

Imaam Ahmad Ibn Shu'ayb An-Nasaa'ee died 303H

by Maktabatul Imaam Ibn Qudaamah (Source: facebook)

4th Century (300H-399H)

His Birth and Lineage:

Shaykh-ul-Islam, Al-Haafidh, Al-Imaam. He is Ahmad Ibn Shu'ayb Ibn Alee Ibn Sinaan Ibn Bahr Ibn Deenaar and his kunyah is Abu Abdur-Rahmaan. He was a resident of Khurasaan and a memoriser of hadeeth, the author of the famous book Sunan An-Nasaa'ee.

He was born in 215H in Nisaa, a city of Khurasaan, hence he is known as An-Nasaa'ee or Naswee.

His Search for Knowledge:

He travelled to Khurasaan, A'raaq, Hijaz, Egypt and the Arab peninsula and other far and distance countries to seek the knowledge of hadeeth. He settled in Egypt most of his life. In later life he moved to Dimashq and from there he moved for one last time to Falasteen.

His Teachers and Those he Narrated from:

- Imaam Bukhaaree,
- Imaam Abu Daawood,
- Qutaibah Ibn Sa'eed,
- Ishaq Ibn Rahawaihah,
- Alee Ibn Hujr,
- Muhammad Ibn Bishaar,
- Hishaam Ibn A'maar,
- Eesaa Ibn Zagbah,
- Muhammad Ibn Nasr Al-Marwazee,
- Abu Karayyab,
- Suwaid Ibn Nasr Shahdhaan,

And he learnt ahaadeeth from other such pillars of knowledge.

He mentions himself that in 230H, when he was 15 years old, he travelled to Imaam Qutaybah and remained with him for 1 year and 2 months.

His Students and Those who Narrated from him:

- Abu Bishr Ad-Daulaabee,
- Abu Alee Hussain Ibn Muhammad Neesaabooree Hamzah Kinaanee,
- Imaam Abu Abdullah Ibn Ahmad Ibn Hanbal,
- Ibn Adiy,
- Hasan Ibn Hadhrah Suyootee,
- Abu Sa'eed Ibn Al-A'raabee,
- Ibn Jausaa,
- Abu Bakr Ibn As-Sunnee,
- Abu Yoonus,
- Imaam Uqailee,
- Abul-Qasim Tabaraanee,
- Ibn Al-Akhram,
- Abu Awaanah,
- Muhammad Ibn Mu'awiyah Ibn Ahmar Andaloosee,
- Hasan Ibn Rasheeq,
- Muhammad Ibn Abdullah Ibn Haywiyah,
- Tahaawee,

And many more.

The Scholars Praise of Imaam An-Nasaa'ee:

Haafidh Ibn Hajr said,

"Al-Haafidh (The preserver/memoriser)."

Imaam As-Suyootee said, "Al-Qadhee (the Judge), Al-Imaam, Al-Haafidh, Shaykh ul-Islam, the strong preserver, a famous scholar."

Imaam Daarqutnee said, "Abu Bakr Ibn Al-Haddaad Shaaf'iee was a scholar of hadeeth and he would never narrate a hadeeth from anyone except from Imaam An-Nasaa'ee, he would say, 'I have made him evidence between myself and Allaah.'"

Haafidh Adh-Dhahabee mentions he was very handsome and even in old age and the colour of his face was red. He was very well dressed. He had four wives and he would visit each one at their times. He would eat a lot of big chickens which he would look after himself in his house. It has been mentioned that he was a very elegant eater.

Ahmad Ibn Nasr said, "The things upon which Imaam An-Nasaa'ee had patience, who else other than him could have had patience...."

Haafidh Adh-Dhahabee said, "He was alone in knowledge, in piety and in knowing the chains."

Haafidh Muhammad Ibn Muzaffar said, "I heard from my teachers of Egypt, they would testify to Imaam An-Nasaa'ee's worship of Allaah day and night."

The Haafidh of Khurasaan Abu Alee Neesaabooree said, "The Imaam of hadeeth without any competition, Imaam Abu Abdur-Rahmaan narrated ahaadeeth to us."

Haafidh Adh-Dhahabee said, "He was a greater jurist than all the Shaykhs of Egypt and he had more knowledge concerning hadeeth and their narrators."

Imaam Adh-Dhahabee also said, "He was more of a memoriser than Muslim Ibn Al-Hajjaaj."

Imaam Haakim said, "Imaam An-Nasaa'ee was more Faqeeh than the Shaykhs of Egypt of his time. He was well acquainted with the authentic and established narrations and the narrators and he would refer to his book as 'As-Saheeh'"

Abu Abdullah Ibn Mandah said, "There are four who extracted the authentic from the faulty and the errors from the correct ones (ie Ahaadeeth):- Al-Bukhaaree, Muslim and after them Abu Daawood and An-Nasaa'ee."

Abu Alee, "I saw four Imaams of hadeeth in the countries I visited, the two in Neesaabooree, Muhammad Ibn Ishaq and Ibraaheem Ibn Abee Taalib, Abu Abdur-Rahmaan An-Nasaa'ee in Egypt and Abdaan in Al-Ahwaaz."

Abu Alee also said, "He was the Imaam of the Muslim." He also said, "He was the Imaam of Hadeeth without competition."

Abu Sa'eed Ibn Yoonus writes in his At-Taareekh, "Nasaa'ee, the Imaam of hadeeth, preserver of hadeeth, trustworthy (thiqah) and firm. He left Egypt in 302H and died in Falsateen in 303H." In the city of Ramalah.

Imaam Daarqutnee said, "Imaam An-Nasaa'ee was greater than all the notable scholars of hadeeth of his time."

Ibn Adiy said, "I heard both Mansoor Faqeehah and Ahmad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Salamah At-Tahaawee say, "Abu Abdur-Rahmaan An-Nasaa'ee was an Imaam of the Muslims from the Imaams."

Imaam Ibn Katheer said, "The Imaam of his time, he surpassed all the scholars and people of his time."

Ibn Taahir said, "I asked Sa'ad Ibn Alee Zinjaanee concerning a man and he authenticated and praised him. So I said, 'Imaam An-Nasaa'ee said he is weak.' He replied back, 'My son, the conditions of Imaam Abu Abdur-Rahmaan (An-Nasaa'ee) were more stricter than those of Imaam's Bukhaaree and Muslim.'"

His Works:

- 1.As-Sunan Al-Kubraa. This was the first work of Imaam An-Nasaa'ee in which he included mostly authentic ahaadeeth and some ahaadeeth with defects. The ruler of the time asked him if all the ahaadeeth in this book were authentic to which Imaam An-Nasaa'ee replied, no. The Ruler then asked him to extract the authentic ahaadeeth from it. After doing so he compiled another book. (See number 2)
- 2.Al-Mujtaba Min As-Sunan Al-Kubraa. Also known as As-Sunan As-Sughraa or As-Sunan Al-Mujtaba. It is this book that we know as Sunan An-Nasaa'ee.
- 3.Khasaa'is Alee.
- 4.Musnad Alee.
- 5.Musnad Maalik.
- 6.Fadhal As-Sahaabah.
- 7.Kitaab At-Tameez.
- 8.Kitaab Adh-Dhu'afaa Wal-Matrookeen.
- 9.Kitaab Al-Ikhwaat.
- 10.Musnad Mansoor Ibn Dharaan.
- 11.Mashaikh An-Nasaa'ee.
- 12.Maa Aghrab Shu'bah Ala Sufyaan Wa Sufyaan Ala Shu'bah.
- 13.Asmaa Ar-Rawaah.
- 14.Manaasik Al-Hajj.
- 15.Kitaab Al-Jarh Wa-Ta'deel.
- 16.Tasmiyyah Fuqaha Al-Amsaar Minas-Sahaabah Fiman Ba'duhum.
- 17.At-Tabaqaat.
- 18.Tasmiyyah Min Lam Yaru Anhu Ghair Rajul Waahid.

His Sunan:

Imaam Ibn Katheer said, "He authored his books with great memory, firmness in comprehension, truthfulness, honesty and knowledge."

Abu Alee Haafidh said, "Imaam An-Nasaa'ee set more conditions for his book than what Imaam Muslim had set for his book."

His Sunan has approximately 5761 Ahaadeeth according to the checking of Muhammad Ataullaah Bhojiyaanee.

Explanations of His Sunan:

1. Sharh Sunan An-Nasaa'ee by Allaamah Siraaj-ud-Deen Ibn Al-Mulqin.
2. Sharh Sunan An-Nasaa'ee by Allaamah Sindhee.
3. Zaahir Ar-Ribaa Alal-Mujtaba by Allaamah Jalaal-ud-Deen As-Suyootee.
4. Ta'leeqaat As-Salafiyyah Ala Sunan An-Nasaa'ee by Shaykh Al-Allaamah, Fadheelatul-Ustaadh Muhammad Ataullaah Haneef Bhojiyaanee.
5. Ta'leeqaat Ala Sunan An-Nasaa'ee by Allaamah Shams ul-Haqq A'dheemabaadee.
6. Ta'leeqaat Alas-Sunan An-Nasaa'ee, by Shaykh Abu Abdur-Rahmaan Muhammad Funjaabee.

His Death:

He participated in Jihaad with the Ameer of Egypt with bravery and according to the Sunnah he would offer ransom money to free the Muslim captives and such events about him were well known and open amongst the people. He would stay away from the gatherings of the ruler.

He lived a life of peace. At the end of his life he was killed by the Khawaarij in Dimaashq.

The scholars have differed as to his final burial place. Some have said he was taken to Ramalah in Falasteen and from there 18 miles away to Bait Al-Maqdas and buried there. Some of them have said he was buried in Makkah between Safaa and Marwah. Imaam Daarqutnee and Allaamah Mundhree have mentioned both possibilities and concluded he was buried in Ramalah.

He died in the month of Sha'baan of the year 303H.

Sources for this Biography are:

- Tadhkiratul-Huffaadh (no.719)
- Taqreeb At-Tahdheeb (no.47 pg.20)
- Seeratal-Bukhaaree (pgs. 368-370)
- Tabaqaat Al-Huffadh (no.694 pg. 306-307)
- Bidaayah Wan-Nihaayah (11/123)
- Tuhfa Ahlun-Nazar Fee Mastalah Ahlul-Khabar (pgs. 301-303)
- Usool Al-Hadeeth Uloomuhu Wa Mastalahu (pgs. 213-214)