The Biography of Great Muhaddith

Sheikh Muhammad Nāsiruddin Al-Albānī
(May Allah's Mercy be upon him)

By
Abu Nāsir Ibrahim Abdul Rauf
& Abu Maryam Muslim Ameen

Verified by
Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Al-Ameen Al-Haleel
Abu Abdil Musawwir
(A Student of Sheikh Al-Albani)

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Of a very important essence is the preservation and propagation of the history of the scholars of Islam as this in itself is cardinal to the preservation of the history of Islam. So also it is of immense importance to recognize the nobility of scholars. The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said,

"He is not of us one who does not respect our elders,
nor is he merciful to our young ones nor does he regard the rights of our Aalim (scholar)[1].

This book represents a brief narration of the life of one of the foremost scholars of Islam in the recent past, the Great Muhaddith, Ash-Sheikh, Al-‘Allaamah Abu Abdir-Rahmân Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni (May Allah’s Mercy be upon him)

The book tells the tale of a Muslim child born towards the end of the Muslim (Ottoman Empire) in Eastern Europe. A child who was destined to become an inspiration for the entire Ummah be they scholars or otherwise. The story of a modest beginning, the education and character building of this noble son of Islam, the striving and perseverance in the pursuit of knowledge, his service in the preservation of the religion and what was to become of the position of that personality in the Muslim world. Finally, a discussion of the legacy of knowledge, student, books and guidance (in the form of wills), which he bequeathed to the Ummah.

O Lord of the Seven Heavens, the Earth and what they contain, bless and forgive our Shaykh and do not leave us without a befitting successor. Âmeen.

[1] Ahmad, Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi and others. Saheeh, see Saheeh Al-Jâmi’ no 5444.
All praise is for Allâh, we praise Him, seek His aid and ask for His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allâh from the evils of ourselves and the evil of our actions. He whom Allâh guides then there is none who can misguide him, and he whom Allâh misguides then there is none who can guide him. We bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped (in truth) except Allâh alone, having no partners and we bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

To proceed,
Verily, Allâh the Exalted and Magnificent selected from amongst His creatures those He loves and guides them to faith, thereafter He chooses from the generality of believers those that He loves and favors them. He teaches them the book (the Qur'ân) and Wisdom (Sunnah) and gives them firm comprehension of the religion.

He teaches them interpretation and honors them above all believers. Their lives are booty and their death a calamity. Abdullah ibn 'Amr ibn 'Aas narrates that the Prophet said,

«إن الله لا يَقْبَضُ الْعِلْمَ إِنَّفَضًا يَتَرْعَعُهُ مِنَ الْعَبَاء، وَلَكِنْ يَقْبَضُ الْعِلْمَ يَقْبَضُ الْعُلَّمَاءَ حَتَّى إِذَا لَمْ يَبْقِ عَالِمَ اتَّخَذَ النَّاسُ رَؤُوسًا جُهَالًا، فَسُلِّطُوا فَأَفْتُوا بِغَيْرِ عُلَمٍ فَقَضَلُوا وأَضْلُوا»

"Verily, Allâh will not take away knowledge by taking it away from (the minds of) the Servants. Rather, Knowledge shall be taken away by the taking away (death) of the Scholars until no scholar shall remain. People would take ignorant people as leaders asking them religious verdicts, they would answer without knowledge (they would rather answer based on their desires) they will mislead people and will be misled"[1]

Allâh blessed this Ummah in this generation with Ash-Sheikh, Al-'Allâmah Abu Abdur Rahmân Muhammad Násiruddîn Al-Albâni. For more than half of a whole century he was involved in active learning and teaching of the Religion, with great

[1] Reported by Bukhâri (100) and Muslim. What is in the second bracket is from the narration of Bukhâri.
efforts towards purifying it with clear evidence from the distortions of the people of innovations and propagating it such that aspects of it that had been literally forgotten due to years of confusion and complete abandonment are remembered and practiced with full sincerity.

His call was to the book of Allâh — The Qur’ân and the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ according to the understanding of the pious predecessors — the call of the Salaf Salîh, as commanded by Allâh and His Messenger. This call was made by Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni for about 70 years through magazines, radio programs, phone calls from across the world, teaching in mosques, schools and in universities in different parts of the world at different times and through his books which number over 200 in titles with some of them being up to 40 volumes read in all parts of the world. Some of them have been translated into so many different languages of the world.

However since his demise, in 1420 AH (1999), people who sought to know what family backgrounds Sheikh Al-Albâni had, his education, his interest in the Science of Hadîth and other things concerning his life could only do that through summarized usually single-paged internet downloads. This would not satisfy the curiosity of the minds that marveled at the dexterity of the Sheikh.

The few Arabic texts — about two or three — that could be found around, were in few hands and since not all those who had access to Ash-Sheikh either through his translated works or through discussions of teachers and preachers who referred to his works or through any other means could have access to the
Arabic texts, the necessity to compile one in English Language increased.

Also, due to the unavailability of readily accessible material(s) on the biography of the Sheikh, different people say different things about Ash-Sheikh some of which are correct, some wrong, and some others needing clarifications. Some people raised certain opinions about Ash-Sheikh such as that... 'Was Al-Albâni a Muhaddith or a faqeeh?’ ‘Was he a scholar or a caller?’ and such others. Clearly enough, some of these issues are propagated by certain individuals so as to assist them in the perpetration of ideas and positions they hold that Al-Albâni criticized strongly.

Being convinced about the need to write this book, we planned it to be in two stages. Firstly, we would initially, for our references, rely on the works of Sameer Ameen Az-Zuhairi (a student of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni) titled Muhaddith-ul-‘Asr, Muhammad Nâsiruddîn Al-Albâni and that of Ibrahim Muhammad Al ‘Aliyy titled Muhammad Nâsiruddîn Al-Albâni, Muhaddith ul ‘Asri wa Nâsirus Sunnah, some incidents concerning his life which the Sheikh himself mentioned in some of his books and some of his cassettes which numbered over 200 with us at the time.

Secondly, to follow up this, we would meet one or two of the people of learning who had links with Ash-Sheikh either directly or through his students so that we would verify and possibly add to whatever we would have gathered.

At the completion of the first stage, one of us traveled on several occasions to get in touch with Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Al-Ameen Al-Haleel Abu Abdul
Musawwir (Hafizullah), a graduate of Qur’an from the Imam Saud University in Riyadh, a direct student of Ash-Sheikh Abdul Azeez bin Abdullah bin Baaz, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad bin Salih Al-Uthaimen, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad bin Salih Al-Laydân (the current Chief Justice of Saudi Arabia), Dr. Rabiee bin Hadee Al-Madkhalee and later, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni for about 10 years.

With him, we had the opportunity and access to more books written by some of the students of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni who were with him at different periods about different aspects of his life. Some of them being compilations of articles published in different Islamic journals and magazines about Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni\(^1\). Ash-Sheikh Al-Ameen Al-Haleel assisted in the verification of the material — making corrections, adjustments, inclusions and referencing of the reports. He also mentioned some incidents concerning Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni, which were not mentioned in the books.

For example, Ash-Sheikh Al-Ameen provided us firsthand narrations of what the immediate family of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni looks like, particularly his children one of whom, by Allâh’s Mercy, a female, is getting to become what her father was — a scholar in every sense of the word. We have not found this very important aspect of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni’s life in any

\(^1\) An example is the book *Maqaalaatu Al-Albâni* compiled by Nurudeen Taalib, which contains articles written by more than 12 of the direct students of Sheik Al-Albâni such as Ash-Sheikh Zuhair Shaaweesh, Dr. Muhammad bin Latfee As-Sibaag, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad ‘Eed ‘Abbaasiyy amongst others.
of the books on the biography of the Sheikh.

In one of the visits to Ash-Sheikh Al-Ameen, he provided us with one of the most elaborate and most reliable works on the life history of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni, titled "Hayaatu Al-Albâni wa Aathaaruhi wa Thanaau Ulamaa alaehi" by Muhammad Ibrahim Ash-Shaybâniyy. This book was compiled by the author, himself a student of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni, in the lifetime of Ash-Sheikh and according to him, he read the book to Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni in several sittings over a period of 2 years before the first edition was actually published in 1407 AH (1987 CE) about 13 years before the demise of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni — (May Allah's Mercy be upon him). The book is compiled in two volumes of about 950 pages.

It is necessary to mention that what we have presented is more of a reduced compilation of what we got talking about reference materials after we met Ash-Sheikh Al-Ameen Al-Haleel. This is more so bearing in mind the fact that Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni had lived a very active life for over 70 years with each part of it worthy of mentioning.

Nevertheless, we tried to make sure to a large extent that what we present is representative of a life filled with search for knowledge and the teaching of it, the reawakening of the Sunnah and the defence of it, an exemplary life of complete servitude to Allâh in humility and devotion lived by Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni.

While we do not in anyway claim infallibility, we pray Allâh forgive us our mistakes, accept this work as an act of Ibaadah and make it beneficial to us
"The Day where upon neither wealth nor sons will avail. Except him who brings to Allâh a clean heart (free from Shirk and Nifaaq)." (Ash-Shu’ara 26: 88-89)

Wa sallallaahu ‘alaa Nabiyyinaa Muhammad wa aalihi wa Sahbihi wa sallam

Abu Nâsir Ibrahim Abdur-Rauf
& Abu Maryam Muslim Ameen

Safar 1427 H
Background and Endowments

His name:

He is Ash-Sheikh, Al Muhaddith\(^1\) Muhammad Nâsiruddin bin Nooh Najaati bin Aadam. His Kunyah\(^2\) is Abu Abdir-Rahmân after his eldest son and he was called Al Arnaootiyy\(^3\), Al

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\(^1\) *Usoolu ul Hadith* pg 295 by Muhammad 'Ajaaj Al Khateeb

\(^2\) The practice of putting the prefix of Abu (father) or Umm (mother) before a name to show respect and esteem for him. Bearing Kunyah was the practice of the Prophet (ﷺ), his Companions and our pious predecessors.

\(^3\) After the name of their people - the people of Arnaoot. This was the name given to those who were emigrants of Syria at the time.
His birth:

He was born in the year 1332AH (1914CE) in the Town of Ashkodera, which was the Capital City of Albania at the time. He lived in the town for about 9 years in a poor family.

A significant event:

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni’s father was one of the scholars of his town and a jurist of the Hanafi Madhhab. Having graduated from the Institute of Shari’ah in Istanbul, Turkey he returned home to be the Mufti of Albania, teach his people the tenets of their faith and propagate the religion of Islam. He soon became a scholar of repute to whom people flocked for knowledge.

Soon the leadership of Albania was entrusted to Ahmad Zugu who began to imitate the ways of his Eastern European neighbors (who are non-Muslims)

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[3] After his Country of origin, Albania in Europe. These names denote relationship with a place (usually the place of birth or residence) or a vocation. There are countless numbers of our pious predecessors who are known only by their Nisba (pl. ansaab) such as Imâm Bukhâri whose name is Muhammad bn Ismail from the town of Bukhaara in Khuraasan, present day Uzbekistan.
[4] One of his students was the renowned Scholar of Hadîth, Ash-Sheikh Shu’aib Al Arnaoot hafizahullaah. Ash-Sheikh Shu’aib has a Verification and Commentary of Musnad Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal in 50 Volumes.
and started to follow in the footsteps of Turkish leader, Kemal Ataturk. He prohibited women from using the Hijâb (face veil) and mandated people to wear foreign styled attire. He even mandated that the Adhân (call to prayer) be changed from Arabic to the Albanian language!!

It was on this note that some families felt it necessary to migrate from Albania for the fear of losing their religion and the contamination of their children’s religion.

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni’s father was one of those parents. He decided to emigrate to Shaam due to its nobility as mentioned in the Ahadeeth of the Prophet ﷺ [1]. Thus, he boarded with his family a ship to Beirut

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[1] Shaam. The ancient historic region of the world which witnessed the Prophethood and Messengership of many Prophets and Messengers of Allâh Salawatullaahi wasalaamu hu ‘Alaihim. It consist of cities such as Halab, Hums, Damascus, Tarblus, Soor, Palestine, Asqalaan amongst others. (Mu’jam ul Buldaan Vol 3 pg 313 to 315 by Yaaqoot bin Abdullah Al Hamawiyy). The area is often described as the cradle of civilizations, since many of the greatest human achievements that later spread to encompass the world had their beginnings in ancient Shaam.

About 10,000 Companions of the Prophet ﷺ entered Shaam and a good number of them were buried there. It has therefore, been a major learning center throughout the history of Islam such that there was hardly any renowned scholar of Islam that did not learn or teach in the region. Today, the area includes Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Israel.

Abdullah bin ‘Umar said “One day, the Prophet ﷺ said to us ‘So, when the fitnah (trials and tribulations) appears, verily Al Imaan (faith) shall be in Shaam.’ (Takhreej Ahaadeeth Fadaail Shaam wa Dimashq, Abul Hassan ‘Ali bin Muhammad Ar-Rabi’i by Muhammad Naasiruddeen Al-Albâni pg 31)
and from there to Damascus.

This event (Hijrah) was later to be one of the two events that made Ash-Sheikh excel as it protected his religion, gave him the opportunity to learn from a number of eminent scholars who were many in Damascus as compared to Albania and also gave him the opportunity to benefit from the books of the Zahiriyyah Library,[1] one of the largest and richest libraries of the Muslim World.

His looks:

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni has no physical blemish, being fair in complexion with redness and being a quaint with very broad shoulders. Possessive blue eyes, a huge frame, white tender beard, which he never left to exceed a fist length. Some times he would dye with henna and whenever he did so, he was extremely handsome.

He would frequently wear a short jallaabiyah (free flowing garment) and would usually wear a cap or a white-collar skullcap. Once in a while he would wear a

[1] The history of the building, which dates from the late 5th-6th century after Hijrah, is as interesting as the holdings of the library itself. One of the largest and best preserved of the Damascene madrasas, Az-Zahiriyyah was named after Sultan Az-Zâhir Baybars, the first of the Mamluk Sultans.

Many Important Muslim scholars who studied and lived in Damascus such as Ash-Sheikh Al-Islam Ibn Taimiyyah, Ibn Katheer, Imam An-Nawawi, Hâfidh Ibn Salah, Hâfidh Al-Mizzi, Shamsudeen Adh-Dhahabi and many others had there library of books donated to the library. Thus, it is considered as exclusively the richest library of Hadith manuscripts in the world.
gatrah (sheet of clothing made to hang loosely over the head and shoulder) and whenever he did, he would use a white one and not a red one. Ash-Sheikh had a pair of spectacles for reading which he would wear most of the time when reading but not always.

He was a very vibrant person such that when he walked those with him would be exhausted due to his long slides. Sameer bin Ameen Az-Zuhairi said...

“I have seen him several times while ascending the stairs of the Salâhuuddin Mosque[^1] and those of us with him could hardly keep pace with him”[^2]

“He looks awesome and magnificent such that I cannot remember ever having seen anyone as awesome and magnificent as he is”[^3]

**His intellectual acumen:**

Sameer bin Ameen Az-Zuhairi writes:

“As for his intellect, he was brilliant such that one would be amazed of his brilliance and memory. Ash-Sheikh would be teaching a class and then break for prayer or food and when he finished, and returned to his seat, he would start off again with the exact word he had paused on as though he never stood up.”[^4]

[^1]: This mosque is the center of the Salafiyyah Da’wah in Amman, Jordan. The Imâm of the mosque is Ash-Sheikh Muhammad bin Ibrahim Shaqrah hafizahullaah, one of the closest students to Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni.

[^2]: Muhaddith ul-‘Asr, Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni, pg 10 by Sameer bin Ameen Az-Zuhairi

[^3]: Muhaddith-ul ‘Asr  pg 11

[^4]: Ibid
Despite the severity of his illness, the brilliance of the intellect never faded or dwindled.

His son Abu Ubâdah Abdul Lateef narrated that his father ordered him to bring his book *Saheeh Sunan Abu Dawud* so that he might look at something that came up his mind at that time. This incident happened only two days before his death.

Also, according to Sameer bin Ameen Az-Zuhairi[^1^], shortly before his death during his terminal illness, he (Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni) was taken to the hospital and underwent surgery. As he became conscious from the effect of the anesthesia, and saw us around him, he said... “What has afflicted you through me?” One of us said:

«الأَرْوَاحُ جَنُودٌ مَّجَّنَّةٌ»

"Souls are like Soldiers Conscripted together"

and Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni said:

«تَعْمَّي، الأَرْوَاحُ جَنُودٌ مَّجَّنَّةٌ فَمَا تَعَاوَرَ فَمَا اتَّلَفَ وَمَا تَناَكَرَ»

“Yes...‘Souls are like soldiers conscripted together familiar ones are concordant (harmonious) while strange ones are discordant.’”

*Hadith* suspended (i.e. *Mu’allaq*, narrated without it’s full chain) by Al Bukhåri from ‘A’ishah and linked (i.e. *Musnad* narrated with it’s full chain) by Muslim from Abu Hurairah”[^2^]

[^1^]: Who was physically present at the incident

[^2^]: *Ibid*
The brilliance of Ash-Sheikh’s intellectual acumen is obvious to anyone who is familiar with his books.

**His occupation:**

As a growing young boy Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni learnt carpentry\(^1\) and later the art of horology (watch repairing). This was what the Sheikh did for living and he retained his store until his death.

He (Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni) remarked:

“One of the blessings of Allah upon me was that He guided me at very early age in life to learn the art of horology. I say it’s a blessing because it makes one independent; it does not conflict with my efforts in the study of the Sunnah (by engaging my time). Every day with the exception of Tuesdays and Fridays, I only spend Three hours working and this enabled me to provide my family’s bare necessities, noting that one of the Prophet’s prayers is that

»اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ رَزْقَتَيْنِي مُحْمَّدًا قُونًا«

"O Allah! Make the provision of the family of Muhammad barely Sufficient"\(^2\)

At his return to Damascus from Al-Madinah after his stay as a Lecturer and the Founder of the Hadith Faculty in the University of Al-Madinah, he handed over the supervision of the store to his brother—Muneer, and later to his son Abdul Lateef after the demise of his brother.

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\(^1\) *Thabtu Muallifaat Al-Albâni* pg 12 by Abdullah bin Muhammad Ash-Shamr’aaaniyy.

\(^2\) *Hayaatu Al-Albâni wa Aathaaruhu wa Thanaau Ulamaai alaehe* Vol 1 pg 48 by Muhammad Ibrahim Ash-Shaybaaniyy.
His Education and Teachers

At the time Ash-Sheikh’s father migrated to Damascus, Ash-Sheikh had just turned 9 years old. His father put him in a madrassah called Jam’iyyatul Is’âful Khayri. There he began his elementary education. He was later taken to a madrassah near the Saaroojiah market where he completed his elementary education. Thereafter his father removed him from the madrassah because he realized that such formal schools do not benefit a child more than to teach him how to read and write.

Thus, he set up a tutelage syllabus to thoroughly
educate Ash-Sheikh in the Qur’an, *tajweed* (Science of recitation), *sarf* (morphology of Grammar), and Hanafiyyah *fiqh* (jurisprudence) since his father wanted him to become a Hanafi scholar.

Through this, Ash-Sheikh learnt from his father, the Qur’an until he completed the Qur’an learning, the recitation of *Hafs ‘an ‘Aasim*.

He also studied some books of Arabic Grammatical Morphology and books of Hanafi *fiqh*. Amongst the books of *fiqh* Ash-Sheikh learnt from his father is *Mukhtasar Al-Quduuri*.

Among his other teachers were Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Saeed Al-Burhani, who taught him the book *Maraaqil Falaah* (a Hanafi Fiqh book) and *Shudhuuru Dhihb* (a book of Arabic Grammar) and some other modern-day books of *Balaagha* (Arabic Rhetoric)[1]. Al-Burhani was his father’s friend also. He also studied from other friends of his father who were scholars.

Also, Ash-Sheikh used to attend along with other scholars, the classes of eminent scholar of Islam Al Allâmah Bahjatu Al Baytâr in Damascus.

**His study of Hadîth:**

Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddîn Al-Albâni

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[1] Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni was blessed with the knowledge of the Arabic Language so much that whenever the students were asked questions and they could not give answers, the teacher would say “Let me call Nâsir, the non-Arab to teach you (Arabs) Arabic.” (*Ahdaathu Matheeratu fii Hayaati Al ‘Allamah Al-Albâni*- 2 Audio Cassettes by Ash-Sheikh Salih Al Munajjid)
became a fervent reader so much that he used to say...'In the early days of my life I was used to reading all sorts of materials, what people commonly read and that which they did not read (commonly)'[1]

However his passion for *Hadîth* and the *salafi* path[2] was induced by the noble Imâm, Rasheed Rida — via his critical and scholastic analysis of the *Hadîth* on the book of Imâm Ghazali titled *Ihya al Ulomud Deen* that used to be published in *Al Manaar* magazine.[3] This analysis as Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni himself narrated interested him and impelled him to critically study all the *Ahadîth* in *Ihya al Ulomud Deen*.

It was in this Magazine that he came across reference being made to the book titled *Al Mugni 'an haml il-Asfaari fil Asfaari fii Takhreeji maa fil Ihyaa minal Akhbaar* by Hâfidh Zayyinuddeen Al ‘Iraaqee which was on the verification and authentication of the *Ahadîth* in *Ihya*. Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni, poor at the time, could not afford the book. In fact, he could not even afford the papers with which he could write. He would go down the streets picking invitation cards so that he


[2] This is the path established by Allâh ﷺ for His servants that they should follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the Companions ﷺ and those who are with them from their followers and their successive followers in ‘Aqeedah (belief), ‘Ibaadah (worship), Akhlaaq (character), Manhaj (methodology), etc.

[3] The Magazine was known for clear explanation of the true position of the Qur’ân and Sunnah on issues, it’s dependence on authentic narrations in doing so, and its vehemence against the people of innovation and the use of weak, baseless narrations.
wrote on the available spaces he found on them.

So, he resorted to renting from the owners of the library. After a thorough study of it, he transcribed the book adding notes to it from *Gareeb il Hadîth* of Ibn Atheer and other Arabic dictionaries. This work, in three volumes with over 2000 pages, was to become one of the first works Ash-Sheikh did on *Hadîth* at age 17.

It has also been mentioned that the book *Ar Raodun Nadeer fii Tarteeb wat Takhreej Mu’jamu Tabraani As Sageer* wherein Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni verified and arranged the *Ahadîth* in the *Mu’jam u as Sageer* of Imâm Sulaiman bin Ahmad At-Tabarani, was also written around the same time.[1]

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni soon became known amongst the people as a brilliant young man regularly busy with the search for the knowledge of the Sunnah and firm with the practice of it. So people would resort to him asking him questions concerning matters of religion to which he responded.[2]

At this time most people engaged in mystic practices including the performance of prayer in graveyards, building mosque upon graves and seeking help and

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[1] *Mu’jam u As Sageer* of Imâm Tabaraani is in 2 volumes. Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni also later wrote a book on those from whom Imâm Tabrani narrated the *Ahadîth* in his *Mu’jamul As-Sagheer* in details and the number of *Ahadîth* he (Imâm Tabarani) narrated from each of them. This book by Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni is still in manuscript form. See *Thabtu Muallifaat Al-Albâni* pg 26.

blessings from the dead. Unfortunately only a few of the people of learning would speak the truth against these practices since many would prefer to maintain their status in the community rather than speak against such practices. Hence, a large section of people were only ignorantly enmeshed in them.

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni then wrote a treatise against this practice, explaining the position of the Shari'ah on prayer performed in graveyards, the mosque built upon graves and the evil of seeking aid from the dead.\(^1\)

When his father saw the book, despite several efforts by Ash-Sheikh to explain that true knowledge is based on the statements of Allâh and His Messenger and not on opinions of Schools of Thoughts and popular practice, he gave him an alternative of either sticking firmly to the Hanafi Madhhab as a muqallid (blind follower) or leave the home.\(^2\)

However, recognizing the vast knowledge Allâh has bestowed on his son and his zeal to abide by the pristine teachings of Islam, based on clear knowledge, his father soon recalled him back home. Now, he loved and respected him more. He would ask him questions concerning the authenticity of certain narrations and the explanation of some others.

Then Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni used to attend discussions on Hadîth with some scholars like the great historian and Muhaddith of Halab, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Raagib At-Tablaakh. When Ash-Sheikh Raagib saw

\[^1\] Tahdheerus Saajid min Ittikhaadhil Quboori Masaajid pg 2-4 by Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni

\[^2\] Tarjumatu Hayaat Al-Albâni (cassette).
the dexterity of this young man, he gave him a certificate (confirmation) to narrate knowledge from him.[1]

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni did not allow this certification to content him rather he used to say:

"This (certification as a Scholar) never meant anything to me. We only used to cite it as a refutation of the arguments of those rancorous to us"[2]

All these were to make Ash-Sheikh more interested in the study of Prophetic narrations with greater zeal and enthusiasm spending virtually all his time in the process.

"Besides the time I take to provide my family's bare necessities, I spent all the rest of my time searching for knowledge, authoring and the study of the books of Hadith most especially the manuscripts (unpublished works) of the Zâhiriyyah Library[3]. For that purpose I

[1] This sort of certification is only given to those who have excelled in the Usul al-Hadith and can be trusted to accurately convey Ahadith, teach it and give judgments through their own chain of narration. Ash-Sheikh Raagib's certification was on the authority of Abil Ma'aliyy Muhammad Badr bin Yussuf Al Husniyy Ad-Dimashqi in a chain of transmission that goes back to Imâm Ahmad bin Hanbal which is ultimately linked up to the Prophet . See Safhaatu Mushriqah min Hayaati Ash-Sheikhinak Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni pg 138 by Ash-Sheikh Ibrahim Khaleel Al Haashimiyy. A copy of the Ijaaza is in the possession of his student, Ash-Sheikh Ali Hassan Abdul Hameed Al-Halabi Al Atharee.


[3] Besides the Zâhiriyyah Library, Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni would visit Halab for a week out of every month spending most of the time in the Maktabat-ul-Awqaful Islaamiyyah, studying,
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stuck much to this library making it's visitation a daily routine such that I usually spent between six and eight hours daily depending on the variations in weather between summer and winter.”

Ibrahim bin Muhammad Al-Aliyy writes “Sometimes he would remain there for over twelve hours not pausing from reading, commenting and authenticating except for the periods of prayer. He would even eat his usually meager meal in the library itself. This was why the library authorities decided to give him a special room in the library

He would usually arrive at the library before the librarians in the morning. And sometimes, as it was the practice of the librarians to go home in the early afternoon (after Zuhr prayer) and not return that day, Ash-Sheikh would remain there and would sometimes

transcribing and making notes from the manuscripts. He made similar visits at various times to other libraries in the Islamic World such as Maktabat-ul-Mahmoodiyyah in Al-Madînah, Maktabat-ul-'Aaarifu Hikmah also in Al-Madînah, Daarul Kutubu Al Masriyyah in Cairo and Maktaba-tul-Baladiyyah in Alexandria, Egypt. All these enriched his library such that in a book like Sifatus Salaatun Nabiyy alone he had ten reference materials still in manuscript form (See Hayaat ul 'Alaamah Al-Albâni bi Qalamihi) pg 24-26 compiled by ' manuscripts of books compiled in the early centuries of Islam in museums in places like Austria, Dublin, New York and even England. It would be recalled that at the opening of a mosque in Morocco after King Fahd of Saudi Arabia presented about one million copies of Qur'ân to the mosque, King Hassan of Morocco was presented by the Queen of England with a manuscript of the Qur'ân written over a thousand years ago.
observe his *Isha* prayer before going home."^[1]\]

As to come later, Ash-Sheikh studied everything in this library, which is still one of the oldest, richest and largest libraries in the Muslim world. The effort enabled him later to write the catalogue index for the entire library. It also benefited the library in another most astonishing way.

There were in the library, some poorly preserved manuscripts whose cover pages had been lost, thus making it impossible to know the authors and titles of these books. However, because Ash-Sheikh read all the materials available he would suddenly stumble on a work, which was quoting excerpts from one of these poorly kept unidentifiable works wherein the author would name the book, and it’s author.

Ash-Sheikh would immediately recognize the manuscript being referenced once he saw the wordings of the quotation and in this way he was able to ascertain the names of the books and pamphlets. This he would later submit to the library authorities. In fact, even the library authorities did not know of the existence of some books in the library until he later informed them thereof. Some of these materials are:

a) *Al-Huffaadh* by Abi Farj bin Jawziy
b) *Al kaliment Tayyib* by Ibn Taimiyyah
c) *Ithbaat Sifaat-ul ‘Uluww li Llaahi Ta’ala* by Ibn Quddaamah Al Maqdisi

d) *Tuhfatul Muhtaj ilaa Adillatil Minhaaj* by Ibn Mullaqqin

e) *As Sunan Al Kubra* of An-Nasaii

f) *Fadaail Makkah* by Al Jundi

g) *Al Mustakhraj 'alaa Saheehain* by Haafidh Sulaymaan bin Ibrahim Al-Isbahaani

h) *Majma’ul Bahrain fi Zawaaid Al Mu’jama’ain* by Haafidh Nuruddeen Al-Haythaami

i) *Ahkamu Nisaa* by Ibn Jawzi

j) *Ad-Du’afaau* by Imâm Ad-Dahabî

k) *Musnad Ash-Shihaab* of Al Qadaa’iy

l) *As Salaah* of Abdul Ganiyy Al Maqdasî

m) *Taariikh Isbahaan* by Ibn Mundah

n) *Al Kalaam ‘alaa Khitaan An-Nabiyy* by Ibn ‘Adeem

o) *Juz Nailun Nabiyy* by Abee Yumna Ibn ‘Asaakiir

p) *Al Magaazi* by Ibn Ishaaq

q) *Saheeh Ibn Hibbaan*

These discoveries have opened the gateway to the research into and subsequent publication of the extensive treasure of knowledge in the library. May Allâh bless our Ash-Sheikh for His noble effort and count him amongst our leaders under the banner of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ on the day of Qiyaamah, Âmeen.

**At the Islamic University, Al-Madînah:**

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni was invited to establish the
Faculty of Hadîth in the Islamic University, Al-Madînah by the Chancellor of the University, the Leader of the Group of Eminent Scholars and Foundation members of the University, and the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia at the time, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad bin Ibrahim Aalus Ash-Sheikh.

At the University, besides the teaching of the Science of Hadîth together with the legal rulings from them, Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni included in the syllabus and taught Ilmul Isnaad (the Science of Verification of chains of narrations). He would write Ahadîth on the board together with their chains of narrations and using Kutubu Taraajim Al-Ruwaat (books on the life histories of narrators), he would teach the students how to establish the soundness or otherwise of chain(s) of narrations of the Ahadîth putting into consideration the various intricacies involved.

With that, students of the University verified Ahadîth manuscripts and the University became the first institution in the world where the science (Ilmul Isnaad) was taught.\[1\]

The students of the University loved and respected Ash-Sheikh so much. His car was always filled with students when he would go home after the day’s activity and when he would come to the University early the following morning. They would hardly want to part with him such that even outside lecture periods, he would sit with them answering questions and explaining difficult areas. Muhammad Ibrahim Ash-Shaybaaniyy said: .'"Some of the teachers who

\[1\] Hayaatu Al-Albâni wa Aathaaru hu wa Thanaau Ulamaa alae hi Vol 1 pg 61
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passed by him and (seeing the) students surrounding him on the sand would say 'This is the real learning...’” [1]

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni was in the University for three years before returning to Damascus.[2]

**His judicious use of time:**

Any one who is familiar with Ash-Sheikh’s books in terms of number, volumes and excessiveness of research required to author such books would be in no doubt that Ash-Sheikh was very judicious with his time not letting any of it be idle.

Baasim Faisal Al-Jawaabirah has been a student of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni since after the completion of his High School education in 1973 until the Sheikh’s death


[2] We have carefully searched for the statement of some people who claim that Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni was sent out of Saudi Arabia because of his view that ‘it is not compulsory for a Muslim woman to veil her face.’ We did not find anything of such whether in the writings of his beloved students or in the writings of those who criticize him strongly. The statement is probably baseless. Our advice to those who hold this belief and even say them to people in public programs is the statement of Allâh” And follow not (say not or do not or witness not) that of which you have no knowledge. Verily! The hearing, the sight and the heart of each of those one will be questioned (by Allâh). (Surah Al-Israa’ 17:36).”

However, we found out that Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni had published his first book on hijaab - *Hijaab ul Mar’atul Muslimah*, seven years before he was invited to the Islamic University of Al-Madînah. Thus, his position on the issue was not unknown to the Authorities!
in 1999. He narrated his experience with the Sheikh..."After I completed my High School studies, I left for Damascus for my University education. I once visited the Zâhiriyyah Library and went in to see Sheikh Nâsir in the special room allotted to him in the Library. I found him completely immersed in reading and researching and I greeted him with Salaam.

He greeted me sitting on his chair and after asking of my welfare and that of my family in Jordan in a quick manner, he continued with his reading and research. I sat {waiting} for about a quarter of an hour and the Sheikh never said a word. So, I sought his permission and left having some negative thoughts in my mind against the Sheikh since he did not welcome graciously. My expectation was that the Sheikh would stand up from his seat, abandon his studies, sit with me, entertain me with tea or coffee or invite me to his house. But none of these happened!

Nevertheless, my love for the Sheikh made me return to his room in the library few days later. As if he had sensed what I perceived, he welcomed me and said to me, 'O Baasim! Here I am, more than 20 people visit me by the day. If I were to sit with every visitor having conversations with him, I will not do anything and all time will be completely wasted. No new knowledge will be gained and it does not benefit any student.'"[1]

One of his foremost students and companion Ash-Sheikh Ali Hassan Abdul Hameed Al-Halabi Al-Atharee narrated that even at the time when Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni’s hand was weak due to persistent writing he would dictate to some of his children who

would write for him. He said: "I can recall vividly right before me — few months ago (before Ash-Sheikh's death), he dictated 19 pages in the critical analysis of a weak Hadith and he had with him, some tens of references putting points together from them and making intellectual deductions."[1]

From the compilations of Sameer bin Ameen and Ibrahim bin Muhammad Al-'Aliyy, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni authored about two hundred and twenty-one titles with some of the books being up to 40 volumes and a good number of them being usually more than three volumes.

According to Sameer bin Ameen, Muhammad Aal Abee Laylee Al Atharee alone has over six thousand (6,000) lecture cassettes of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni not to talk of those he had not.[2]

Along with this, Ash-Sheikh used to teach his students in Amman during the last decades of his life for about 6 hours daily[3] and still he used to go on Da'wah

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[2] Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Al Ameen Al Haleel narrated that in one of the Hajj performed by Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni, about fifty audiocassettes were recorded on Ayyamu tashreeq alone in Mina.

[3] Talking about Ash-Sheikh's learning circles, Ibrahim Muhammad bin Al-Aliyy said.. "Ash-Sheikh's learning circles are filled with great benefits in the different sciences. In Damascus, students learnt from Ash-Sheikh different books in the circles, which were usually weekly. Books such as Zaad ul Ma'aad by Ibn Al-Qayyim Aj-Jawziyyah, Nukhbat ul Fikr of Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalaani, Fath ul-Majeed Sharh Kitaabut Tawheed by Ash-Sheikh Abdur Rahman ibn Hasan Ibn Muhammad
expeditions visiting many continents in the process.

He visited Spain honoring an invitation from the Muslim students there and delivered a lecture titled..."Al-Hadith Hujjatu bi nafsihi fil ‘Aqaaid wa Ahkaam". He also visited Qatar where he delivered a lecture titled..."Munzilatus Sunnah fil Islaam".

On his Da’wah expeditions, he also visted Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Maghrib (Morocco) and a number of European countries such as England, France, Germany and Switzerland. Apart from his regular local outings, which he used to carry out for about three days in a month[1] and despite that, he had the time to debate with several people.

A debate through writing which he had between himself and some followers of Qadianism (Ahmadiyyah) which he compiled as a book and

ibn Abdul Wahaab, Usool-ul-Fiqh by Abdul Wahaab Khalaaf, Fiqh-us-Sunnah by Ash-Sheikh Sayyid Saabiq, Al-lmaam fi Ahadith il Ahkaam by Ibn Daqeeq Al ‘Eed, etc.

People, some of whom themselves are people of learning attended the circles in large numbers and the circles have had great impacts in the Da’wah (to Allâh’s Religion) since it started in 1954.

Sometimes he held lectures and lessons in his home and sometimes in the homes of his students and close associates.

[I1] Ibrahim Muhammad Al-‘Aliyy narrated that during these monthly Da’wah programs, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni would visit cities in the suburbs of Syria such as Hims, Hamaau, Idlib, Halab, Riqqah, Al Laadhiqiyyah among others. See Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni pg 25. Some ignorant partisan (hizbee) groups do claim that scholars are not callers. This is an innovation, while the scholars are the inheritors of the Prophets and thus callers, not all callers are scholars.
Concerning Ash-Sheikh’s judicious use of time, Ash-Sheikh ‘Ali Hassan Abdul Hameed Al-Halabi Al Atharee narrates:

“Allâh — Glory be to Him — favored me to learn the book ‘Nukhbatul Fikr’[2] from Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni — May Allâh be his guide — with selected portions from ‘An Nuzhah’ in a number of sittings on Monday and Tuesday 28th and 29th of Dhil Qa’dah 1410AH on our way — together with some honorable brothers — to the completion of Hajj rites. The final session was at a town called ‘Ashaash about 2 km before Al-Madînah and Praise be unto Allâh for this favor.’”[3]

[1] Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni, Ustaadh Abdur Rahmaan Al-Albâni and Ash-Sheikh Zuhayr Shaaweesh also had a debate with Abdullah Al-Habashee the deviant. It is recorded on one occasion, that a man visited Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni in his home in Jordan claiming to be a prophet! Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni made sit the man down and discussed his claims at length (covering two tapes) and in the end the visitor made repentance from his claim and all present, including the Ash-Sheikh, were overcome with tears.


Worship, Asceticism and Humility

Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nāsiruddîn Al-Albâni thoroughly combined knowledge and deed and was a role model of a devout scholar.

Sameer bin Ameen Az-Zuhairi said:

“From the day I knew him, (and I learnt that he has always been like that) he never missed the Monday and Thursday fast except when he was on a journey or sick. Whenever he enters the mosque on Friday, he never ceased observing two rak’at and two rak’at until
the Imâm mounted the pulpit.\textsuperscript{[1]}

He used to perform ‘Umrah and Hajj every year if he had the ability and quite a number of times he would perform Umrah twice in a year. He performed over 30 Hajjs.’\textsuperscript{[2]}

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni is known to be a benevolent giver. Umar Abubakr mentions that, “How many a time I approached the Sheikh to donate to the building of a mosque or giving out to the poor {or the needy} or a widow or any one who asked but he never turned down the request.” He cited some instances but the following one is representative.

“A woman under the claws of the banks approached the Sheikh. She had borrowed some money - about 9,000 dinars from the bank and the interest had accrued. She sought the Sheikh’s assistance in the reduction of the debt. As-Sheikh in his usual manner asked me to verify the report and thereafter, I found out she still had about 7,000 dinars to pay back.

So, the woman came together with her children and the Sheikh said, ‘ This one thousand dinars is a gift and this is the money you requested.’ The woman was happy and so were her children. They prayed for the Sheikh and for me. The Sheikh looked at us and said, ‘O Brothers! I wish Allâh makes me a millionaire so that I bail out thousands of people in similar conditions from the shackles of Ribaa {interest}.’\textsuperscript{[3]}

\textsuperscript{[1]} This is the Sunnah as is proven by the narrations in \textit{Saheeh Bukhâri} and \textit{An-Nasaaee}.

\textsuperscript{[2]} \textit{Muhaddith-ul ‘Asr} pg 40

\textsuperscript{[3]} \textit{Al-Imâm Al-Mujaddid wal ‘Allaamah Al-Muhaddith Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni} pg 62-63 by Umar Abubakr
Talking about the Sheikh’s contentment, Umar Abubakr continued: “We do not know throughout the life of our Sheikh[1] and since the period of our companionship with him which was more than 20 years, that he never entered upon any Sultan — a head of state {or governor or their like} or a judge or come close to him {i.e., the Sultan} or held any office from him or ate on his table. This stands him out on his positions and religious verdicts he gave which never came under any political influence. Something that is brought about due to closeness to people in positions {of authority}.

He never gave a verdict to suit a Zayd or an ‘Amr for he had been made contented by Allâh away from the people and enriched by his own handiwork as a watch repairer for many years. ‘...And the best of what a man eats is that from his handiwork.’”[2]

One of the closest students and companion of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni, Ash-Sheikh Aboo Ishaaq Al-Huwaynee said,” Each time I met with him, I kissed his hands. He would prevent me removing his hands from me. When it was much, I said to him, ‘We have read from some of your research works in the Saheehah {Silsilatus Saheehah} that it is permissible to kiss the hands of a scholar.’ So, he said to me, ‘Have you ever seen a scholar with your eyes?’ I said, ‘Yes, I see one

[1] Umar Abubakr said, “I held his hands one day and said,’ Our Sheikh, Have you ever had a handshake with any of the taaghoot of the earth?’ He said, ‘No.’ I asked him, ‘Have you ever eaten on their table or entered upon any of them?’ He said, ‘No.’” Al-Imâm Al-Mujaddid wal ‘Allaamah Al Muhaddith pg 64

[2] Ibid 63-64
now.' He then said, 'I am just a student of knowledge. The similitude between you and myself is like the statement of the one who said,

«إنَّ الْبَعَائِثَ بَأْرَضِي نَا يَسْتَمِعُونَ»

meaning, "Verily! The Bugaath[1] in our lands are taken as vultures."[2]

This Arabic proverb means that those close by us take us to be big even when we are actually small.

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni would relate with his students humbly so much that being their teacher and was many years older, they would refer to him as ‘one of our brothers’ and things like that. He would visit them in their homes and spend some time with them most especially when it has to do with learning.

He would say ‘I do not know’ to any question when he really does not know. Dr. Qarwootiyy, an eminent student of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni and a Professor of Hadîth in the Islamic University, Al-Madînah, mentioned that he once asked Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni a question to which Ash-Sheikh responded that it is a problem area and that he intends to discuss the issue with other scholars such as Ash-Sheikh Abdullah bin Abdul Azeez bin Baaz.[3]

[1] A bird smaller than vultures but regulary in their company and regarded as one.
[3] Shadhraat min Tarjumah Ash-Sheikh Al ‘Allaamah Muhaddithul ‘Asr Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni pg 7 by Dr. ‘Aasim Al Qarwootiyy
His frequent weeping:

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni would weep very often, usually at the recitation of the Qur’ân or upon hearing a *Hadîth* containing a promise of good (in the Hereafter)[1] or a threat of punishment (in the Hereafter) or whenever he was praised or at the hearing of the death of a scholar of *Hadîth* and Sunnah.

Sameer bin Al-Ameen wrote:

"Severally would Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni wept whenever he quoted the *Hadîth* of the Prophet ﷺ where he said...'The first of those to be used as fuel for the fire...'

A man saw him (Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni) one day, seated in a car and went towards him. He said to the Sheikh aren’t you Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni? Ash-Sheikh’s only reaction was to weep. When he was asked why he was weeping he said...‘A man must continuously caution and fight his soul and never be deceived by the famous recognition people attach to him.’

Ash-Sheikh Muhammad bin Ibrahim Shaqrarah whilst addressing Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni during his terminal illness said, "A great person’s affliction is never trivial nor light. A great one’s affliction definitely is proportional to his greatness. You, (our Sheikh) are definitely great. Allâh ﷻ made you great by the

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[1] Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Al-Ameen Al-Haleel mentioned also that Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni would weep when he hears a sound *Hadîth* concerning the status of the Prophet ﷺ in the sight of Allâh and the honor meant for him on the day of Qiyaamah.
knowledge and understanding He endowed you with and thus, the affliction is proportional to the greatness of your personality and your knowledge.”

Ash-Sheikh smiled and several drops of tears ran down his face while hearing these statements, which was usual of him whenever he was praised or mentioned with nobility, he would weep. While weeping he said:

اللَّهُمَّ لا تُؤْتِجِدْني بِمَا يَتُولُونَ وَاغْفِرْ لِي مَا لا يَعْلَمُونَ وَاجْعَلْنِي خَيْرًا مِمَّا يُطْلَبُونَ

"O Allâh! Do not hold me responsible for what they say, and forgive me what they know not and make me better than they think"[1]

Sameer bin Ameen Az-Zuhairi narrated:

“One day in Amman I was with some students in a

[1] Saheeh, reported by Bukhâri in Adabul Mufrad and by Baihaqee in Shu’ab-ul-Imaan Vol. 4 pg 228 (The above is as narrated in Baihaqee). Authenticated by Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni.

Ash-Sheikh also made the same statement weeping profusely when he was similarly praised before a lecture he delivered on the topic “This is our call.” We (the authors of this treatise) both listened to Ash-Sheikh - May Allâú be pleased with him - weeping for about five minutes in the tape of the lecture. Dr. ‘Aasim Al Qarwootiyy in his book Shadhraat min Tarjumah As Ash-Sheikh Al ‘Allaamah Muhaddithul ‘Asr Muhammad Naasiruddeen Al-Albâni pg 7 mentioned that the Sheikh turned down a particular invitation to a programe in Pakistan giving the reason that the brothers there love him so much and would praise him so much something which he dislikes.
gathering and as was usual, Ash-Sheikh was mentioned, suddenly one of those present began to accuse Ash-Sheikh of numerous allegations concerning difference in methodology.

I did not know how to argue with this man. Firstly, due to his impolite manner, and secondly, due to excessive anger which made him exceed all bounds of fairness. Then I said to him: ‘If you see Ash-Sheikh in this light - though he is not as you say - then why don’t you admonish him thereupon? That is better than you backbiting and slandering him.’’ He said...‘Al-Albâni does not accept admonition.’ I said to him...‘Have you encountered him before?’

He replied...‘Not even once before, this - his not accepting admonition - has been narrated by many.’

I said to myself...’Subhaan Allâh this is a man who has believed all his Sheikh told him without him ever seeking the truth for himself or even trying to meet Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni though they have both lived in the same city for years.’

Sometimes thereafter, I organized evening teaching classes in my house with Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni and I invited some students of knowledge amongst them this staunch opposer of Al-Albâni. I didn’t inform Ash-Sheikh of anything (about what has happened). This man dominated most of the gathering as he debated and argued with Ash-Sheikh until he even raised his voice high and went out of hands. At that point I became angry and infuriated. When Ash-Sheikh noticed that from my facial expression, he turned to me smiling and said...‘You have no right to be annoyed’.
I swear by Allâh! Ash-Sheikh never stopped smiling throughout employing Verses of the Qur'ân and Hadîth to refute the man’s argument despite the length of the discussion. As the gathering drew to its end, the man stood up and said to Ash-Sheikh:

‘I thank Allâh that you have changed and that I met you after you changed’. Then Ash-Sheikh said...’Have you ever met me before? The man replied, ‘No’. Then Ash-Sheikh pointed to a brother from Shaam who had been Ash-Sheikh’s companion in the Salafi Da’wah - he was then on a visit to Ash-Sheikh in Amman - and said...’I haven’t changed. This is my companion of over 20 years in Da’wah and he knows this to be my nature. Well, in any case, May Allâh reward you with good. As for me, I seek your pardon if I have offended you in any way and I ask Allâh’s forgiveness if I have offended anyone amongst the Muslims. Then he (Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni) wept. The man himself would do nothing else but to weep along with Ash-Sheikh kissing his hand and head. Never did I see him thereafter except as a Salafi following loving and having great respect for Al-Albâni.”[1]
Steadfastness and Patience in Research

None who is conversant with Ash-Sheikh’s books would be ignorant of this fact. However for the benefit of those who are not, we mention but a few narrations in this regard.

a. The story of a missing page:

Ash-Sheikh narrates in the introduction to his Compilation “The Catalogue (Index) of the Hadeeth Manuscripts in Daarul Kutub Az-Zaahiriyah”

“It is not in my nature to compile this type of an index, because it is not one of my specializations nor is there
time in my schedule for such. But whenever Allâh — Blessed and Exalted be He — wills something, He eases its facilitation.

I had been inflicted by a light illness, which affected my eyes (due to the manner of use of the eyes as a watch repairer and my reading constantly at the Zaahiriyah Library for long hours) for about 12 years so the specialist doctor advised me to rest and abandon reading, writing, and my means of livelihood (watch repairing) for a period of six months.

So, I took his advice initially and I abandoned all that for about 2 weeks. There after my mind started bothering me that I should do something with this period of idleness. Something which in my estimation will not contradict his advice. So I thought of a book still in manuscript form in the library (titled) Dhammul Ma'azif (A Censure of Musical Instruments) authored by Haafidh Abubakr bin Abee Dunya which as far as I know is yet unpublished anywhere in the world. So I said to myself, ‘what is stopping me from getting someone to transcribe for me? Till he finishes the transcription when I can then compare it with the

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[1] Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni mentioned in his verbal narration of the story that he intended to author a book that would explain the position of the Qur'ân and Sunnah on the impermissibility of music and musical instruments. See Al-Haawiyy min Fataawa Al-Albâni Vol 2 pg 280 compiled by Abu Hamaam Al-Masriyy. Allâh $6 out of His Mercies on the Sheikh, brought this into reality with the publication of the book tited, Tahreem Aala At-Tarb ao Ar-Radd bil Wahyaen wa Agwaal Aimmatinaa 'alaa ibn Hazm wa Muqallidaehi al-Mubeeneen lil-Ma'azif wal GInaa wa 'alaa Soofiyeen aladheena ttakhadhoo hu Qurbatan wa Deen an.
original manuscript (to ensure it is properly copied) and by that time, some of this rest period will no doubt have gone by and I would be able to compare it with the original. That will not require such an effort as will contravene the recuperation rest I am in.’

Then I would critically authenticate it at leisure. And then reference its Ahadith and then we publish it. All these interlude with rest so that I may not burden my self.

However when the transcriptor got to the middle of the book he informed me that there was a defect in it I ordered him to continue his transcription until he finishes. Thereafter, I compared it with the original manuscripts and confirmed the defect and estimated it to be of about 4 missing pages on a single sheet of paper in the middle of the booklet.

I began to contemplate upon it. How can I discover it’s whereabouts? The booklet is preserved in one of the topical volumes of the library under the sectional title Majaami’i (compendium). In most of the volumes, one found a considerable number of booklets and books whose scripts differ in writings and topics and whose page differ in color and size.

I said to myself perchance the compiler of the compendium in a different volume compiled the missing page erroneously. So I started exuberantly and with all hope to search all the volumes without interruption and I forgot or deliberately ignored myself and the therapy I was going through. For every time I remember my therapy I never found myself wanting in giving, an excuse, for example, by saying to myself that ‘this type of effort does not
contradict nor contravene the doctor’s advice or my treatment because it is neither accompanied by exhaustive reading nor tiring writing’.

I would not have finished some of the volumes when I would be astonished by some of the books and booklets written by some well-renowned scholars of Hadîth.

Then I would pause to research into them and study them thoroughly then I would wish that they were transcribed, critically reviewed and then published. But unfortunately I would find most of the time that some parts of it were missing sometimes its end and sometimes some sections of it. For example I may find chapter two and not chapter one. Thus I did not bother to record them. I would then continue my search for the missing pages. Unfortunately all my efforts were in vain as I could not find the missing pages till I finished searching through all the volumes under the section, “Compendium” numbering 152 volumes.

Though all the while I was recording in my jotter, the title of some of the books that impressed me I was encouraged by the fact that I discovered some of the deficiencies, which had been impediments to proper documentation in the references of the volumes.

When I could not find these missing pages in the compendium, I said to myself ‘perhaps it was banded into one of the volumes of the books of Hadeeth which were under the library’s Hadîth section.’. Thus, I started to go through them volume after volume until I went through the entire section without finding it. But during this search, also, I was recording, keeping note of the titles of some of the books and booklets as much
as Allâh wills.

This was how I did not stop suggesting and encouraging myself about finding these pages and I started to search for them from the volumes of books and booklets in the library from one section to another until I had gone through all the manuscripts preserved in the library numbering about 10,000 manuscripts without any success (in finding the missing pages).[1]

However I did not lose hope for there are what are called ‘trash’ which refers to heaps of pages of books and booklets of different types whose origin, title, and author are not known. So I started to search them critically and painstakingly. However without any success at this point, I lost hope of the pages. I began to ruminante and I discovered that Allâh - Blessed and Exalted be He — has opened to me through this search a very great door of knowledge. Most of it, things that I had been unaware of like others besides me.

This discovery was that the library of Az-Zaahiriyah is a treasurehold of books and booklets in various useful branches of knowledge, which our ancestors had bequeathed to us in it, i.e. the library. Some of the rarest and most extraordinary books which cannot be found in any other library anywhere in the world and which have never been published.

After realizing all this, I started studying all the manuscripts of the library all over again a second time. I studied it just as I did the first time documenting

[1] It is necessary to bear in mind that the Sheikh was reading through manuscripts which would require expertise, great patience and would take more time than reading through published works.
only those things I selected from the books. Thus, I started recording every thing which had to do with *Ahadîth* which would benefit me in my field of specialization ensuring that I left nothing out except I documented it even if it was a single page or chapter whose identity was unknown! It was as though Allâh — Blessed and Exalted is He, was only preparing me to study them for a third and final time.

This was to be a study of all these books in a critically exhaustive manner and a referencing of all the prophetic *Ahadîth* along with their various chains of narrations and other beneficial things about them.

I had during my second study came across some benefits accidentally and I could not be contented nor satisfied until I had studied every one of them book by book chapter after chapter. For this purpose, I gathered all the things I needed and I commenced a third round study leaving no page except that I scrutinized it nor any peculiar sheet except I read it and copied out the scholastic benefits I discovered there in and the prophetic *Hadîth*. This documentation is about 40 volumes, each volume having about 400 pages. On each page is a single *Hadîth* referenced to all sources in which I found it along with all its chains of narrations.[1]

I arranged the *Ahadîth* in alphabetically form and from this huge, voluminous compilation, I nourished all my works and my fountain of knowledge which has assisted me in my intellectual verification and authentication of books that has not been something

[1] This compilation is called *Mu’jamu’ Al-Hadîth An-Nabawiyy* still in manuscript form.
easy for most of the people of knowledge most especially in this generation when the people are satisfied with some slight (inadequate) summaries on the science of Hadîth.[1]

This tremendous wealth of abundant prophetic narrations bestowed on me could not have been gotten if not that Allâh made the search for the missing pages easy for me. All Praises are due to Allâh who from His abundant mercy perfected that which is good ''. [2]

"See how Allâh — Praised and Exalted be He — tried me with the slight infliction on my eyes and it became this great Blessing. Glory be to Allâh."[3]

[1] From this effort also Allâh made it possible for the Sheikh to compile a book titled Fihris Makhtootaati Daarul Kutub Zaahiriyyah Al Muntakhab min Makhtootaat il Hadîth (The Catalogue of the Hadîth Manuscripts in Daarul Kutub Az Zaahiriyyah). The book is arranged based on ‘Name of Author and their Books’ all in an alphabetical order with some mentioning of the biography of the authors and their reliability vis-à-vis Hadîth narration. The book is now a major reference material all over the world on the materials contained in the Library. The Authorities of the Islamic University, Al-Madinah in Saudi Arabia had requested Ash-Sheikh, to make copies of all the materials mentioned in the Catalogue and they are available today in the University Library.


[3] Al Haawiyy min Fataawa Al-Albâni Vol 2 pg 285. Dr. Mustapha AlʿAzamee in his research through the Islamic Library in Istanbul stumbled over the manuscripts of the book, Saheeh Ibn Khuzaimah from Kitaabu Wudoo to Kitaab Hajj which is just one-third of the original compilation thought to have been missing in Islamic History. The verification and authentication of the book was done by Ash-Sheikh
b) The story of Al-Qatee’i’s inclusions:

Sameer Ibn Ameen Az-Zuhairi narrated:

“In one of our teaching sessions when students of knowledge gathered to learn about books of Hadîth and the importance the scholars of Hadîth attach to their learning, one of those present said: ‘I do not think that anyone in the present times has read Musnad Imâm Ahmad even with a glance. I said ‘how could that be? I believe you don’t doubt that the publisher has read the book while formatting the book. How many times could the proofreader have read the book?"

Also, Ash-Sheikh Ahmad Al-Bannah ا.[1] no doubt must have read the book more than once

Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni and Alhamdulillaah, the book has been published. Dr. ‘Azamee for this feat was awarded The King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies for the Year 1400 {1980}. See Saheeh Ibn Khuzaimah Vol 1 pg 3 by Dr. Mustapha Al-‘Azamee.

One would wonder what Sheikh Al-Albâni would be awarded considering his findings in the Zaahiriyah Library other than what the scholars say concerning him - “The Muhaddith of the Century.” Out of the mercies of Allah ﷺ on him, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni was awarded The King Faisal International Award on Prophetic Sunnah in the Century - Rahimahullaah Rahmatan Waasi’ah. His student and companion Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim Shaqra represented the Sheikh at the program. See Al-Imâm Al-Mujaddid wal ‘Allaamah Al Muhaddith pg 35.

while publishing his commentary "Fathu Rabbaani". When I saw that the speaker was now convinced of the error of his statement, I said to him and all those present: 'Now listen to what we have heard from our Sheikh regarding his own reading of the Musnad in order to find the inclusions of al-Qatee’i.’"[1]

Read the story directly from Ash-Sheikh’s narration in his book "Adhdhabbul Ahmad ‘an Musnad Imâm Ahmad’

Ash-Sheikh said:

"Beforehand — Praise be unto Allâh — I was interested in the verification (of the said inclusions) and coupled with the necessity of the refutation (against Al-Haashimi) — Inshaa Allâh — on the issue of these purported inclusion, I was now interested in firstly really establishing the trustworthiness or otherwise of these said inclusions and secondly, their number (if there were). This is because whatever the case is, it would be a clear refutation of that Al-Haashimi (who claims) that: “Al Qatee’i’ made some inclusions into the Musnad so much that they doubled the original compilation of the Imâm.”

Ash-Sheikh continued:

"The first thing I did in this case was that I got the book ‘Fathur Rabbaani li tartiib Musnadul Imâm Ahmad As Shaybaani’ of Ash-Sheikh Al-Bannah which is in 24 volumes. I went through the Ahadîth volume by volume. He had used some symbols to denote the (said) inclusions of Qatee’i.

After I had finished with it, I followed up the *Ahadîth* (those mentioned by Al-Bannah to be inclusions) and pondered over their chains of transmission as contained in it and in the original *Musnad*. It was clear to me that there was nothing of such as Al-Qatee‘i’s inclusions. Some of the inclusions were rather of Abdullah, the son of Imâm Ahmad and some (were really not inclusions but) narrations of the Imâm.”[^1]

After explaining in details his evidences for the above conclusions, he continued:

“In order to establish the conclusions I had reached from my studies, I found it absolutely necessary to make further studies of other books even if it would take me longer time and painstaking efforts. There is no problem about this since I had intended to do it in service to the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ and in refutation of one who made spurious allegations regarding the authenticity of the *Musnad Imâm Ahmad* and some of the narrations in it.

So, I started with the study of the *Musnad* itself and I benefited a lot from the publication edited by Ash-Sheikh Ahmad Shaakir[^2]. Starting with

[^1]: *Adhdhabbul Ahmad ‘an Musnad Imâm Ahmad* pg44 by Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Násiruddin Al-Albâni

[^2]: He is Ash-Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Shaakir, a *Qaadi* (judge) for many years in Egypt and a great scholar of *Hadeeth*. Author of many books on the Science of Prophetic Traditions (*Mustalahul Hadeeth*) including a commentary of Haafidh Ibn Katheer’s *Ulloomul Hadeeth* titled *Al-Baahethul Hatheeth*, a verification of the *Ahadeeth* in *Sunan Tirmidhee* in 5 volumes and verification and Commentary of the *Ahadeeth* in
the first volume, I read through to the fifth volume. I surely — Inshaa Allâh — could not find any Qatee’i inclusions.

I went on to get another book ‘Al mus’ad ul Ahmad Khatmi Musnadul Imâm Ahmad’ by Haafidh Shamsuddeen Ibn Jazriyy (11 volumes). Still, I did not find any Qatee’i’s inclusions.

Yet I was not satisfied with the verification. I wished that the manuscripts of the book Zawaaidu Musnad of Haafidh Nuruddeen Al Haythaamee was available with me at the Zaahiriyyah Library so that I could study it further to verify my conclusions. When I knew it was not available, I referenced its bigger book “Majmau’ Zawaaid” where he (Imâm Haythaamee) compiled the inclusions to books of Musnad one of which is Musnad Ahmad. I read through the 10 volumes and could not find any Qatee’i’s inclusions except a single Hadîth where ”narrated by Qatee’i in his inclusion on Musnad” was put in a bracket and a note made by the editor — Ustaadh Al Qadsee — that “what is in-between the brackets was not found in the original copies (of Majmau Zawaaid).”[1]

The Sheikh, after studying the two manuscript copies of the Majmau’ Zawaaid (10 volumes each) in the Zaahiriyyah Library in Damascus, concluded:

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The Musnad Imâm Ahmad in 16 volumes. Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni had a record of having met with the eminent Sheikh in the first Hajj he (Al-Albâni) performed in 1945/46.

[1] Adhdhabbul Ahmad pg 62
"I do not find in the Musnad Imam Ahmad any single Hadîth which is an inclusion of Qatee’î. This (conclusion) is after a lengthy (period of) research and enduring patience:"

**c) Another incident:**

Dr. Mahmud Al-Meerah said that one day Ash-Sheikh Nâsir ascended a ladder to pick a manuscript in the Zaahiriyah Library. He opened the book and started reading it and he remained standing there on the ladder reading the book for about 6 hours.

[1] **Adhdhabbul Ahmad** pg 69. Ash-Sheikh said’’ Then I later got a book “At raaf Musnad Imâm Ahmad” by Al-Haafidh Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalaani (which was not published at the time of my research). I found in its introductory note, the words of Ibn Hajar mentioning the arrangements of the Ahadîth in the Musnad. Then he said, “and the inclusions of his son to it (Musnad)”. He did not mention Qatee’î nor any form of inclusions from him (aab) like I had concluded.”
Efforts of Those Who Opposed Him

A group of Soofi Sheikhs organized fronts to jeopardize the efforts of the Sheikh, petitioning him to the Mufti of Shaam on the allegation that Ash-Sheikh was preaching Wahaabiyyah and causing problems to the Muslims.

The Mufti raised the issue to the Director in Charge of Security matters who invited Ash-Sheikh. After discussions - Allâh showered His mercy upon Ash-Sheikh, and saved him from the evil of their plots.
His imprisonment:

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni himself narrated:

"Allâh willed that I be imprisoned in the year 1389AH (1969) along with some scholars for no other reason but that of Da’wah to Islam and the teaching of Islam."[1]

Thus, I was whisked off to the prison named Al-Qal’ah and other prisons in Damascus.[2]

Then after a while, I was relaxed only to be whisked off again to Aljazeerah[3] to spend some bid’ at (meaning any thing from one to nine) months which I considered as being in the service of Allâh."

While in the prison Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni would invite the Prisoners to the Book of Allâh and the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ and would admonish them to abandon blind following and innovation in matters of Religion to which very many heeded. He would also mobilize and coordinate the establishment of the daily obligatory congregational prayers and (the Friday Prayer in the prison. It became the first time Jum’ah prayers were being observed in the prison.

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[1] The imprisonment was due to the plots of Sufi Sheikhs who schemed against him employing lies and accusing him of evil till he was imprisoned. Muhammad Nâsiruddîn Al-Albâni pg 27.

[2] Ibrahim Muhammad Al ‘Aliyy mentioned that this was the same prison in which Sheikh-ul-Islam Ahmad bin ‘AbdulHaleem bin Taymiyyah and his student Ibn Qayyim Ajjawziyyah were imprisoned due to the plots of misguided scholars particularly Sufi Sheikhs. Al-Albâni was in this prison for six months. Muhammad Nâsiruddîn Al-Albâni pg 27.

[3] An island on the Mediterranean which is part of the Syrian territory
Efforts of Those Who Opposed Him

since the imprisonment of İmâm Ahmad Ibn Taimiyyah.\[1\]

And this has always been the practice of the vanguards of falsehood, to imprison the callers to truth to block access to truth. Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni suffered the same faith as some prophets of the past, pious servants of Allâh, and generations of noble scholars of Islam.

**An attempt on his life:**

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni himself narrated...

"Crime and gruesome murder without reason were rampant in Lebanon so much that I and some members of my family nearly fell victims. On 2\textsuperscript{nd} Safar 1399 AH in Beirut, some gunmen shooting from some uncompleted buildings rained bullets on us.

My car was badly damaged in 3 parts and we barely escaped being killed. Allâh ﷺ protected us and none of us really sustained any bodily injury. All Praise is due to Allâh who out of His Mercies perfects good deeds."

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\[1\] *Hayaatu Al-Albâni wa Aathaaruhu wa Thanaau Ulamaai alaehi* pg 29 and *Hayaatu ul 'Allaamah Al-Albâni bi Qalamihi* pg 14. Ash-Sheikh said, "Allâh ordained me to be with only my beloved book 'Saheeh İmâm Muslim', pencil and eraser. I started working on it (*Saheeh Muslim*) day and night without weakness or sickness. After about 3 months the summary and notes on it were completed, and what the enemies of the Religion intended as reprisals became a favor to us from which students of Knowledge everywhere benefit - All Praise be unto Allâh."

\[2\] *Hayaatu ul 'Allaamah Al-Albâni bi Qalamihi* pg 20.
His Relationship with Other Scholars of Sunnah

Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni had a very good inter-personal relationship with scholars and the students of knowledge. He met many of the people of learning and both parties benefited from each other.

Amongst the scholars he met were Ash-Sheikh Haamid, the Leader of Ansaarus Sunnah in Egypt, Ash-Sheikh Abdur Razzaaq Hamza Rahimahullaah, and Allaamah Mujaahid Al Jawwaal Taqiyuddeen Al
Hilaali As-Salafiyy. He would also regularly visit the Eminent Ash-Sheikh Al Allaamah, Muhaqiq, Muhibuddeen Al-Khateeb\[^1\] in Egypt whenever he had course to visit Egypt.

A number of meetings have also been recorded between Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni and Dr Yoosuf Al-Qardaawiyy where matters of knowledge were discussed. Sometimes, Dr Yoosuf Al Qardaawiyy met him to verify the authenticity of *Ahadîth* and relying so much on such verifications. Sometimes in some programs he would say:

"I have asked concerning the authenticity of this *Hadîth* from Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Naasiruddeen Al-Albâni."\[^2\]

The Eminent Leader of Ikhwaan ul-Muslimeen, Ash-Sheikh Hassan Al-Bannah - ﷺ, also wrote to Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni commending his efforts on his commentary and critique on some of the *Shari'ah* rulings published in the magazine - *Ikhwaan ul-Muslimoon* - under the Column — *Fiqhus Sunnah*, written by Ash-Sheikh Sayyid Saabiq.\[^3\]

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\[^1\] He is Sayyid Muhibuddeen Al Khateeb. A renown and respected *Muhaddith* from Egypt. He has authored and verified many books including the verification and notes on the famous book - *Al 'Awaasim minal Qawaasim fii Tahqeeq Mawaaqifis Sahaabah ba'da wafaatir Rasool* by Qaadi Abubakr bin 'Arabiyy Al Maalikiyy

\[^2\] *Hayaatu Al-Albâni wa Aathaaruhu wa Thanaau Ulamaai alaehi* Vol.1 pg 68

\[^3\] *Ibid*. The notes and commentary on the *Fiqhus Sunnah* have been compiled into a book titled - *Tamaamul Minnah fii Ta'aleeq 'alaa Fiqhis Sunnah* by Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni.
Students of various Islamic Sciences holding and/or pursuing different degrees from universities across the Muslim world also regularly consulted Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni on difficult areas benefiting from his vast knowledge of the Science of Hadîth. Some of them are - Dr Ameen Al-Misriyy-jîfâ, the Head, Hadîth Post Graduate Studies, Faculty of Hadîth, Islamic University, Al-Madînah, and onetime Hadîth Lecturer, University of Syria, Dr Ahmad Assal, Head, Faculty of Islamic Studies, University of Riyadh, Dr Mahmood Tahhan Professor of Hadîth, University of Al-Madînah and a host of others.

Ash-Sheikh Ismaa'eeel Al-Ansaaree is one of those who disagreed with Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni on a few Fiqh issues based on what was clear to him - Allâh knows best, on the evidences concerning the issues. Yet, Ash-Sheikh Al-Ansaaree invited Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni to his house in one of Sheikh's visit to Saudi Arabia, invited his children and few relatives and warned them concerning the personality of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni-

With Sheikh Abdul Azeez bin Abdullah bin Baaz, the relationship of over forty (40) years was very brotherly filled with mutual honor and respect. Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni would refer to Sheikh bin Baaz saying:

"The respected and honorable brother, His Eminence, Sheikh Abdul Azeez bin Abdullah bin Baaz..."[1]

and referring to Sheikh Al-Albâni, Sheikh bin Baaz would say,

"...honorable brother, respected Sheikh Muhammad Násiruddin Al-Albâni..."

Sheikh bin Baaz would also say:

"I do not know of anybody under the heavens in this present time (generation) more knowledgeable than Sheikh Násir in the field of Hadîth study."[1]

At the death of Sheikh bin Baaz, tears ran down his cheeks profusely. He wrote,

"May Allâh be pleased with the respected and honorable brother, His Eminence, Sheikh Abdul Azeez bin Abdullah bin Baaz. May Allâh grant us better consolation (on his demise)...I pray Allâh's forgiveness and bounties on him and (that He ﷺ includes him in the company of the Pious amongst his servants..."[2]

[1] *Hayaatu Al-Albâni wa Aathaaruhu wa Thanaau Ulamaai alaehi* Vol.1 pg 66

[2] *Adhdhabbul Ahmad* pg 5-9. Some overzealous Muslim youths usually present Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni and Ash-Sheikh bin Baaz as if they were sworn enemies because they sometimes differed on some few *fiqh* issues. This is far from being correct. Both Sheikhs (May Allâh's Mercy be upon them) were the best of friends for over 40 years and until they both parted this world. The book *Adhdhabbul Ahmad 'an Musnad Imâm Ahmad* written by Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni was on the request of Ash-Sheikh bin Baaz who acknowledged the book and commended Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni after a copy of it was sent to him before publication few months (about three months) before his (Sheikh bin Baaz's) death.
What Scholars Say About Him

1. The Eminent Imám, faqeeh of this ummah Ash-Sheikh Muhammad bin Ibrahim Aalus As-Sheikh[1] said about Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni:

"He is the possessor (companion) of Sunnah, great helper of truth (Islam) and a veracious

[1] He was the first vice chancellor of The Islamic University of Al-Madinah and the teacher of the famous Sheikh Abdul’Azeez bin ‘Abdullah bin Baaz for 16 years and they never parted afterwards until his death. Sheikh bin Baaz became the Mufti after him.

opposer of falsehood.”

2. The Eminent Mufti of the Ummah, Ash-Sheikh ‘Abdul’Azeez bin Abdullah bin Baaz said about him:

a. “...And Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni (May Allah continue to guide him) is well-known to us as someone possessing the right ‘aqeedah (belief) Islamic manners and methodology. He is a strong affirmer of the opinions of our pious predecessors, embracing their path in totality”

b. “Amongst our well-known noble trustworthy and dependable brothers is our companion, his eminence, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni. He definitely is one of the reformers of this century.”

3. The eminent faqeeh Ash-Sheikh Muhammad bin Salih Al-Uthaimeen said about Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni:

a. “That which I know of Ash-Sheikh (Al-Albâni) from the few times I’ve met him, is that he is very keen on acting according to the Sunnah and warring against Bid ‘a be it in matters of ‘aqeedah (belief) or a’amaal (deeds).”

b. “However that which I know (of him) from my reading of his books, I found what I stated above true of him and he is one possessing widely extensive knowledge of Hadîth both in terms of memorization and comprehension and that Allah has benefited by his books, a lot of people in terms of knowledge, the correct methodology and direction in the field of Hadîth study and this
is a very great blessing to the Muslims. May Allâh be praised."

c. "And with regard to critical scholastic analysis, then he is sufficient for you."

d. "One day Ash-Sheikh Al-Uthaimeen wrote on a cassette the Muhaddith (Hadîth scholar) of Shaam Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni and he said rather the Muhaddith of this generation."[1]

4. Ash-Sheikh Abdul 'Azeez bin Abdullah Aalush Ash-Sheikh mufti of Saudi Arabia and Ash-Sheikh Salih bin Fauzaan Al-Fauzaan both

[1] Someone whom I respect so much once said to me in the course of a discussion, "There are a lot of people in this generation who are better learned in the science of Hadîth than Al-Albâni." When I kept silent thinking of an appropriate answer, he continued, "The only problem they had was that they did not get publishers for their works" I have decided to respond here since a few other people may share this mistaken opinion. The opinion is very wrong for the following reasons 1. There is no basis for someone making such a comparison since the 'other better learned' scholars did not publish works and he has not visited all the 'better learned, to read their unpublished works. So, how did he know that they are 'better learned?' 2. The one making such a mistaken statement is probably unaware of the fact that Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni has been adjured "The Muhaddith of the Century" by the Eminent Scholars of this Ummah including those referred to above and that in fact Ash-Sheikh Ibn Baaz said "I do not know of anybody under the heavens in this present time (generation) more knowledgeable than Ash-Sheikh Nâsir in the field of Hadîth study." 3. That opinion is contrary to the position of the Scholars of Sunnah and thus, differing from it would mean "following other than the believers' way" Soorah Nisaa vs 114. (Abu Nâsir)
described him as: "The helper of Sunnah in this generation."

5. Ash-Sheikh Al Muhaddith Abdul Muhsin Al 'Abbaad Al Badur, a tutor in the Mosque of the Prophet ﷺ and a Professor of Islamic Jurisprudence in the Islamic University of Al-Madînâh, Saudi Arabia said of him:

a. "He is the one mourned by the entire universe, the great renowned and eminent Sheikh, Muhammad Nâsiruddîn Al-Albâni ﷺ. He is renowned for his tremendous effort in the service of Sunnah and in the devotion to the service of the Hadîth of the Messenger ﷺ and in explaining the sources of those Ahadîth and the books mentioning them and their grades in terms of authenticity and weakness. His service to Sunnah is well-known and his defense of the 'aqeedah of the Salaf (pious predecessors) and their methodology is a great one. And there is no student of knowledge who can do without referencing and consulting his books and writings, for definitely in them (his books) is great benefit and abundant knowledge. His books are renowned and hardly is there a library not possessing his books or at least something of them. And he has a painstaking interest in research, authoring and referencing the statements of scholars and benefiting from them. Definitely, the passing away of a scholar of this sort is in reality a great loss to the Muslims. It is an affliction, an irreparable loss for the Religion (i.e. Islam)."

b. "In all truity he (Al-Albâni) is one of the
extraordinary scholars of this generation (present times), those who contributed great, selfless and painstaking service to the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ.”

6. His Eminence Ash-Sheikh Hamood bin Abdullah At Tuwayjri ﷺ said of him:

a. “Al-Albâni at present is an emblem of the Sunnah, to blemish his character is to assist in blemishing the Sunnah.”

7. The noble Ash-Sheikh Abdullah bin Abdul Rahmân Al-Bassâm, tutor in the Masjid ul Harâm and a member of Supreme Council of Scholars, Saudi Arabia said of him:

a. “Today, he (Al-Albâni) is one of the outstanding leaders (of the Ummah) of this age, he sacrificed his self, efforts and wealth in the service of the Sunnah.”

8. The Eminent Scholar of Hadîth, Ash-Sheikh Abdus Samad Sharifuddin (Ash-Sheikh of Ahlul Hadîth) in India ﷺ[1] sent a letter and said in it:

a. “...An enquiry has reached Ash-Sheikh Abdullâh Ar Rahmâni, Ash-Sheikh Jaamiatul Islaamiyah (Ash-Sheikh of the Islamic University) i.e. Jaamiatul Salafiyyah in Banaras, from Darul Iftaa in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia about a Hadîth possessing strange wordings and astonishing meaning and possessing a close

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[1] Ash-Sheikh Abdus Samad had referenced the Hadîth to the first volume of An-Nasa‘ee’s Sunan Al-Kubra as well as Al-Mizzi’s monumental Tuhfatul-Ashraf, and they continued to exchange letters on matters of knowledge.
significance to this time of ours (i.e. present age). However, all scholars over here concurred that the greatest and most knowledgeable scholar of Hadith of the present time should be consulted. He is none other than Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni.”

9. The Eminent Ash-Sheikh and author, Ali Tantâwi said:

a. “Ash-Sheikh Nâsir is more knowledgeable than I in the field of Hadîth and I revere him for his seriousness, zeal and his numerous publications...I take recourse to Ash-Sheikh Nâsir in matters of Hadîth and I never disdain to ask him about it (Hadîth), fully recognizing his superiority.”

10. The Eminent Author Ustaadh Muhammad Al Ghazaali said about him:

a. “Al Ustaadh, Al Muhaddith (the professor and scholar of Hadîth), his eminence, Ash-Sheikh, Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni...and it is the fact that his feet is firmly established in Sunnah (Knowledge-wise, practice-wise and in terms of calling to it) that earns him this (the above) title.”

11. The Eminent teacher, Dr Yoosuf Al Qardaawiy said:

a. “The Muhaddith (Hadîth Scholar) of Shaam, Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni...”

b. “The Eminent Scholar, Ash-Sheikh Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni...”

[1] The Author of Fiqhus Seerah
What Scholars Say About Him

12. Dr Abdul Kareem Zaydaan, Professor, University of Baghdad said about him...

a. "The Muhaddith of the Century, Al Ustaadh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni..."[1]

From the above it is clear that all great scholars of the present age agree that Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni is a scholar of repute.[2] This is clear from the various appellation they attach to his name e.g. The Eminent Scholar, His Eminence, Ustaadh, Muhaddith, Scholar, etc. so much that even those he scolded harshly in some of his writings like Ash-Sheikh Tuwayjri, Muhammad Al-Ghazali and Yoosuf Al Qardaawi did not deny that he is a great scholar. They all praised him in fact Ash-Sheikh Tuwayjri called him an emblem of Sunnah and prohibited anyone from blemishing his character as we have quoted above.

Thus, all those who refuse to recognize this and call the Eminent Ash-Sheikh all sorts of defamatory names should recognize their error. They should heed the words of Imâm At Tahaawi[3] ...

[1] Majmoo’atu Buhooy Fiqhiyyah pg 291 by Dr Abdul Kareem Zaydaan

[2] After carrying out an analysis of the Hadîth in Ibn Khuzaymah’s Saheeh, the Indian Hadîth scholar, Muhammad Mustafa ‘Azami (head of Hadîth Science in Makkah), chose Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni to verify and re-check his analysis and the work is currently published in 4 volumes containing both their comments. This is an indication of the level of trust placed in Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni’s Hadîth ability by other scholars.

[3] He is Imâm, Faqeeh, Muhaddith Abu Ja’afar Ahmad bin Muhammad bin Salaamah Al- Azadee At- Tahaawi author of the famous book on ‘Aqeedah - Al ‘Aqeedatut Tahaawiyah. Ash-
“And Scholars of the Salaf (Pious Predecessors) amongst the foremost generation and those who follow their footsteps all are people of narrations (i.e. they follow narrations from the Prophet ﷺ or his Sunnah) and they are scholars of understanding and classical reasoning. They should never be mentioned except with good and whoever mentions them with evil (appellate them with evil) is on the wrong path”[1]

Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin a Faqeeh:

A faqeeh is a scholar imbued with a thorough understanding of Islamic Jurisprudence or with the methodology of deriving Islamic rulings from the Qur’ân and Sunnah.

This is as defined by Imâm As-Suyooti in his book Tadreeebur Raawiyy.

Today there are many beginners of knowledge who claim that Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni is not a faqeeh. This is usually made when the Ash-Sheikh expresses an opinion contrary to theirs or to those of the scholars they revere so as to denounce the Ash-Sheikh’s opinion. [2]

Sheikh Al-Albâni did a commentary of the book and made notes/verification of Ahadîth to the commentary of Ash-Sheikh bin Abee ‘Izz Al Hanafi on the same book.


[2] Such people fail to remember that Ash-Sheikh Albaani was tutored at his early stage in life to strictly be a faqeeh in the Hanafi Madhhab
This opinion is wrong for the following reasons:

1. In matters of difference of opinion issues should not be resolved by citing personalities and saying one is not a *faqeeh* but rather, issues should be resolved by citing each person’s evidence.

2. The comments quoted above of Ash-Sheikh Al-Uthaymeen concerning Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni that “...And he is one possessing widely extensive knowledge of Hadîth in terms of memorization and comprehension...” The actual word employed to express comprehension is *diraayah*, which means to derive (in this case), judgment from the text of the Hadîth. And this is *fiqh* - to understand the sources of the Shari’ah and give legal rulings accordingly.

3. Besides, most of the scholars quoted above described him as *Aalim*[^1] which in the usage of the scholars, according to Imam Suyooti ، means

«العالم هو الذی يَعلَمی الْمَتنَ وَيَعلَمی الْسَندَ معاً

“One who has knowledge of how judgments are derived from the texts and knowledge of how the chains of narrations are authenticated.”

Commenting on this issue, the Sheikh himself said:

“It is mandatory (as a precondition) for a *faqeeh* to be a *Muhaddith* but it is not mandatory (as a precondition) for a *Muhaddith* to be a *faqeeh* because naturally and intrinsically, the *Muhaddith* is a *faqeeh*.

[^1]: Including a Professor of Islamic Jurisprudence and other scholars as mentioned above.
Did the companions of the Prophet ﷺ study fiqh or not? What was the fiqh they studied? It was nothing other than what they used to take from the Prophet ﷺ. Therefore they studied Hadith (just as the Muhaddith does) \[1\]. But those present day fuqahaa, study (only) the statements of scholars and their fiqh and do not study the Hadith of the Prophet ﷺ which is the foundation or the basis of fiqh...

Thus, some of his writings which rely fully on authentic Ahadith of the Prophet ﷺ on subjects of fiqh rank amongst the best materials ever gathered on those subjects and is far away from blind follower-ship of Madhhab. Some of these books are:

a. Sifatus Salaatun Nabiyy on prayer
b. Hajjatun Nabiyy on Hajj
c. Ahkaamu Janaaiz on Funeral rites and related issues
d. Qiyaamu Ramaadaan and At-Taraaweeh on Night Prayers during Ramadan
e. Tamaamul Minaah fi taleeq alaa fiqhis Sunnah on general issues on Fiqh

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\[1\] A close study of books such as Tasmiyat ul Fuqahaa ul Amsaar min As haabir Rasul wa man ba’dahum by Haafidh Abu - Abdur Rahmân Ahmad bin Shuaib An Nasaai and Mashaahir Ulamaa ul Amsaar by Haafiz Abu - Haatim Muhammad bin Hibban At Tameemiy show that “The Distinguished Scholars” who taught the people Prophetic Traditions (Ahadith) were also the Ulamaa and the Fuqahaa. Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Al-Ameen Al-Haleel stated that to say a Scholar of Hadîth is not a faqeeh is wrong, strange and recent.

\[2\] Minhaajus Salafiyy 'inda Ash-Sheikh Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni pg 60-61 by 'Amr Abdul Mun'im Saleem.
What Scholars Say About Him

f. Aadaabuz Zifaaf on marriage and related issues.
g. Tamaamun Nush fee Ahkaami Mash on ablution-related issues
h. Ath-Thamarul Mustataab fee fiqhis Sunnah wal Kitaab on general issues on Fiqh

There is no doubt that when scholars of present age recognize a person as a scholar, in every sense of the word, and never said he was not a faqeeh, it is futile child’s play for an ignorant person to say so.
His Position on Some Issues

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni's position on Weak Ahadîth

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni gave extensive discussions on

[1] Any Hadîth that does not fulfill the condition of a Saheeh (Sound) or Hassan (Good) Hadîth will be deemed a rejected Hadîth (weak). A Hadeeth being declared weak means that based on research and available evidence, there is no reliable or preponderance of the evidence to demonstrate that the Prophet ﷺ made that statement. Had there been strong reason to accept it even if it were through weak chains, it would have been graded Hassan ligairihi at the very least.
weak *Ahadîth* and their status in the *Shari'ah* in many of his works including - *Tamaamul Minnah fii Tu'aleeq 'alaa Fiqhis Sunnah*, *Saheeh Targeeb wat Tarheeb*, *Silsilatu Ahadeeth Da’eeefah* amongst others and his position can be summarized thus:

It is mandatory that whenever a weak *Hadîth* is narrated, the fact that it is weak should also be mentioned so that people do not assume it to be of the Prophet ﷺ, a statement that cannot be authentically proven to be his. This is based on the authentic *Hadîth* of the Prophet ﷺ when he said:

"Beware of the *Hadîth* related on my authority except for what you have knowledgeable of” (Tirmidhee, Ahmad and others).\[1\]

Knowing the authenticity or otherwise of any narration can be achieved in two ways:

a. By critically studying the various chains of transmission of the *Hadîth* based on the principles of the Science of *Hadîth* without resorting to previous categorization of the *Hadîth* (whether weak or authentic). Today, only very few amongst the people of learning have this ability.

b. By relying on books of specific compilation of authentic *Ahadîth* such as the Two *Saheeh* - Bukhâari and Muslim or on the comments and

\[1\] Imam Abdur Rauf Al Munaawiyy also authenticated the *Hadîth* in his book *Faidul Qadeer*. Commenting on a similar *Hadîth*, Imam Ibn Hibbaan said:’’..Every doubt concerning what is narrated about whether it is authentic or not falls under the apparent meaning of this statement.’’
verification of scholars of Hadîth such Imâm Ahmad bin Hanbal, Yahya bin Maene, Abee Haatim Ar Raazee, An Nawawi, Adh-Dhahabi, Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalaani amongst others. This is easier despite the fact that it also requires some efforts in looking through reference materials.[1]

Secondly, weak Ahadîth are zannu marjooh (literally, subdued guesses) and it is a matter of consensus that it is not permissible to act upon them (zannu marjooh) in matters of halaal and haraam, or virtuousness of deeds or intimidating people away from evil deeds (Targeeb wat Tarheeb), etc.[2]

This position (of Al-Albâni on weak Hadîth) is also the position of a good number of scholars such as ‘Urwah bin Zubair bin Awwaam, Ibrahim An Nakha’ee and many others amongst the Taabioon, Imâm Bukhâari, Muslim, Yahya bin Maene, Abu Haatim Ibn Hibbaan, Ibn Abu Haatim, Imâm Khataabi, Abubakr bin ‘Arabiyy Al-Maalianiyy, Ibn Hajar Al-Haythaamiyy, Ahmad bin Muhammad Adh-Dhahabi, Muhammad ‘Alliy Ash-Shawkaani, Ash-Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Shaakir and many others.[3]

[2] To depend on unreliable narrations concerning the actions or statements of the Prophet ﷺ come under “Saying about Allâú’s Messenger what one has no knowledge of.” Allâú ﷺ says, “he (Shaitaan) commands you only what is evil and sinful and that you should say about Allâú what you know not” Baqarah vs 169.
[3] For detailed discussion of this issue, see the works of Al-Albâni mentioned above and Ahadeeth Da’eeefah wa Hukmu Ihtijaaj bihaa by Al-Khudair, Al-Mukhtasar Al Wajeex fî ‘Ulloom il Hadîth by Muhammad ‘Ajjaaj Al-Khateeb, Wujoob al Tathabbut fi Al-Riwaayah by Dr ‘Aasim Al-Qaryootiyy.
Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni’s position on Irjaa’:

Irjaa’ is the deviant innovatory belief contrary to the Qur’ân, Sunnah and the Ijmaa’ of Ummah, that “Actions are not a part of Îmân and that Îmân does not increase nor decrease”[1]

[1] Several verses of the Qur’aan and Ahadith of the Prophet ﷺ show “that actions are from Imaan and that Imaan increases and decreases.” The following are but a few...

Allâh ﷻ says: “And it is not for Allâú to allow your Imaan to be lost” Baqarah vs 143.

The reference to Imaan here is in reference to the prayer, which the Muslims prayed, facing Quds (Jerusalem) before the Qiblah was changed. This meaning has been mentioned also from Ibn Abbaass and Ali bin Abee Taalib (Al Imaan vol. 1pg 327 by Ibn Mandih). Imám An Nawawi states “there is consensus on the fact that Imaan here means Salaah” (Sharh Saheeh Muslim Vol 1 pg 149 by Imâm Yahya Sharafadeen An Nawawi).

The Prophet ﷺ said: “Imaan has seventy odd branches, the best of which is the declaration that there is no god worthy of worship but Allâú and that the simplest of which is removing a bone from the road. And modesty is a branch of faith” (Bukhâri, Muslim and others).

These Verses indicate that Imaan rises and falls.

Allâh ﷻ says: “And when His verses are recited unto them, it increases their faith” Anfaal vs 2.

He ﷻ also says: “And Allâh increases in guidance those who seek guidance” Maryam vs 76.

Imâm Ibn Taimiyyah, after quoting several statements from the companions that Imaan rises and reduces said... “The issue of increase in Imaan with righteous deeds and its decrease with acts of disobedience (to Allâh and His Messenger) is established amongst the companions such that there is no known difference of opinion amongst them on it” (Al Imaan pg 211 by Imâm Ahmad Ibn Taimiyyah)
Ibn Nujaim Al Hanafi in his book "Al Bahrur Raahiq" said...” And ʿІмân does not increase nor decrease because to us ʿІмân is not in actions...and (part of what leads a man to disbelief is) the statement... ʿІмân increases and decreases’”

Commenting on the above statement, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni said:

“This position is a clear deviation from the Hadîth narrated by Abu Hurairah ☦️ where the Prophet ☦️ was asked “What is the best action? He ☦️ said...’Belief in Allâh and His Messenger.’” ʿReported by Bukhâri and others. There are other Ahadîth with the same meaning and some of them can be found in Targeeb 2/107.

Sheikh ul-Islam Ibn Taimiyyah had clearly explained in the book “Al ʿІмân” the fact that ʿІмân is a part of deeds and that it increases and decreases. It should be referred to for whomsoever seeks fuller explanations.

I (Al-Albâni) says: ‘This (that ʿІмân encompasses actions and that it increases and reduces) is what I have been writing for more than 20 years ago re-emphasizing the position of our pious predecessors and the belief of the Ahlus Sunnah - and Praise be unto Allâh - on the issue of ʿІмân.

Then today, some ignorantly hostile grudge bearing exuberant young ones accuse us of Irjaa’! Unto Allâh we lay complains from the evil of what they are upon in ignorance, misguidance and
confusion” [1]

Ash-Sheikh Muhammad bin Salih Al Uthaimeen was asked concerning those who accuse Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni of Irjaa. He responded saying: "Whoever accuses Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni of Irjaa has erred. He either does not know Al-Albâni or he does not know Irjaa. Al-Albâni is a man amongst the Ahlus Sunnah - May Allâh be pleased with him - a defender of it (Sunnah) an Imâm of Hadîth. I do not know of anyone who surpasses his devotion (to Sunnah) in our generation.” [2]

Ash-Sheikh’s opinion about calling oneself a Salafi:

On this issue, the summary of Ash-Sheikh’s opinion is this:

"The term As-Salaf is well known in Arabic language (implying predecessor). But the language of the Shari'ah of Islam is our concern here. It has been established that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم during his terminal illness said to Fatimah ﷺ:

“Fear Allâh and be patient and a good Salaf (Predecessor, past example) I am for you”. [3]

Also, the scholars are fond of using the statement As-

[1] Adhdhabbul Ahmad ‘an Musnad Imâm Ahmad by Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni pg 35 and Al-Albâni wal Irjaa by Abdul Azeez bin Raes Al Raes


[3] Saheeh Muslim
Salaf. There are countless examples but suffice to cite this one:

"Every good is in following the Salaf (Predecessors) and every evil is in the innovation of the Khalaf (Successors) "[1]

However there are some claimants to knowledge who say that it is wrong to call one’s self a Salafi (one following the path of the Salaf (pious predecessors) thinking that such appellation has no justification in the Shari‘ah. It is as though they were saying it is not right to say... "I am one following in the footsteps of the Salaf".

No doubt if they really meant this then they would be saying that it is wrong to say I am one practicing the correct Islam, the correct Islam practiced by the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions as he said in his Hadîth:

"The best of People is my generation (the one I lived in), then those who follow them and then those who follow them’"[2]

If one were to argue that ‘is it not enough to say I am a Muslim’? Then we reply him by saying that this is also the claim of every Muslim group even the deviant ones like Soofiyyah, Qaadianiyyah and Shi‘ah. So, What distinguishes you from them?

Also if one argued that ‘why don’t you just say I follow the Qur’ân and Sunnah’? We would reply that

[1] Saheeh, a statement of Abdullah bin Mas‘ud reported in Musannaf Abdur Razzaaq

[2] Bukhâri and Muslim
this is not enough for the reason, firstly, this is also the claim of many deviant groups like the Ashari sect, the Maaturoidi, and the hisbiyyah, so what distinguishes you from them?

Secondly, we find in the Qur’ân and Sunnah to follow something in addition to Qur’ân and Sunnah. Allâh ﷻ says....

"Whosoever conflicts the Messenger after guidance has become manifest to him and follows a path other than that of the believers, We shall turn him to the path he has chosen and lead him to hell — an evil destination". (An -Nisaa’ 4:115).

These believers could be no other than the Companions first and foremost, then those that follow, and then those that follow. Also in the Hadîth about the saved sect, the Prophet ﷺ said describing the saved sect:

"Those who follow that which I and my companions are upon today"[1] and also

"Follow my Sunnah and the Sunnah of my rightly guided Caliphs (Successors)."[2]

[1] Saheeh, reported by Tirmidhee, Abu Dawud and others
[2] Saheeh, reported by Abu Dawud
Thus, we are also commanded to follow the path of the Companions and the earliest Muslims. All these prove that we have to add to our following the Qur’ân and Sunnah, the understanding of the Salaf particularly the Companions.

After establishing our point we say to these people, you also bear names of groups and societies that do not even have any reference in the Qur’ân and Sunnah. Why don’t you then abandon those names even the names of your schools of thought like Hanafi, Maaliki, Shaafi’i and Hambali. Thus, there is nothing wrong in calling one’s self a Salafi in fact it is a very good thing to do.[1]

His Position on the Madhahibs[2]

Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni condemned the blind following of Madhhab (Schools of thought) in strong terms stating that no statement or opinion of a Madhhab should be given preference over authentic narrations from the Prophet ﷺ.

He said:

[1] Imâm Ali bin Umar Ad-Daaruqutni said: “A man should never enter into ‘ilmul kalaam, nor argumentation and he should never delve deeply into these things, rather he should be a Salafi” (Siyar A’alaamun Nubalaa Vol. 16 pg 457 by Muhammad bin Ahmad Adh-Dhababi).

Ash-Sheikh ul-Islaam Ibn Taimiyyah said”“There is no blame upon the one who makes apparent, the way of the Salaf and affiliates himself with it and attaches himself to it. Rather it is obligatory to accept that from him by agreement, for verily the path of the Salaf is nothing but the Truth. (Majmu’ul Fataawah Vol 4 pg 149).

[2] Schools of Thought
“It is enough for me that I believe that this is the most upright way which Allâh has commanded believers to take, which the Prophet ﷺ, the Chief of Messengers, has explained. This was the path which was trodden by the pious predecessors - the Companions, their successors and those after them including the four Imâms whose Madhhab majority of Muslims today attribute themselves to. All of them agreed on the obligation to stick to the Sunnah and to refer to it, to ignore every view contradictory to it, no matter how great the holder or propounder of that view, for the status of the Messenger ﷺ, his far greater and his example is far truer.”[1]

After quoting the statements of the four most popular Imâms of the Madhhâbih regarding following the Sunnah and ignoring their views that are contradictory to it, he said: “Hence, whoever adhered to whatever of the Sunnah that was proved authentic even if it opposed some of the Imâms’ sayings he would not be conflicting with their Madhhab nor straying from their path, rather, such a person would be following all of them and would be grasping the most trustworthy hand­hold, which never breaks.”[2]

His opinion on how to revive the Ummah and regain it’s Lost Honor and Glory:

“The solution to this is a return to Islaam and this is what I believe as is contained in the authentic Hadith wherein the Prophet ﷺ said:

"When you involve in 'eena and you are pleased (engrossed) with agriculture and you abandon jihad in Allâh's way then Allâh will descend upon you humiliation which He (ۚ) will not remove from you until you return to your religion"[1]

This is what Imâm Maalik Ḥ pointed out in his famous statement etched in gold he said:

'Whoever invents in Islam a bid'a (innovation) and considers it hasanah (good), then he has assumed that Muhammad ﷺ betrayed the message. Read Allâh's words, Blessed and Exalted be He, "This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed my favors upon you and I'm pleased with Islam as your religion."

Thus, whatsoever was not on that day part of the Religion cannot today become part of the Religion. And nothing will reform the latter generation of this Ummah except what reformed its earlier generation'

This last sentence is what we are particular about here where he said "...and nothing will reform the latter generation." Just as the Arabs were not reformed of their Jaahiliyyah ways except by the coming of their Prophet ﷺ with revelation from the heavens, which earned them success in this world and would soon also earn them success in the Hereafter.

The fundamental principle upon which a successful Islamic life should be based in this generation is a return to the Qur'ân and Sunnah. However, this issue requires further explanation because a great number of Islamic groups and societies in the present world claim that they have designed for themselves a methodology

[1] Saheeh, reported by Ahmad, Abu Dawud and others.
or scheme, which will enable them, establish an Islamic community (state) and Islamic rule.

However, we know from the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger 
that the way to achieve that is only one and that is what Allah Honored and Majestic is He said:

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مِسْتَقِيمًا فَلْتَبْدَعَهُ وَلَا تَتَبْدِعُوا أَشْبَالَ فَتَفَرَّقُوا عِنْهُ

"And verily, this is my straight path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His path." (Al-An’aam 6:153).

The Messenger of Allah 
explained this Verse clearly to his Companions.

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He (the Prophet 
) drew a straight line on the ground and said "This is Allah’s path." Then he drew on its sides some divergent short lines and said:’’ and these are the divergent paths upon each of them is a Shaitaan calling unto it.’’[1]

Allah 
 further emphasized this point along with the prophetic explanation when He said:

وَمَنْ يَتَفَاقَىٰ الْرَّسُولِ عِنْهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا بَيْنَنِ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ وَتَبَيَّنَ عَنْهُ سَيْبُلُ

المؤمنين تُولِيهَا، ما تَوَلَّى وَتَصَلِّي، جَهَّزْتُ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا

[1] Saheeh, reported by Nasaa’ee
"And whoever contradicts and opposes the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) after the right path has been shown clearly to him, and follows other than the believers’ way, We shall keep him in the path he has chosen, and burn him in Hell – what an evil destination!" (An-Nisaa 4:115)

In this Verse is critical wisdom as Allâh Glorified is He attached the path of the believers to what the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ brought.

This is the same thing indicated in the Hadîth of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ about dissension when he was asked about the saved sect and he said:

"مَا أَنَا عَلَيْهِمَا الْيَوْمَ وَأَصْحَابِيُّ"

"Those upon what I and my companions are upon today..."[1]

What then was the wisdom in Allâh’s mentioning of the path of the believers in the Verse and what was the salient reason why the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ attached his Companions to himself in the Hadîth?

The answer is that these noble Companions were the ones who received (directly) the two revelations (the Qur’ân and the Sunnah) along with their explanations from the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ without any intermediary as others after them had to. And no doubt, the situation would be as the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

«لَيْسَ الْخَبَرُ كَأَلْمَعَايِنَةٍ»

[1] Saheeh, reported by Tirmidhee
"The present one sees what the absent one doesn’t."[1]

It was for this reason that the Īmān of the Companions was stronger than the Īmān of those who came after them. This is what the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ alluded to in the Hadīth,

«خَيْرُ الْنَّاسِ قَرْنِي، ۚ ثُمَّ ٱلْذِّينَ يَلْعَنُهُمُ، ۚ ثُمَّ ٱلْذِّينَ يُلْوِنُهُمُ»

"The best of People is my generation (the one I lived in) then those after them, then those after them"[2]

Due to this, it is not possible for a Muslim to understand the Qur'ān and the Sunnah by himself without having recourse to the understanding of the Companions who learnt it directly from the Prophet ﷺ along with it’s explanations sometimes with his statements, sometimes by his actions and sometimes by his tacit approvals.

Therefore of great necessity is that we attach to Da’wah to Qur’ān and Sunnah, the method of our pious predecessors due to what has been mentioned above in some Verses and Ahadīth when Allāh ﷻ mentioned the path of the believers and the Prophet ﷺ mentioned the understanding of the Companions. We follow these as mentioned by our pious predecessors, the Companions and those who followed them in righteousness.

At this juncture, there arises an important question which most Islamic groups and societies are unwary

[1] Saheeh, reported by Ahmad, Abdur Razzaaq in Al- Musannaf and others.
[2] Saheeh, Silsilatu Ahaadeeth Saheehah
of. It is "by what means can we know how the Companions understood and practiced this Sunnah?"

The Answer is... there is no path to that except by returning to the study of Hadith, the knowledge of the sciences of Hadith, the knowledge of Al-Jarh wat Ta'deel,\(^1\) and the applications of the principles and methodology of the science of Hadith until the scholars are able to know that which is authentically narrated from the Prophet ﷺ and that which is not.

We say in simple clearer terms to the Muslims who wish to regain the lost glory and honor of Islam and to reestablish the Islamic Rule that they must of necessity do two things:

The first thing is that they should ring into the ears of the Muslims the pristine Shari'ah of Islaam free from all the things that have been included in it which were not part of it on the day Allâh Blessed and Exalted be He said:

"Today I have perfected for you your Religion and have completed My favors upon you and I am pleased with Islam as your Religion."

And being able to achieve this today as it was in the past requires a great strife on the path of the Muslim scholars in every part of the world.

The second thing is that they should necessarily accompany with this, pure unstained knowledge and exemplary actions. And the day when the Muslims return to the understanding of their religion as the

\(^1\) This is the science of establishing the reliability or otherwise of narrators.
Companions of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ did, and then they practice assiduously that Islam, then that day will the Muslims rejoice with Allâh’s help.

I beseech Allâh ﷺ to grant us the pristine understanding of Islam according to the Qur'ân and authentic Sunnah of the Messenger ﷺ as understood by our pious predecessors and that He guides us to practice it in deeds, He is the One Who Responds.[1]

[1] Muhaddith-ul-’Asr pg 63 to 65
Ash-Sheikh’s Advice to Students of Knowledge

"I advise the beginner in the search for knowledge to read amongst the books of Fiqh, Fiqh us-Sunnah of Ash-Sheikh Sayyid Saabiq supplementing it by frequently referencing Subulus Salaam of Imâm Sana’aani. If he were to also consult the book Tamaamul Minnah (which he authored) then that will be better for him. I also advise him to read Raodatun Naadiyyah (by Ash-Sheikh Abu Tayyib Siddeeq Hassan Khan)\[1\]

\[1\] Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni edited and made commentary of the book with the title “Ata’aleeqatur Raadiyyah ‘alaa Raodatun Naadiyyah” in 3 volumes."
As for *Tafseer*, I advise him to be frequent in reading *Tafseer Qur'ânîl 'Azeem* of Haafîdh Ibn Katheer. Though it is lengthy in some areas it still remains the most authentic book of *Tafseer* today. Then with regard to exaltation and heart softening admonitions, I recommend the book, *Riyaadus Saâliheen* of Îmâm An Nawawi. Then I advise him with regard to books of *Aqeedah* to use the book *Sharh 'Aqeedatut Tahaawiyyah* of Ibn Abî 'Izz Al Hanafi and to supplement it with my notes and commentary on it.

Then on a general note, he should build his religion upon the books of Ash-Sheikh-ul Islam Ibn Taymiyyah and his student Ibn Qâyyim Al-Jawziyyah both of whom I regard as amongst the most extraordinary scholars of the Muslims who followed the path of the *Salafus Salîheen* (the pious predecessors) in their understanding of the religion displaying along with it piety and goodness though we do not vindicate anybody before Allâh.

**Ash-Sheikh's parting advice to the generality of the Muslims:**

My parting advice to all the Muslims on the surface of the earth in general and particularly to our brothers who are our partners in the blessed *Da'wah* of Qur'ân and Sunnah according to the methodology of the *Salafus Salih*. I admonish them and myself first and foremost to fear Allâh — Blessed and Exalted be He.

Thereafter to strive in acquiring beneficial knowledge as Allâh ﷺ said:

"وَاتَأْسِرُوا اللَّهَ وَيَعْبُدُونَ مَعَهُمُ الرَّحْمَٰنَ"
"And Fear Allâh and Allâh teaches you" (Al-Baqarah 2:282)

And that they know that good knowledge is nothing other than what is contained in the Qur’ân and Sunnah according to the understanding of the Salaf. And that they should as much as they have the ability, combine with the knowledge, good deeds so that the knowledge does not become evidence against them rather it becomes evidence in their favor.

"The Day whereupon neither wealth nor sons will avail. Except him who brings to Allâh a clean heart (free from Shirk and Nifaaq). (Ash-Shu’araa 26:88-89)

Then I caution them against being one of those who abandon the footsteps of the Salaf on many issues in fact in very many issues.

Summarily, those who depart from the fold of the generality of Muslims, I admonish them to reflect the words of the Prophet in the authentic Ahadîth where he said

«وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِخْوَانًا»

"And be you servants of Allâh in firm Brotherhood."

And it is mandatory that we are mild and gentle in our approach with those who disagree with us. We should

[1] By calling the Muslims Kuffaar, hypocrites, khawaarij, Mu’tazilites, etc. and then warring against them as some ignorant Muslims do nowadays calling the scholars of Islam Kuffaar (disbelievers).
always exemplify Allâh’s statement:

آَدُعُّ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحَكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ

"Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and fair preaching." (An-Nahl 16:125)

Those to whom we must apply this etiquette are those that are vehement in opposing our principles and Aqeedah so that we do not combine with the burdensomeness of the call of truth, with which Allâh has favored us, the hardship brought by a bad method of calling to the truth.

I anticipate from our brothers from all the cities of Islam that they abide by the Islamic etiquette and then hope from that in the pleasure of Allâh not expecting any recompense from people nor thanks. Perchance this is sufficient and praise is to the Lord of the worlds.
His Students

Since Ash-Sheikh spent all his life seeking for and teaching knowledge, it is only natural that Ash-Sheikh should have hundreds of students and we mean hundreds not tens though these students vary due to the difference in the length of period of study under Ash-Sheikh, what they studied and how they studied.

So much can be said without fear of contradiction that there is no city without a student of Ash-Sheikh few or many. Some of them learnt from him directly and some through reading his books or listening to his tapes, etc.
Those students of his, despite their variation differences in countries of origin and manner of learning from Ash-Sheikh are distinguished by their pure 'aqeedah and the practice of the Qur'ân and Sunnah according to the understanding of our pious predecessors.

Hardly can one find an author, editor researcher teacher or Imam giving khutbah (Sermon) except that he benefits from Ash-Sheikh (by quoting him or his works) as we find around us today.

And respected are these students of his today as callers to the pristine Islam in various cities some of them being renowned scholars.

Some of his direct students are: Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Naseeb Ar Rufaa'i, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Zuhayr As Shaaweesh[1], Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim Shaqrah, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Eid 'Abbaasi, Ash-Sheikh Ali Al Khushaana, Ash-Sheikh Ali Hassan Abdul Hameed Al-Halabi Al-Atharee[2], Ash-Sheikh Saleem Al-Hilaali Al-Atharee[3], Ash-Sheikh Muqbil Al-Waadi'i[4], Ustaadh Muhammad Mahdee Al-Istanbooliyy, Khayrudeddeen Waa’ili, Aboo Ishaaq Al-

[2] Authored more than 150 different published books on different subjects and many others are yet unpublished.
[3] Has more than 200 books published and many others yet unpublished.
[4] One of the greatest scholars of the Da’awatus Salafiyyah and a staunch opposer of the deviant Shii’a aqeedah. He has authored a number of books including As-Saheeh Al-Musnad min maa laysa fee Saheehayn in 2 Volumes and Saheeh al-Musnad min Asbaabun-Nuzool.
His Students

Huwaynee\textsuperscript{[1]} , Hamdi Abdul Majeed As Salafi\textsuperscript{[2]} , Ash-Sheikh Abdur Rahmân Abdul Khaaliq, Dr Umar Al-Ashqar, Abu Ubaydah Mashoor bn Hassan Aal Salmaan\textsuperscript{[3]} , Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Al-Ameen Al-Haleel Abu Abdil Musawwir (who verified this book)\textsuperscript{[4]} and many more.

And amongst those who benefited from him are Al-Ustaadh Muhammad Al-Majdhuub At-Tartunsi, Ash-Sheikh AbdulQaadir Arnaoot, Ash-Sheikh Shuaib Arnaoot, Ustaadh Abdur Rahmân Al-Baani and the preacher Ustaadh Isaam Al Ataar.

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\begin{enumerate}
\item Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni has made so many complimentary remarks about him particularly concerning his dexterity and great interest in the verification of Ahadeeth and searching the various chains of transmission of the Hadîth. He also has several published works.
\item Verified and authenticated Ahadîth in Mu’jamul Kabeer of Imam Tabaraanee in 25 volumes
\item He has more than 200 published works. He is now widely referred to in the Islamic world as “The Researcher”.
\item Has a number of works including As-Sahhu Saheeh ‘alaa Abwaab Imam al-Dunya fee Fiqh Al-Hadeeth and al Muhaddith Al-Jihbiz bayna Rijaalis Saheehayn.
\end{enumerate}
Ash-Sheikh Al Muhaddith Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni authored many books and verified/authenticated many others. His works are exceptional particularly in terms of sound verification of traditions including the use of supporting evidences and a usual follow up with comments of scholars old and contemporary to further establish his judgments.

However concerning how dear his works are to him, his student and companion, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Al-Ameen Al-Haleel (who verified this book) quoted
Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni to say,

"Four out of all my books are dearest to me, most beneficial (in terms of how elaborate and all encompassing the discussions in them are) and most attractive to the mind and they are: The two Silsilah, Irwaa ul Galeel and Saheeh Sunan Abi Dawud that I regularly refer to."[1]

_Silsilatus Saheehah wa Da’eeefah:_

The _Silsilataen_ are the two monumental compilations of _Ahadîth Silsilatu Ahadîthi Da’eeefah_ and _Silsilatu Ahadeethi Saheehah_. _Silsilatu Da’eeefah_ was compiled in line with the methodology of the _Salaf_ to purify the Religion from innovatory acts in belief, worship and daily dealings which have engulfed the _Ummah_ basically due to reliance on weak and fabricated unestablished _Ahadîth_.

This would enable teachers, preachers and students of knowledge to know and beware of such narrations so that they do not attribute to the Prophet ﷺ what he did not say or what cannot be established as his statements.

To increase the benefit of the recognition of unestablished traditions, Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni compiled chains of Sound _Ahadîth_ called _Silsilatus Saheehah_.

The pattern adopted by Ash-Sheikh in the books is to mention the _Hadîth_, follow up immediately with its ruling, (i.e. whether authentic or not), mention the books of compilation of _Ahadîth_ in which it can be

[1] The _Sunan Abi Dawud_ is that published in 11 volumes.
found, together with a detailed discussion of its various chains of transmission and the comments of the scholars past and present on the Hadîth.

Silsilatu Da’eefah is in 14 large volumes with a total of about 7,000 Ahadîth and Silsilatus Saheehah is in 7 large volumes with a total number of about 3,000 Ahadîth.

Irwaa ul Galeel fii Takhreej il Ahadeethi Manaarus Sabeel:

Ash-Sheikh’s Irwaa is an outstanding work on the verification of Ahadîth in Hanbali book of fiqh called Manaarus Sabeel with relevant notes on the jurisprudential deductions in the book. One of the goals for the work is to present the evidences for the fiqh opinions in the book and verify the authenticity of the evidences in terms of soundness or weakness of the Ahadîth and the conclusions reached on the rulings.

In all 2,707 Ahadîth were verified and compiled in 8 large volumes.

Sifatus Salaatun Nabiyy:

After reading and teaching “The Book of Prayer” in At Targeeb wat Tarheeb by Al-Haafidh Al-Mundhiree ﷺ, to students in the year 1386H,\[1\] the importance of Prayer and the reward awaiting those who perform it properly, informed the compilation of a book that would describe Prayer according to the injunctions of the Prophet ﷺ as described in authentic narrations from him.

Hence, the book contains a detailed description of the

\[1\] 42 years ago
Prophet’s Prayer including its essentials, manners, forms, supplications \(\text{\textit{ad’eyah}}\), and remembrance \(\text{\textit{adhkaar}}\) from \textit{takbeer} to \textit{tasleem} such that it would be easy for the one who truly love the Prophet ﷺ to use the book fulfill his command, “Pray as you see me praying.” Thus, the conclusions on issues in the book were not based on pre-existing positions of Schools of Thoughts but rather, as can be authentically proven from the practices of the Prophet ﷺ.

Today, \textit{Sifatus Salaatun Nabiyy} of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni is one of the most popularly read books in the Muslim world and it has been translated to different languages of the world including two popular Nigerian languages - Hausa and Yoruba.\(^1\)

\textit{Tahreem Aalaatut Tarb:}

This book stands out as one of the most detailed single book on the impermissibility of Music and Musical Instruments according to the Qur’ân, Sunnah, and the explanations of our pious predecessors.

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni opened the book with a strong and clear refutation of the arguments of Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Abu Zahrah that appeared in one of the editions of the magazine - \textit{“Ikhwaan ul-Muslimeen”} where he permitted someone who developed love for music despite his memorization of large portions of the Qur’ân to go ahead listening to music.

Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni explained the incorrectness of the verdict based on clear and authentic textual

\(^1\) The Hausa translation was done by ... while the Yoruba translation was done by Abu Fareed Luqmaan Abdur Rahmaan. May Allâh reward them abundantly. \textit{Aameen}. 

evidences. He explored and clarified with proofs, based on the principles of the science of verification of *Ahadîth*, the misconceptions concerning the authenticity of the *Ahadîth* forbidding music giving some of the reasons why the misconceptions came up from Imâm Ibn Hazm Al-Andaloosee and the later day scholars like Dr Yoosuf Al-Qardaawe and Ustaadh Muhammad Al-Ghazaali amongst others who also mistaking the narrations to be weak, wrongly rule on music and musical instruments.

As is known of him, Sheikh Al-Albâni went on to quote other scholars of the *Ummah* including Al- Imâm Al Bukhâari, Ibn Hibbaan, Al-Ismaa’eelee, Al-Haafidh Ibn Salaah, Al-Imâm An-Nawawee, Ash-Sheikh Al-Islaam Ibn Taimiyyah, Ibn Qayyim Al Jawziyyah, Al-’Allaamah Ibn Katheer, Al-Haafidh Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalaani, Al-Imâm Sakhaawee amongst others who had verified and authenticated the *Ahadîth*.

The 216-page book filled with great benefits for the scholars and students of knowledge was first published in 1375H - 50 years ago.[1]

*Adhdhahabbul Ahmad ‘an Musnad Imâm Ahmad*:

This book was compiled on a special request from the Eminent Ash-Sheikh Abdul ‘Azeez bin Baaz (The former Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia) in response to one Abdul Quddus Al-Haashimiyy who made spurious claims amongst others, that:

[1] This implies that Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni wrote the book when he was about 44 years old.
1. *Musnad Imâm Ahmad* cannot be truly linked to the Imâm.

2. Abubakr bin Maalik Al Qatee'î, one of the students and narrators from Abdullah bin Ahmad bin Hanbal has a faulty 'aqeedah and is amongst the worst of men.

3. Al Qatee'î (mentioned above) included several fabricated Ahadîth so much that it doubled the original compilations of the Imâm.

In this well researched, monumental rebuttal by Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni, he referenced based on known Sound Chains of narrations over 20 statements confirming the authorship of the *Musnad* by the Imâm. These statements include those of Imâm Ahmad bin Hanbal himself, his son, Abdullah bin Ahmad bin Hanbal, and other scholars such as: Haafidh Abu Musaa Al-Madeeniyy, Imâm Yahya An Nawawi, Imâm Ibn Taimiyyah, Haafidh Ibn Qayyim Al Jawziyyah, Haafidh Ibn Katheer, Haafidh Al 'Iraaqee, Imâm Haythaami, Haafidh Al Jazariyy amongst others.

Ash-Sheikh also showed how baseless Al-Haashimiyy’s claim was on Al-Qatee’î, quoting scholars’ testimonies to Al-Qatee’î’s personality and concluded that this Al-Haashimiyy is surely on the path of *dolaal* (misguidance).

The overall characteristic of the book is not surprising given Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni’s status, as the Scholar of

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[1] See the story of Qatee’î’s inclusions in the preceding pages.
Hadîth of the Century - May Allâh be pleased with him.

**Saheeh Sunan Al Arba’a wa Da’eeefuhaa:**

Besides Bukhâri and Muslim, the most common books of Hadîth compilation are the Sunan Al ‘Arba’a - Sunan Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi, Nasâai and Ibn Maajah, wherein the authors compiled on different subjects, Saheeh, Hasan, and a few weak Ahadîth.[1]

Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni verified the Ahadîth in these books and for each of them, the authentic Ahadîth (Saheeh Sunan) were separated from the weak ones (Da’eeef Sunan).

In all, the books (Saheeh Sunan Al ‘Aarba’a wa Da’eeefuhaa) are of 16 large volumes (12 for the Saheehah and 4 for the Da’eeefah) with a total of over 18,000 Ahadîth.

**Gaayatul Maraam fii Takhreeji Ahadîth il Halaal wal Haraam**

Gaayatul Maraam is an outstanding book which contains elaborate discussions on the verification and the categorization of the Ahadîth in the book “Al Halaal wal Haraam”[2] with brief notes on a few jurisprudential conclusions of the author.[3]

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[1] The various Imâms who authored each of the Sunan al ‘Arba’a mentioned that they did not include in their books any Hadîth they consider very weak (rejected) or fabricated.

[2] Al Halaal wal Haraam is a book written by Dr Yussuf Al Qardaawi, hafizahullaah.

[3] Ash-Sheikh mentioned in the introductory notes that his real interest was in the verification and categorization of the
The approach of Ash-Sheikh here was that for every Hadîth in the book, he referenced the book of compilation containing it, discussed the chain(s) of transmission(s), citing the statements of scholars, past and present about such a Hadîth and other supporting evidences.

About 484 Ahadîth were used in the original book (Al Halaal wal Haraam) out of which 80 were declared weak.\[1\]

**Ahkaamu Janaaiz:**

This book - Allâh knows best - is one of the most comprehensive works ever compiled on the subject of Funeral Rites in Islaam. It explores what is required of the sick while still on the sick bed, the responsibilities of those taking care of the sick at that time, what to do as soon as the sick dies, the responsibilities of relatives and friends of the deceased, the bathing, shrouding, and burial of the corpse, etiquettes of visits to graveyards and the innovations that have crept into these acts of worship.

A point-by-point approach was adopted for each of the sections with sound evidencing and elaborate discussion of the various evidences leading to convincing conclusions.

\[1\] This would have surely affected a good number of the legal rulings in the original book, which would have been based of weak, unestablished traditions!
It has 278 pages and the first edition was published in 1969 in Damascus.

*Tahdheerus Saajid min Ittikhaadhi Quboori Masajid:*  
One of the most popular innovations around the Sheikh in his earlier days and around us today is the building of mosques on graves and the taking of graves for sanctuaries/shrines where people sought blessings from the dead.

Thus, the book (actually one of his first), discussed amongst other related issues, the position of *Shari'ah* on the construction of mosques on graves and the ruling concerning the prayer in these mosques.

It has 240 pages and the first edition was published in 1377AH.[1]

According to the compilations of Ibrahim Muhammad Al ‘Aliyy in *Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni* and Sameer bin Ameen Az-Zuhairi in *Muhaddith ul ‘Asr*, Ash-Sheikh authored about two hundred and twenty-one titles (221), some of which are in 40 Volumes and a good number of them usually more than 3 volumes.[2]

[1] 57 years ago.

He wrote:

"I admonish my wife, my children, my close friends and all those who love me that whenever the news of my death reaches them to first and foremost pray for forgiveness and Allâh’s mercy upon me and not weep over me with a wailing voice.

Secondly, they should hasten to bury me and not inform my relatives except those necessary to organize my funeral and that my ghusl be assigned to 'Azzat Khidr Abu Abdullah my sincere neighbor and friend
and any one else he may choose to assist him.

Thirdly, they should choose a place close by to bury me so that those who carry my corpse are not compelled to put it in a car and as a result those following the corpse also enter and ride in their cars. And that my grave should be in an old graveyard one, which an onlooker will assume soon not to be excavated again.

And whosoever is in the city where I die should not inform any of my children outside it not to talk of any other person until I have been buried so that they are not engulfed by emotions such that they then delay my funeral.

I pray that I meet Allâh in such a condition that He has forgiven my sins, the past and future.

And I bequeath my library in its entirety - whether that of the printed material or photocopied or manuscript in my handwriting or the handwriting of other than me to the Islamic University of Al-Madinâh because I have some fond and pleasant memories of Da’wah to Qur’ân and Sunnah according to the understanding of the Salaf when I was a lecturer (there).

I have hope in Allâh that those who visit the University benefit from it just as they had benefited from its owner in those days when he was there (as a lecturer). And that He may benefit me through my sincerity and their prayer.
“My Lord! Grant me the power and ability that I may be grateful for your favor which you have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and that I may do righteous good deeds, such as please you, and make my offspring good. Truly, I have turned to you in repentance and truly, I am one of the Muslims {submitting to your Will}”[1]

Written by the fervently prevalent of his Lord’s Mercy Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni Jumaada Ula 1420AH[2]

[1] Soorah Ahqaaf 46:15
His Children

Part of the mercies of Allâh on Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni - ﷺ, are his children and they are:

From his first wife[1]
Abdur Rahmân, Abdul Lateef, Abdur Razzaaq.

From his second wife
Abdul Musawwir, Abdul A’alaa, Muhammad, Abdul Muhaymin, Unaysah, ’Aasi’ah, Salaamah, Hassanah and Sakeenah.

[1] She died before the death of Ash-Sheikh- ﷺ
From his third wife

Hibatullaah.

May Allah protect them all. Aameen.

The narration from Ash-Sheikh Al-Ameen Al-Haleel about the children of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni is that they are people of Îmân and Taqwa (piety) and we do not vindicate anybody before Allah.

Standing out amongst the children of Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni in terms of exceptional brilliance and intellectual soundness relative to that of the Sheikh is his daughter, Al ‘Allaamah, Ash-Sheikhah Umm Abdillah Unaysah. Today, Umm Abdillah is regarded as one of the most learned women in the Muslim world in fiqh and Hadîth.

Talking about her brilliance, the time and great pains put into research, she is almost a copy of her dear father and teacher. She had helped write the preface/introductory notes and the Fihris (Glossary) to some of the books of her father particularly those he authored at the later part of his life when his hands were relatively weak due to old age such as the Silsilatu Ahadîth Da’eefah Volumes 6 to 14 and those of his books that have been published for the first time since his death such as the Mukhtasar Saheeh Bukhâari. In recognition of her knowledge and ability, she was given the assignment to edit the Mukhtasar Saheeh Bukhâari, which she has done with brilliance.

Umm Abdillah is reported to have a number of students - both male and female, who learn Fiqh and Hadîth from her and she answers questions on crucial Islamic Jurisprudential matters.
At the death of her father and teacher, she wrote: "Who will give answers to my questions? Who will fulfill my needs for explanations of the difficult area (of my studies) and who will critically look at my proposals and accept them graciously and thankfully, or reject them based on superior evidences...Who...Who?"
Verily, Allâh the Exalted and Magnificent selected from amongst His creatures those He loves and guided them to faith, thereafter He chooses from the generality of believers those that He loves and favors them. He teaches them the book (the Qur’ân) and Wisdom (Sunnah) and gives them firm comprehension of the religion.

He teaches them interpretation and honors them above all believers. This, He does in every
generation and era. He elevated them with knowledge and beautified them with gentleness. Through them the lawful and the prohibited, the truth and the falsehood, good and detestable are known. Their honor is immense and their importance is great, they are the inheritors of the Prophets and the apple of the eyes of the Saints.

The fishes in the sea seek forgiveness for them and the angels spread their wings for them in respect. And on the Day of Judgment they would be the next to intercede for men after the Prophets. Their sittings are full of wisdom and by their deeds the unwary are reawakened.

They are nobler than worshippers; higher in pedestal than aesthetics, their lives are booty and

[1] Abu Dardaa narrates that the Prophet said: “The Scholars are the inheritors of the Prophets ( ). Verily, the Prophets neither left behind (for inheritance) a dirham nor dinar rather, they left behind Knowledge. Whoever grabs it holds on to fortune” (Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi and others). See Saheeh Targeeb wat Tarheeb by Muhammad Násiruddin Al-Albâni

[2] Aa’isha said..”The Prophet said: ‘Everything, even the fish in the ocean seeks Allah’s forgiveness for the one who teaches good.’ (Al Bazzaar, Tirmidhi, Ibn Hibbaan, Baihaqee and others in different forms but same meaning)

[3] Safwaan bin ‘Assaal said: “I heard the Prophet said ‘No one goes out of his house in search of Knowledge except that the Angels spread for him their wings’ (Tirmidhi and authenticated by Ibn Maajah).

[4] Abu Umaamah Al Baahili narrates that “Two men were mentioned to the Prophet one of them, a worshipper and the other a learned person and the Prophet said ‘The nobility of the learned one over the worshipper is like my nobility over the closest amongst you..’” (Saheeh, reported by Tirmidhi).
their death a calamity.\footnote{Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin ‘Aas narrates that the Prophet said: “Verily, Alláú will not take away knowledge by taking it away from (the minds of) the servants. Rather, knowledge shall be taken away by the taking away (death) of the scholars until no scholar shall remain. People would take ignorant men asking them religious verdicts, they would answer without knowledge (they would rather answer based on their desires) they will mislead people and will be misled” (Reported by Bukhári and Muslim).} They remind the unwary and teach the ignorant. Misfortune never befalls them nor can one fear for them extinction.

By their teachings the obedient servant strive and by their beautiful exhortation, the negligent retrace their steps. The entirety of creation is in dire need of their knowledge they are a source of irritation and infuriation to Shaitaan since they enlighten the hearts of the followers of truth and the heart of the deviant despised.

Their similitude on earth is as the stars are to the sky, serving as source of guidance (Direction) in the darkness of the land and sea, such that whenever the stars are obscured, they (the people) in confusion and when darkness fades away from them they see the way.

Subhaanaka Allahumma Wabihamdika Ashhadu an laa ilaaha illaa anta astaghfiruka wa atuubu ilaek

\footnote{Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin ‘Aas narrates that the Prophet said: “Verily, Alláú will not take away knowledge by taking it away from (the minds of) the servants. Rather, knowledge shall be taken away by the taking away (death) of the scholars until no scholar shall remain. People would take ignorant men asking them religious verdicts, they would answer without knowledge (they would rather answer based on their desires) they will mislead people and will be misled” (Reported by Bukhári and Muslim).}
His Death

After a life filled with the search for knowledge and the teaching of it, the reawakening of the Sunnah and the defence of it, an exemplary life of complete servitude to Allâh سبحانه وتعالى in humility and devotion, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Nâsiruddin Al-Albâni died on Saturday, 23rd Jumaadah Aakhirah 1420 AH (2nd October 1999) after ‘Asr prayer before sunset in Amman, Jordan. He was 88 years old.

He had willed that “…they should hasten to bury me…” and that “...my ghusl be assigned to Khidr Abu
Abdullah my sincere neighbor and friend and any one else he may choose to assist him." The Solaat ul Janaazah prayer was led by his close companion and student, the Imâm of the Solaahuddeen mosque in Amman, Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim Shaqrah and he was carried on the shoulders to the graveyard.

All the acts were carried out as he willed - Rahimahullaah Rahmatan Waasi’ah.[1]

He also willed that:

"... they should choose a place close by to bury me so that those who carry my corpse are not compelled to put it in a car and as a result those following the corpse also enter and ride in their cars. And that my grave should be in an old graveyard."

Allâh answered his prayers and brought his will into fruition. Ash-Sheikh Umar Abubakr said:

"He Al-Albâni once passed by the Hamlan graveyard as I was told by Ustaadh Shaqra {a student and companion of Al-Albâni}-Hafizahullaah together with Muhammad Al-Khattaab {also a student of Ash-Sheikh} and he {Al-Albâni} said to him, 'I wish to be buried in this graveyard’ and it is the closest graveyard to his house. Allâh fulfilled his wishes and he was buried there in—. [2]

[1] That was why Ash-Sheikh Al-Uthaimeen said in condolence to Ash-Sheikh Al-Albâni’s family after hearing the Will and how it was carried out accordingly that...“The Sheikh has upheld Sunnah in his life and his death”.

Over five thousand people attended the *Janaazah* prayer performed the same day he died.

May Allâh be pleased with him and count him in the company of those on whom Allâh has bestowed His Grace, of the Prophets, the Siddeeqoon, the martyrs, and the righteous. And how excellent these companions are.
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