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A lovely letter from Shaykh Ibn Baaz to Shaykh Al-Albaanee

Translated by Ahmed Abu Turaab

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful

From Abdul-Azeez ibn Abdullaah ibn Baaz to the honourable, revered brother, the eminent Shaykh, Naasirud-Deen al-Albaanee, may Allaah grant him success.

Salaamun alaikum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuhu.

As for what follows:

Your amicable letter reached me through Shaykh Muhammad ibn Naasir al-Aboodi, may Allaah bestow His Guidance upon you and it pleased me greatly due to its informing me of your good health and the fact that you are continuing to write and teach and call to Allaah, all praise is due to Allaah for that, and I ask Him, the Most High, to give you even more success and that He grants you continued vigour to do everything that benefits the Muslims, indeed He is Most Gracious, Most Generous.

Just as I was also pleased at your completion of the summarisation of the Saheeh of Imaam Muslim ibn al-Hajjaaj and your resolve to summarise the Saheeh of Imaam al-Bukhaaree whilst paying attention to the [core] meanings and without their being any detriment to it, I ask Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, to give you the good that you hope for, and that He helps you in everything in which there is good for the Muslims and in which lies their deliverance in this world and the next.

There is no doubt that the people of knowledge are in need of a summary of the Saheeh of Imaam al-Bukhaaree whilst paying attention to [preserving] the [core] meanings, but that requires a huge effort and a long time, so if that [task] does not disrupt you from doing what is more important like directing [the people], teaching, da'wah and writing against innovations and superstitions/myths, and making authentic hadeeths clear from the weak—then there is no harm in that.

In any case, my advice to your eminence is to fear Allaah in all matters and to seek His Guidance [istikhaarah], subhaanah, concerning this lofty project and to seek the counsel of those whose knowledge and advice you trust, and then if you are pleased with that then seek Allaah's Aid and act—and [we] ask Allaah to grant you what is correct, and [to grant

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you] support and facilitation, and that He makes us and you and all of our brothers callers to guidance, helpers of the truth, indeed He is All-Hearing, the One who is Near, and we will spare no effort, Inshaa'allaah, in seeking the help of some of those who love good to undertake the printing of your summary of Saheeh Muslim, and I will inform you of what comes of that, Inshaa'allaah.

As for volumes nine, ten and eleven of Fath ul-Baaree, then we have taken them from Shaykh Muhammad Abdul-Muhsin al-Kutbi, and they will reach you, Inshaa'allaah, via some of the students.

And the one who loves you [i.e., Shaykh Ibn Baaz is referring to himself as someone who loves Shaykh al-Albaanee] is ready to provide every necessity and [fulfil every] need that he is able to, may Allaah make me and you from those who love each other for His Sake until the time we meet Him, subhaanah, and I hope that my greeting of salaam be conveyed to [my] sons [i.e., the youth] , and the notable Shaykhs and brothers especially Shaykh Zuhair, just as all the sons, Shaykhs and brothers amongst us are fine and in good health.

Was-salaamu alaikum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuhu.

PS. We have made a copy of Kitaabus-Sunnah of Ibn Abee Aasim with costs covered by the esteemed sir, Hasan ash-Sharbatli, and we indicated to him that a [fair] amount be printed, and he agreed to that.

We attained a manuscript of the aforementioned book and Shaykh Hammad al-Ansaaree, the one whom all love, informed me that it is written in a good [clear] script, so we borrowed it from its owner, and saw fit that two copies be sent to your eminence to correct, check and annotate after you tell us how much [monetary] compensation you deem to be appropriate for this project so that we can inform ash-Sharbatli about that and get his approval.

We have handed over the two books to Shaykh Ameen Lutfi to pass on to your eminence, and we are waiting for a speedy response from you concerning this issue.

Shaykh Zuhair mentioned to me that he has decided to print the aforementioned book and so I would hope that contact be made with him and that he be informed, so that I can [then] be notified of both of your opinions regarding that, for I fear that he may have a specific opinion concerning the topic since he has resolved to print the book.

And I ask Allaah to grant everyone the success to do what pleases Him.

Wa sallallaahu alaa Nabiyyinaa Muhammad wa Aalihi wa Sahbihi wa sallam.

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[Ar-Rasaa'il al-Mutabaadilah Bainash-Shaykh Ibn Baaz wal-Ulemaa, pp. 53-54.]

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