

# MIFTAAH SEMINAR

## THE LEGEND SERIES



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### SESSION 3

#### Imam Maalik

- He was known as the great scholar of Madinah.
- He was born in 93 AH and he passed away in 179 AH.
- His name is Maalik bin Anas bin Maalik bin Abi Amir.
- His mother's name is Aalia bint Sharik.
- His father's name is Anas.
- Both of his parents were descendants of a Yemeni tribe which came to Madinah.
- His great grandfather, Abi Amir, was a companion of the Prophet SAW and he migrated to Madinah and participated in several battles.
- His grandfather, Maalik, learned from several companions including Aisha RA.
  - He was a tabi'i who lived during the time of Uthman RA.
  - He helped in the burial of Uthman RA.
    - When Uthman RA was killed by the rebels no one was allowed to have access to his body. One of the 4 people who carried his body from his home to Jennatul Baqee' was Maalik, the grandfather of Imam Maalik.

## His Journey to Knowledge

- Imam Maalik lived during a time where there were several great scholars so there was not a big demand for more big scholars.
- He memorized the Quran and learned from his grandfather during his youth.
  - It is said that he memorized the Quran by the age of 7 or 8.
- He was not known for his knowledge. He was known because of his brother named Nathar who was very knowledgeable.
  - People referred to Maalik as the brother of Nathar.
  - One day their father asked them an islamic question and Nathar answered it while Maalik remained silent. His father said to Maalik that it looks like he has been too occupied with playing with the pigeons and other children to study.
    - When Imam Maalik told this story, he said that this statement got him very angry.
    - This motivated him to begin his journey to knowledge.
- Ibn Hurmuz was one of his first teachers.
  - He stayed with him for 7 years.
- Imam Maalik wanted to be a poetry reciter, similar to a singer, before he began his journey to knowledge.
  - His mother would tell him that this may not be the best field for him.

- As his mother was sending him to his teacher, she would say to him: Go to Rabi'a and learn etiquettes before you learn knowledge.
  - She would dress him in his best clothes and wrap his head with an imamah.
    - This is how the scholars would dress at that time, so she wanted him to dress like them.
- Imam Maalik said: I learned etiquettes for 17 years.
- Rabi'atul Rai was his second teacher.
  - He was the son of Faarukh who was a tabi'i.
  - Faarukh went to Eastern Europe on behalf of the Muslims during the time of Omar RA or Uthman RA. He left his family for 20 years. Before he left he gave his wife some money and told her to use it wisely while he was gone. When he came back and knocked on the door of his home a young man opened the door. They began to argue because Faarukh claimed that it was his house. The wife came and told Faarukh that this young man was his son. Later on that day, he asked her how she spent the money that he left with her. She told him that she spent it in good and that he would see later on. When it was time for salah the son left right away and the wife asked her husband, Faarukh, if he was going to go to the masjid. He asked where the son was and she said that he already left.

- After salah, there were hundreds of people gathered around a person. Faarukh could not see who the person was so he asked someone and they said that it was Rabi'atul Rai (this was a nickname). Faarukh said that he did not know who that was and the man said that this was the Imam of Madinah. When the gathering concluded he got closer and saw that it was his son. When he went home his wife asked if he was pleased with how she spent the money because she used it to give their son an education.
- Another one of his teachers was Imam Nafi' who was the freed slave of Abdullah bin Omar RA.
- Abdullah bin Omar RA was one of the most knowledgeable companions and Nafi' was his student.
- Imam Malik narrated a lot of hadith from Nafi'.
  - These narrations had what was called "a golden chain". They were from Imam Malik who narrated from Nafi' who narrated from Abdullah bin Omar who narrated from the Prophet SAW.
  - These narrations are stronger than any other narration.
- Abu Hurairah RA narrated that the Prophet SAW said: People will take their rides and they will travel and they will not find a person more knowledgeable than the people of Madinah.
- Scholars, including Imam Al-Shafi'i, say that this hadith was referring to Imam Malik.

- Imam Maalik had over 100 teachers.
- Another one of his teachers was Ibn Shihaab Al-Zuhari.
  - On the day of eid Al-Zuhari led the prayer and then everyone went home to be with their families. Imam Maalik knew that since it was the day of eid no one would be asking Al-Zuhari any questions so he went and sat outside of his house. Al-Zuhari told his servant to see who was outside and she said it was his student with the reddish complexion (describing Imam Maalik). Al-Zuhari let him in and asked him if he went home. Imam Maalik said no. He asked him if he ate anything. Imam Maalik said no. Al-Zuhari offered him food but Imam Maalik said he was not hungry. Al-Zuhari asked him what he wanted and Imam Maalik said he wanted to learn hadith. Then he narrated 40 ahadith to him. Imam Maalik said he wanted more, Imam Al-Zuhari told him to memorize the 40 hadith first and then he would be considered from among the scholars. Imam Maalik said that he already knows these. Imam Al-Zuhari told him to recite them and Imam Maalik recited all 40 ahadith with their complete chain of narrations. Imam Al-Zuhari said to him “get up you are a vessel of knowledge”.
    - This shows Imam Maalik’s dedication to learning knowledge.
    - It also shows how amazing his memory was.

## Imam Maalik As a Teacher

- He taught hadith in the masjid of the Prophet SAW for over 50 years.
- Before he started teaching he said: It is not fitting for a person of knowledge to start a circle of knowledge until he has been given approval by 70 of his teachers. Only when they considered me worthy of it, now I sit here and if my 70 scholars did not think I was worthy to teach I would not sit here.
  - Imam Maalik did not put himself in a teaching position.
  - His teachers all encouraged him and told him that he was fit to be a teacher.
- When Imam Maalik would narrate a narration he would start crying.
  - He was narrating the words of the Prophet SAW as he sat next to his SAW grave in his SAW masjid in his SAW city of Madinah.
  - This brought a lot of emotions to his narrations.
- When Imam Maalik was on his deathbed one of his students came to visit him. The student said that he saw that Imam Maalik was crying so he asked him why he was crying. Imam Maalik replied “why shouldn’t I cry? Who else is more worthy of crying than me? I wish that in place of every verdict I gave I was lashed with a whip just in case I was wrong. I wish I never gave these opinions.”

- He was known to be very careful and afraid when he narrated anything.
- People would say that they would be sitting and speaking with them and as soon as he was asked about a narration he would become pale.
- Before he came to teach, he would wear his best clothing and spray himself with perfume.
- He was known to practice and accept the practices of the people of Madinah.
- He would use narrations and if there was a clash between narrations, he would look at the practice of the people of Madinah.
  - This is because there were companions who lived and died in Madinah who influenced and taught the people of Madinah.
- Someone came from Morocco and asked him a question and Imam Maalik said: "I don't know." The man was disappointed that he came all the way from Morocco and he was told that Imam Maalik was the most knowledgeable scholar. The next day the man came to him again and asked him if he had an answer and Imam Maalik still said he did not have one and he told him to tell the people of Morocco that he did not know.
  - This is just one example of the humility of Imam Maalik.

- Imam Maalik said: I came across a ruling and for 20 years I thought about it and I still do not know the answer and I would be too afraid to give an answer.
  - He would think very deeply before he narrated anything.

### The Late Life of Imam Maalik

- He lived during the end of the Umayyad Khilafa and the beginning of the Abbasid Khilafa.
- He never gave support to any of the groups because they were corrupt.
  - He stayed silent and just spread knowledge to the people.
- Ja'far bin Sulaiman was the governor of Madinah and he forced everyone to pledge to him.
  - Someone told Imam Maalik that they did not want to pledge to him but they were being forced to. Imam Maalik told them that based on the verdict of divorce, a forced divorce is not valid, so similar to this a forced pledge will not be valid and one is not held accountable for it.
  - When he said this, the governor took him and started lashing and beating him. This caused one of his arms to be dislocated.
  - Every time Imam Maalik was hit he would say, "Oh Allah forgive my people for they do not know."



- At the end of his life he would not leave his house, so people would come to his house to learn.
  - He would ask the people if they wanted to learn fiqh or hadith.
    - When they would say they wanted to learn fiqh he would tell them to ask their questions and he would answer.
    - When they said that they wanted to learn hadith, he would go into his house, put on new clothes, take a shower, pray two rakah, spray perfume, and burn bakhoor, then he would begin to teach them.
- He had a great respect for the words and the city of the Prophet SAW.
  - He never rode an animal in the city of Madinah.
    - He would say: How can I ride an animal in the same streets where the Prophet SAW walked.
  - He also never used the bathroom in the city of Madinah.
    - The original city was small and he would leave the city when he needed to use the bathroom.
  - He would never stretch his feet out around the masjid of the Prophet SAW.
- His wish was to be buried in Madinah.
  - He was buried in Jannatul Baaqee'.
- He was the teacher of Imam Shafi and Muhammed Al-Shaybani, who was the student of Abu Hanifa.

- Scholars say that there was no consensus upon any individual after the death of Omar RA until Imam Malik's time.
- He was very wealthy and he was also very generous.
  - Any time he wore a new garment he would donate it to one of his students afterwards.

