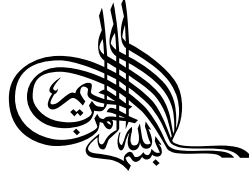




الإمام محمد نجيب سراج الدين الحسيني رحمته الله

[1274-1355/1857-1954]



Shaykh Muhammad Najīb Sirājuddīn

By *Shaykh Shoayb Ahmad*

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He was Muhammad Najīb Ibn al-Hāj Muhammad Ibn al-Hāj Yūsuf Sirājuddīn, an erudite scholar of *hadith*, *tafsīr*, *fiqh*, *usūl* and *ʿilm al-kalām*.

The great Imām was born in 1857 (1274H), after his father had received glad tidings in a dream of his son's birth. His father had seen Shaykh Ahmad al-Tirmanīnī who made him wear his turban. Shaykh Muhammad's father related his dream to Shaykh Ahmad who told him that a son would be born to him who will eventually wear the turban. After Shaykh Muhammad Najīb's birth, his father took him to Shaykh Ahmad who made *du'a* for the child.

Because of his fathers' immense love for pious scholars, and particularly Shaykh Ahmad, he directed his son towards acquiring knowledge of Islām. With Shaykh Ahmad's advice and guidance, Shaykh Muhammad Najīb studied at all levels including studying at the famous Sha`bāniyya school (the al-Azhar of Aleppo).

In addition to Shaykh Ahmad, Shaykh Muhammad Najīb studied under numerous other illustrious scholars including, for example:

- Shaykh Muhammad ibn Uthmān al-Zarqā, with whom he read *al-dur al-mukhtār*.
- Shaykh Bashīr al-Ghāzi, with whom he studied the Arabic language, and logic including *al-shamsiyya*.
- The renowned Muhaddith of Aleppo, Shaykh Muhammad Kāmil ibn Ahmad al-Hanbalī who granted him *ijāzah*.
- Shaykh Bakrī ibn Ahmad.
- He received *ijāzah* from the great Shaykh Badruddīn al-Hasanī when he visited Aleppo. On this visit, Shaykh `Alī al-Daqr accompanied Shaykh Badruddīn. Shaykh Muhammad Najīb and Shaykh Badruddīn both had great respect for one another and corresponded regularly.
- Shaykh `Abdul Hay also granted him *ijāzah*.

Shaykh Muhammad Najīb memorized the text of *awdat al-masālik* by Ibn Hishām (Arabic grammar) and the text of *al-talkhīs* in rhetoric and he studied the various commentaries. He also studied *al-mawāqif* by al-Jurjānī and *al-maqāsīd* by al-Baydāwī. Shaykh Muhammad was an expert of *ilm al-kalām*, *hadīth* and *tafsīr*. His personal library contained books of *tafsīr* that were rarely found in other libraries. He read and studied the six famous books of Hadīth and many others. After having studied the Islamic sciences under the *ulemā* for some time, Shaykh Muhammad was asked to teach at the Ismaʿīlī and Shaʿbāniyya schools. He would often commence his lessons by mentioning his *sanad* to Imām Bukhārī. The Shaykh's lessons covered many intricate details of *tanhīd* and *sīrah*. He also had an extensive memory of Hadīth and was able to identify within an instant the chapters wherein a Hadīth could be found in different books. He concentrated on the *musnad* of Imam Ahmad.

A typical week of Shaykh Muhammad would be conducted in the following manner:

- **Saturday:** Reading of *sabīh al-bukhārī* [without commentary]. Shaykh Muhammad would read about 30 pages and his son, Shaykh ʿAbdullāh, would be found in attendance.
- **Sunday morning:** Shaykh Muhammad would read *tafsīr*. He carried with him the *tafsīr* of al-Khatīb al-Shirbīnī although he did not restrict and limit himself to this book.
- **Monday after Dhuh:** The Shaykh would discuss issues in *ʿaqīdah*.
- **Tuesday after ʿAsr:** General advice and *akhlāq*
- **Wednesday morning:** *mishkāt al-masābīh* with extensive commentary.
- **Thursday morning:** Shaykh Muhammad would read *al-tarīqat al-muhammadiyya* with lengthy explanation.
- **Friday:** He was the lecturer and Imām at the Jāmiʿ Sulaymān after which he went to Jāmiʿ al-Hamāwī where he taught *fiqh* from *al-dur al-mukhtār*. After ʿAsr, in Jāmiʿ Banqūsa, he would conduct lessons in *ʿaqīdah* wherein he provided proof from the Qurʾān and Sunnah.

Shaykh Muhammad Najīb loved reading the Qurʾān and constantly offered abundant salutations and blessings on the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He adhered to the Sunnah and was a man of immense piety and *ḥubd*.

The great Imām passed away in 1954 (1373H). One of his most illustrious students was his own son, Shaykh ʿAbdullāh Sirājuddīn¹ who memorized about 100,000 Hadīth and himself passed away in 2002 (1422H). May Allāh grant them both *al-firdous*. Amīn.



¹ <http://www.marifah.net/articles/sirajuddin-hamoud.pdf>