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## From the goodness of our Shaykh, Muḥaddith Waṣī Allāh ʿAbbās, the Muftī of The Ḥaram in Makkah, for the Ahl al-Hadīth

On the 16th Rabī' al-Awwal (25th November 2018) I visited my Shaykh, Muftī Wasī Allāh 'Abbās.

As with all our meetings, by the grace of Allāh, I benefited tremendously. When I sit with my Shaykh I feel an attachment to him, a serene blissful feeling in my heart and do not like leaving his company. I pray Allāh allows me to carry on being an observant student as long as I am able to do so.

The Shaykh was preparing to leave Saudi Arabia and participate as an invited special guest of the conference held in Jāmi'ah Salafīyyah, Varanasi, India. This was a special invitation to all the students who had studied there which included my Shaykh.

One of the great benefits I would like to share with my students and readers is the love my Shaykh has for the Ahl al-Ḥadīth.

It is recorded in Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, the Book of Belief, Section: To like for one's (Muslim's) brother what one likes for himself is a part of Īmān, Ḥadīth: 13, Page: 60, Volume: 1.

The Messenger of Allah said:

None of you can reach the level of complete Īmān until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.

I asked the Shaykh about a great Salafī scholar by the name of Major Miah Muḥammad Aslam and if he could tell me about him.

The Shaykh responded that:

"He was my companion, a retired Major of the Pakistani Army, firm upon the Madhhab of Ahl al-Ḥadīth and extremely hard working in seeking knowledge and staying close to the scholars."

Shaykh Major Muḥammad Aslam was born on Dhū al-Ḥijjah 1351 AH (1st April 1933). He was a Major in the Pakistani army and he accepted the Salafī Daʻwah. After he retired from serving in the army, he travelled to Saudi Arabia and tried to get admission at the Islamic University of Madīnah. He was over the age of acceptance and he tried everything he could do, he talked to many people and he met Shaykh 'Abd al-Muḥsin al-'Abbād who at that time was the Chancellor and head of the Islamic University, but the Shaykh refused, stating that he could not be accepted as he did not meet the conditions required.

Shaykh Major Muḥammad Aslam became very sad and did not know what to do. During that time he met my noble teacher Shaykh, Waṣī Allāh 'Abbās. Shaykh Waṣī Allāh asked him, (with the intent of encouragement):

"Is that it then, you have given up"?

Shaykh Major Muḥammad Aslam who had a deep voice replied:

"What else can I do? I have exhausted every channel, and tried every communication method but to no avail, it has not yet been decreed for me".

Shaykh Waşī Allāh 'Abbās responded:

"Lets go to my Shaykh, the Imām of the Arabic language of his time, The Muḥaddith Taqī al-Dīn Al-Hilālī (d.1398 AH [1978]) and ask him for help."

So they both went to 'Allāmah Taqī al-Dīn Al-Hilālī and Shaykh Waṣī Allāh explained to 'Allāmah Taqī al-Dīn Al-Hilālī that Shaykh Major Muḥammad Aslam had left Pakistan and was a retired major of the Pakistani army. When 'Allāmah Taqī al-Dīn Al-Hilālī listened to all this he recited some lines of Arabic poetry, to which it meant that good things should not be delayed, they then went to see Shaykh bin Bāz.

So Shaykh Waşī Allāh carried on:

"We went, we prayed Maghrib at Masjid Abī Dhar as Shaykh bin Bāz's house was behind there. We entered Shaykh bin Bāz's house and he had not arrived ,he had prayed Maghrib in the Prophet's Masjid so all three of us waited in the lounge, Shaykh bin Bāz returned and when he heard that 'Allāmah Taqī al-Dīn Al-Hilālī had also come and was waiting he was elated.

Usually when Shaykh bin Bāz would return back from the Prophet's مثلوالله Masjid and would be notified that the people are waiting in the lounge he would first go freshen up and then receive them. However when he heard 'Allāmah Taqī al-Dīn Al-Hilālī was present he cheerfully rushed straight to him. Such is love between the People of knowledge.

'Allāmah Taqī al-Dīn Al-Hilālī spoke to Shaykh bin Bāz and said I am interceding for this retired major army officer who is Ahl al-Ḥadīth and he has left everything in Pakistan and come to seek knowledge, can you please accept him on my recommendation. Shaykh bin Bāz asked for a pen and paper and dictated:

Accept this student on my responsibility.

The paper was stamped and signed and then Shaykh Major Muḥammad Aslam went to Shaykh 'Abd al-Muḥsin al-'Abbād and gave him the paper and Shaykh 'Abd al-Muḥsin al-'Abbād remained quiet and accepted him and Shaykh Major Muḥammad Aslam started to study.

He graduated from the language institute and then studied at the faculty of Sharīʿah. He was very hard working and very close to the scholars. Before his graduation he wrote his dissertation on Tablīghī Jamāʿah under the supervision of Shaykh Ṣāliḥ Al-ʿAbūd the previous chancellor and head of Madīnah University.

Jamā'ah al-Tablīgh, 'aqīdatuhā wa afkār mashāyikhihā - Mian Muḥammad Aslam al-Pakistānī (research paper submitted to the Faculty of Sharī'ah at the Islamic University of Madīnah in 1395 AH (1976)

Tablīghī Jamā'ah it's beliefs, and the ideology of its peers and elders.

Shaykh Taqī al-Dīn Al-Hilālī summarised his thesis and added beneficial things known as

It is a big tazkīyyāt that a major scholar summarises your book, this is a testimony of true knowledge, that the person has knowledge. Although the Shaykh corrected Shaykh Aslam on a few things, this was

understandable, as he was a mountain and his teacher corrected him only in the issue of the Arabic language, bearing in mind, Shaykh Aslam didn't know Arabic before he came to Madīnah University.

These few corrections show that he was well versed in the Arabic language. After he graduated he was posted on the recommendation of Shaykh bin Bāz to Philadelphia, America.

In Philadelphia he was the one who laid the foundations of the Salafī Da'wah and taught people the Qur'ān and Sunnah and refuted all the deviants including the Ṣūfī's in particular.

He opened his house for the students to come and study with him spreading the madhhab of the Ahl al-Ḥadīth in Philadelphia. Taught in various Masājid in Philadelphia:

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He was known to speak out against the Ṣūfī and Jamāʿah al-Tablīgh in Philadelphia and in the surrounding areas. The day before he was assassinated, he gave a talk speaking out against the Jamāʿah al-Fuqarāʾ, which became popular in Philadelphia at that time. Therefore many speculate it was someone from the that group who murdered him.

On 11th Jumādā al-Awwal 1402H (7th March 1982) he was assassinated and murdered, it is said the Şūfī's were behind his murder due to his public refutations against them. It is said he was affiliated with Ismā'īl Farūqī who was a professor at Temple University. He too along with his wife was murdered. It was connected.

May Allāh grant him Jannah, and reward my Shaykh Waṣī Allāh 'Abbās as through his efforts after the Mercy of Allāh and the support of 'Allāmah Taqī al-Dīn Al-Hilālī and Shaykh bin Bāz was this possible.

I benefited immensely from Shaykh Aslam's dissertation and have added beneficial notes and where he summarised many issues, elaborated on many issue for the benefit of the students of knowledge who are beginners.

I plan to teach the book of Shaykh Major Muḥammad Aslam - الله شاء إن - I have already added beneficial footnotes to what he has written elaborating on some points he mentioned concisely.

Shaykh Waṣī Allāh ʿAbbās for us Ahl al-Ḥadīth has the same status Imām Syed Nadhīr Ḥusayn Dehlawī had in his time, he is the Imām Syed Nadhīr Ḥusayn Dehlawī [d. 1318 ah] of this time for us and Allāh knows best.