunnah:

Text of the letter

Bishr bin Musa informed us, he said, al-H^umaidee said:

Belief in the predestination

1. The *Sunnah* to us is, for one to believe in predestination, the good of it and bad, the delightful of it and the bitter, and that he should know that what he has befallen him did not wrongly befall him, and that what has not happened to him was not wrongly so, and that all of that is the predestination of Allaah, *`azza wa jall*.

Belief is statements and actions, it increases and decreases

2. And that *Eman* is statements and actions, it increases and decreases, and no statement is sufficient except with actions, and no statement and action without *Niyyah* (4), and no statement, action and *Niyyah* without it being a *Sunnah*.

Praise upon the *Sahaabah*, May Allaah be pleased with them

3. And asking for mercy upon all of the companions of Muḥammad, peace and blessings be upon him, for indeed Allaah, *`azza wa jall*, said,

{And those who came after them say: "Our Lord! Forgive us and our brethren who have preceded us in Faith... [59:10]}

So one does not believe except after asking for forgiveness for them, and whoever curses them or belittles them then he is not on the *Sunnah*, and he has no rights to booty, more than one informed us from Maalik bin Anas, that he said, "Allaah, *ta`alaa*, divided the group and said,

{(And there is also a share in this booty) for the poor emigrants, who were expelled from their homes} [59:8]

And then He also said,

{And those who came after them say: "Our Lord! Forgive us and our brethren who have preceded us in Faith... [59:10]

So whoever does not say that then he is not from those whom the booty is given to.

The Qur'an is the speech of Allaah

4. And [regarding] the Qur'an: it is the speech of Allaah, I heard Sufyaan bin `Uyainah say, "The Qur'an is the speech of Allaah, and whoever says that it is created is a *Mubtadi`* (5), we do not listen to anyone who says that."

Sufyaan's statements concerning *Eman*

And I heard Sufyaan say, "*Eman* is statements and actions, it increases and decreases." So his brother said to him, "O Abu Muḥammad, do not say that it decreases", so he responded, "Be quiet O lad! Rather, it decreases to the point where nothing of it remains!"

The believers' seeing of their Lord after death

5. And affirming seeing Allaah after the death.

Affirming the *Sifaat* (attributes)

6. And that which the Qur'an and *Hadeeth* have spoken about, such as,

{The Jews say: "Allâh's Hand is tied up (i.e. He does not give and spend of His Bounty)." Be their hands tied up...} [5:64]

As well as,

{And the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand} [39:67]

And the Qur'an nor the *Sunnah* gave likening to this, we do not increase in it, nor do we explain it, we stop where the Qur'an and *Sunnah* stop, and we say,

{The Most Gracious (Allâh) Istawâ (rose over) the (Mighty) Throne (in a manner that suits His Majesty).} [20:5]

And whoever assumes other than this then he is a *Mu`attal* (6) and a *Jahmi* (7).

The difference between *Ahlu-Sunnah* and the *Khawaarij*

7. And that we do not say as the *Khawaarij* said, "Whoever does a *Kabeerah* (8) has done an action of infidelity". And there is no *Takfeer* (9) of anyone who performs a sin, rather, *Takfeer* is performed on the one who leaves any of the five that Messenger of Allaah spoke about, "Islaam was built upon five [pillars, (as they are commonly referred to)], Testimony that there is none worthy of worship except Allaah, and that Mu`hammad is the Messenger of Allaah, peace and blessings be upon him, and offering the *Salat* (10), and giving charity, and fasting *Ramadhaan*, and making *Hajj* (11) to the house (12) ." [Muslim, 19; Ibn Hibbaan, 1446, as well as others]

When is the proofs established against the one who leaves one of the pillars of Islaam, or some of them?

As for three of them, then there is no debate regarding the one who leaves it: The one who does not utter, "There is no deity worthy of worship except Allaah", and the one who does not pray, and the one who does not fast because he is delaying one of those from its due time, and it does not replace the one who complied after negligence of it knowingly, from its time.

- As for the charity, when he does not give it, it can be replaced, and he is sinful by not giving it.
- And as for the *Hajj*, then whoever it is obligated on, and he finds a means to do it then it is obligatory upon him, and it is not obligated upon him in that year so that there will not be because of it a doubt of when he did it, that he did it. And he is not sinful if he delays it as he is sinful when he delays the *Zakaat* (13), because the *Zakaat* is a right for the poor Muslims, his donation is on them, if he gives then he has given. If he dies sorry and able, but did not perform pilgrimage he asks to be returned to this *Dunya* to make *Hajj*, and it is obligatory upon his family to perform it for him, and we ask that, that is accepted as an action that he did, just as he had a religion and all the people came [to pray] on him after his death.

Footnotes:

- 1) Not the same *al-Musnad* of *Imaam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal*
- 2) These two *Imaams*, *Abu Haatim* and *Abu Zur`ah*, are commonly referred to as, '*ar-Raaziyyaan*', or, '*The Two Raazis*'
- 3) *Thiqah* means Trustworthy
- 4) Intention
- 5) Heretic; Innovator;
- 6) Those that invalidate the meanings of Allaah's attributes
- 7) Those that deny all of Allaah's attributes, as well as say the Qur'an is created
- 8) Major sin
- 9) Charging of infidelity
- 10) Prayer
- 11) Pilgrimage
- 12) i.e., the *Ka`bah*, in the city of Makkah
- 13) Charity

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

End of the letter

وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

And all praise is due to Allaah, Lord of all that
Exists