

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

This Book is a Gift for You

Benefits from the Biographies of Scholars

By Abū al-Ḥasan Mālik al-Akhḍar

SHAYKH MUḤAMMAD B. HADĪ AL-MADKHALĪ (حفظه الله) RELATES an inspirational story from the biography of the noble scholar of Islām, *Shaykh* Ḥafīz al-Ḥakamī (رحمة الله). The *Shaykh* states that he heard the story directly from *Shaykh* Muḥammad al-Ḥakamī (رحمة الله), the older brother and teacher of *Shaykh* Ḥafīz. The account begins with *Shaykh* Ḥafīz, his brother Muḥammad, and their *Shaykh* ‘Abd Allāh al-Qar‘āwī (رحمة الله), reviver of the call to *Tawḥīd* in the Southern Region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, setting out for *Ḥajj*. It was in this year that the book *Khalq Af‘āl al-‘Ibād* by *Imām* al-Bukhārī (رحمة الله) was first published in Egypt.

So they went to perform *Ḥajj* and visited *Shaykh* Muḥammad ‘Abd al-Razzāq Ḥamzah (رحمة الله), who was teaching at the *Ḥaram* in Makkah. During their visit, a parcel came by mail from Egypt. *Shaykh* Muḥammad ‘Abd al-Razzāq Ḥamzah opened the package, and it contained two or three copies¹ of *Khalq Af‘āl al-‘Ibād*. When he opened it and showed them its contents, Ḥafīz al-Ḥakamī gasped in astonishment.

Later that evening before leaving, *Shaykh* Ḥafīz asked to borrow a copy of the book for the night, and *Shaykh* Muḥammad ‘Abd al-Razzāq Ḥamzah obliged. They then went to the marketplace to buy *Shaykh* Ḥafīz a notebook and pen. Finally, settling down at the *Ḥaram* for the night, *Shaykh* Ḥafīz began to copy the text in his notebook longhand, as it could not be found in book shops. Meanwhile, his brother *Shaykh* Muḥammad al-Ḥakamī laid down on the gravelly ground of the *Ḥaram* to get some rest before prayer in the morning. He then relates that at the first *adhān* of *Fajr*, he heard *Shaykh* Ḥafīz supplicating: “May the Peace and Blessings of Allāh be upon Prophet Muḥammad,” after copying the entire book in those hours.

When *Shaykh* Muḥammad al-Ḥakamī got up, *Shaykh* Ḥafīz told him that he wanted to get some sleep until the *adhān* [for *Fajr*] was called. His older brother said: “You didn’t sleep?” He told him he had not. Resting until the *adhān*, he then prayed *Fajr* and supplicated for a time. After sunrise, they went to have breakfast with *Shaykh* Muḥammad ‘Abd al-Razzāq Ḥamzah. When they finished their meal, *Shaykh* Ḥafīz returned the book he had borrowed the night before. *Shaykh* Muḥammad ‘Abd al-Razzāq Ḥamzah said: “Mashallah, you read it?” *Shaykh* Ḥafīz answered: “Yes—and copied it.” At this, *Shaykh* ‘Abd Allāh al-Qar‘āwī quipped: “Rather, O *Shaykh*

¹ *Shaykh* Muḥammad b. Hādī (حفظه الله) said that he himself forgot the exact number.

Muḥammad, he has memorized it.” He then told him to question him from the book. With the text in hand, *Shaykh* Muḥammad ‘Abd al-Razzāq Ḥamzah began to quiz him. *Shaykh* Ḥāfiẓ, without anything in hand, answered each of the questions, quoting the Ḥadīth *and* its chain of narration. After testing him in a number of different issues from the work, and *Shaykh* Ḥāfiẓ answering each of them, *Shaykh* Muḥammad ‘Abd al-Razzāq Ḥamzah said: “This book is a gift for you.”²



² This is a summarized version of the story. To hear it in its entirety, refer to <http://www.albaidha.net/vb/showthread.php?t=58897>