



Shaykh Muhiyuddīn al-Kurdī

By Shaykh Shoayb Ahmad

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He is Shaykh Muhiyuddīn ibn Hasan ibn Mūrī al-Kurdī al-Dārī. His ascription 'Dārī' links his genealogy to Dāra in Diyār Bakr, Turkey. Shaykh Muhiyuddīn is a well-known and reputable *faqīh*, a teacher of *qira'āt* and the leading Shaykh of the Qurrā' at Jāmi` Zayd ibn Thābit.

He was born in the suburb of al-Haywatiyya in Damascus, Syria in 1912 CE (1329 H). The Shaykh grew up under the care and guidance of his parents who had a tremendous effect on him. His mother, who was known for her excessive *ibadāt* in the form of *salāt* and fasting, was especially very concerned with his upbringing.

The norm in Damascus at the time was that a child was taken to a teacher to learn the Qur'ān. Thus, when the young Shaykh was ten years old he was taken to a teacher who carefully taught him. The Shaykh had however already completed the recitation of the Qur'ān by the time he was about six years old.

Thereafter he was taken to Shaykh `Izzuddīn al-`Arqasūsī who was in charge of one of the best schools dedicated to training young children in the Qur`ān and developing within them good and sound manners and etiquette. Shaykh `Izzuddīn was very impressed with the young boy's recitation, and devoted special attention to him. Shaykh Muhiyuddīn began memorizing the Qur`ān under Shaykh `Izzuddīn when he about twelve years old.

Due to difficult circumstances beyond his control he used to memorize a page a day while at work and thereafter he proceeded to render it to Shaykh `Izzuddīn. He reached Sūrat Tāhā and he was forced to go and work in Amman, Jordan. Thereafter he returned to Damascus and resumed the memorization of the Qur`ān until he eventually completed it when he was about seventeen years old.

He read the entire Qur`ān to *Shaykh* `Izzuddīn according to the narration of Hafs and he received *ijāzah* from him. He also read the entire Qur`ān according to the narration of Hafs to *Shaykh* Fayiz al-Dayir Atānī who also granted him *ijāzah*. The Shaykh encouraged him to continue studying the rest of the *qira'at*. He completed the study of the *qira'at* as per al-Shātibiyya and al-Durra over a period of five years. By then Shaykh Muhiyuddīn was about thirty years old. During this period he also studied some other books in Arabic grammar and *qira'at* with Shaykh Fayiz. He remained with Shaykh Fayiz until his demise.

He read and studied the beginning of *`Umdat al-Sālik* in the Shāfi`ī school with Shaykh Muhammad Barakāt. He studied various texts in Arabic grammar with Shaykh Husnī al-Baghāl. With Shaykh Sālih al-`Aqqād he studied *Mughnī al-Muhtāj*, the commentary to *al-Minhaj* twice. The Shaykh also studied *al-Tabrīr* and *al-Waraqāt* in *usūl*. He remained with Shaykh Sālih until he passed away. Shaykh `Abdul Karīm al-Rifā`ī was also one of his teachers.

He was assigned the duty of leading the people in *salāh* and addressing them in Jāmi` al-Dhahabiyya and Jāmi` Zayd ibn Thābit. When the youth began gathering around him, Shaykh `Abdul Karīm al-Rifā`ī requested him to teach the Qur`ān to the youth. Some years later his *ijāzah* for the narration of Hafs and the seven *qira'at* were published. This had a tremendous effect on the youth, and hundreds graduated under his guidance and supervision.

May Allah protect and preserve him.

