

## Lesson 27

## Summary Notes

# Scholars & Knowledge

"We follow the Sunnah and the Jamā'ah, and we avoid irregularities, disagreement and disunion." [73]

"We say, 'Allāh knows best,' in that whose knowledge is obscure to us." [75]

"The scholars of the salaf of the former generations, and those after them of the successors, the people of good and reports, and the people of jurisprudence and analysis, should be mentioned only with courtesy, and whoever speaks badly of them is upon other than the [right] path." [97]

"We view the Jamā'ah as truth and rectitude, and disunion as deviation and punishment." [102]

### Importance of scholars ('ulamā)

"Do not follow that of which you have no knowledge. Indeed, the hearing, sight and heart will all be asked about." Qur'ān [17:36]

"Ask the experts in knowledge if you [yourselves] do not know." Qur'ān [21:7]

"Allāh will not lift away this knowledge by suddenly withdrawing it from of people's hearts, but He will lift it away by taking away the scholars, until, when no scholar remains. People will take ignorant leaders, who will be asked, and will pronounce verdicts without knowledge, thus going astray and leading others astray." [Bukhārī, Muslim]

### Two Categories of People

- **Mujtahid** : capable of extracting rulings directly from the sources.
  - **Mujtahid Mutlaq** (Absolute mujtahid).
  - **Mujtahid Muntasib**. (Ascribed mujtahid).
  - **Mujtahid fil-Madhab** (Mujtahid within a Madhab)
  - **Aṣḥāb al-Tarjih**. (People of Grading/Selection).
  - Mujtahid in a particular field.

- **Non-mujtahid** : incapable of this; must follow the results extracted by mujtahids.

### Sources of Rulings

- **Primary sources** :  
1- Qur'ān 2- Sunnah
- **Secondary sources**  
3- Ijmā' (Consensus) 4- Qiyās (Analogy)
- others

### The 4 Madhāhib

- Imām A'zam **Abū Ḥanīfah** an-Nu'mān ibn Thābit al-Kūfī, (80-150 A.H.)
- Imām Abū 'Abdillāh **Mālik** ibn Anas (93-179 A.H.)
- Imām Abū 'Abdillāh Muḥammad ibn Idrīs ash-**Shafī'ī** (150-204 A.H.)
- Imām Abū 'Abdillāh **Aḥmad** ibn Muḥammad **ibn Ḥanbal** ash-Shaybānī (164-241 A.H.)

There were **many other mujtahids**, but their schools have **not survived**.

A mujtahid **must extract rulings for himself**, and may not follow someone else.

A lay-person **must follow either a madhhab or a live mujtahid**, without fanaticism.

'**Mixing**' of Madhāhib can be done only with extreme caution, under the guidance of scholars.

### Unity

For the sake of unity, we do not insist on personal opinions or a particular view in an area of scholarly disagreement. But, we do not compromise on the fundamentals.