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Obstacles in the Path of Knowledge: That A Person Seeking Knowledge For A Period Of Time Hastens The Fruits Of The Ilm And Is Now Ready To Give Fatwa And Ijtihaad.

An explanation of some points from "Obstacles in the Path of Knowledge" (of Shaikh Abdus-Salaam Burjis) by Abu Hakeem Bilaal Davies. Transcribed by Abu and Umm Mariam for SalafiPublications.Com, edited and amended by Abu Iyaad Amjad Rafiq, checked by Abu Talhah Dawud Burbank.

Introduction

All Praise is due to Allaah, we praise Him, seek His aid and His Forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allaah from the evils of our souls and the evils of our actions. Whomsoever Allaah guides there is none to misguide and whomsoever Allaah misguides there is none to guide. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allaah, alone, without any partners and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger.

Shaykh Burjis mentions that this is one of the afflictions in these particular times. From the corruption that comes from this is a person will speak about Allah without the correct knowledge. A person will have blind confidence in himself and a person breeds within himself the love to be raised.

Imam ibnul Madeenee (rahimahullah) mentioned:

"It was said to Sha'bee (one of the earlier scholars of hadeeth), 'Where have you obtained all of this Ilm from?' He replied, 'By not having any reliance upon anything (other than Allah) and by travelling through the lands and having patience like the patience of a jamaad (a firm structure that is lifeless eg. A building). And (setting out) early (begin work from the early part of the day) like the (setting out of the) crow."

Abu Hamza (rahimahullah) mentioned: "It was said to me by that great haafidh and imaam) Ya'qub ibnus-Sufyaan, 'I remained traveling for the Ilm for the period of thirty years.' (Mentioned by Imaam adh Dhahabee in Tadhkiratul Hufaadh' in the biography of the Taabi'ee Makhool)"

Yahyaa ibn Abi Kathir (mentioned): "One will not be able to gain Ilm by resting the body."

[Br. Bilal Davis brings an extract from a book by Sheikh Abu Anas - not brought by Shaykh Burgis.]

Ikrima (a student of Ibn Abbas - radiallahu anhuma) mentioned: "Ibn Abbas - radiallahu anhuma - used to put shackles on my feet whilst he taught me the Qur'aan and the fara'id (the) wajib (possibly intending the laws of inheritance) (Collected by Abu Nu'aiym in Hilyatul Auliyyaa 3/326)."

Imam Ash-Shafi'ee (rahimahullah) mentioned: "The people are in (categories) with regards to Ilm. And their position in regards to the Ilm is relevant to (the extent of) their level in it. It is upon the taalib ul-Ilm that he strives to the best of his ability to be plentiful in regards to his seeking of this Ilm and that he is patient with regards to anything that comes in the path of his study and tries to overcome it and preservers. And that he has sincerity in his niyaah in trying to obtain the Ilm from the text directly or by extrapolating from the text (by what is indicated from the text that which they indicate). And he has a desire with Allah, seeks from Allah the aid in that, for verily no-one will obtain any good except with aid from Him." (Collected by al-Khateeb al-Baghdaadi in 'al Faqeeh wal Mutafaqih 2/102)

Al-Khateeb al-Baghdaadee (rahimahullah) mentioned: "Allah has made Ilm the means for his Auliya and He has protected by way of it, those who He has selected from the chosen ones. Therefore it is a right upon the one who is described with Ilm (i.e. as being from its people), that they free themselves in order that they strive for the obtaining of Ilm." (al Faqeeh wal Mutafaqih 2/71)

Shaykh Burjis mentioned:

"A man said to another man: 'By way of what was it that you obtained this Ilm?' He said: 'I sought it and I found that it was distant (with regards to ones ability to obtain it) and one cannot hunt it with arrows and it is not something that a person can see in his dream and it is not something which is inherited from one's forefathers or from one's uncles. And I reached it by being sheltered in tents and by using rocks as a thing to recline upon and by becoming addicted to staying awake at nights and by making much analysis of books etc. And through reflection and by making journey after journey and by making dangerous excursions and I found that it is not fit except to be planted, and it is not planted except in the souls of individual's and it is not watered except by the way of the dars (lessons).

Have you seen the one who busies himself by collecting (the things of the dunya)? And he spends his nights making love. Will he leave from that being a faqeeh? No by Allah! Ilm is not gained except by one who seeks aid through notebooks and carries ink and journeys across desolate lands and continues seeking the Ilm day and night."

Benefits from this Lesson

1. The narrations above stress the importance of firm grounding in knowledge which is only obtained by great sacrifices, considerable time, patience, lots of striving, travelling, understanding, research etc. and that it is this which enables one to reach the status of giving fatwa and ijtihaad.