

Part 2. Imām Mālik Ibn Anas (d. 179 AH رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

ONE: There are numerous sayings of Imām Mālik calling to following the Book and Sunnah, and to avoid the opinions of men that contradict the Sunnah. He (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) stated:

إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ أُخْطِئُ وَأُصِيبُ فَانظُرُوا فِي رَأْيِي فَكُلُّ مَا وَافَقَ الْكِتَابَ وَالسُّنَّةَ
فَخُذُوهُ وَكُلُّ مَا لَمْ يُوَافِقِ الْكِتَابَ وَالسُّنَّةَ فَاتْرَكُوهُ.

“I am just a man—I can make mistakes, and I can be correct. So, look into my opinions—and whatever agrees with the Book and Sunnah, take it, and whatever does not agree with the Book and Sunnah, leave it.”¹⁵

TWO: Imām Mālik (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) also stated:

لَيْسَ أَحَدٌ - بَعْدَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - إِلَّا وَيُؤْخَذُ مِنْ قَوْلِهِ وَيُتْرَكُ
إِلَّا النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

“There is no one after the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), except that his sayings are liable to be accepted or rejected—but that is not the case with the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).”¹⁶

¹⁵ Ibn ‘Abdul-Barr in *Al-Jāmi’ Bayān al-‘Ilm wa Fadlihi* (2/32), Ibn Hazm quoted from Ibn ‘Abdul-Barr in *Usool al-Ahkām* (6/149), and likewise, al-Fulānī (p. 72).

¹⁶ The ascription of this saying Mālik (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) is well-known among the later scholars. Ibn ‘Abdul-Hādī authenticated it upon Mālik in *Irshād as-Sālik* (1/227). Additionally, Ibn ‘Abdul-Barr reported it in *Al-Jāmi’ Bayān al-‘Ilm wa Fadlihi* (2/91) and Ibn Hazm in *Usool al-Ahkām* (6/145, 179) as a

TWO: Ibn Wahb (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said: “I heard Mālik being asked about washing between the toes of the feet during wudū’, so he responded: ‘That is not obligatory upon people.’ So, I waited until the people had dispersed, then I said to him: ‘We know of a Sunnah reported about that.’ He asked: ‘What is it?’ So, I replied: ‘Al-Layth Ibn Sa’d, Ibn Lahee‘ah and ‘Amr Ibn al-Hārith narrated to us from Yazeed Ibn ‘Amr al-Ma‘āfirī from Abu ‘Abdur-Rahmān al-Hubulī from al-Mustawrid Ibn Shaddād al-Qurashī, who said:

رَأَيْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَذْلُكُ بِمُخْنَصِرِهِ مَا بَيْنَ أَصَابِعِ رِجْلَيْهِ.
فَقَالَ إِنَّ هَذَا الْحَدِيثَ حَسَنٌ وَمَا سَمِعْتُ بِهِ قَطُّ إِلَّا السَّاعَةَ.

‘I saw Allāh’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) rubbing between his toes with his little finger.’ So, Mālik said: ‘This Hadeeth is good—I had not heard of it until just now.’

Afterwards, I heard him being asked about the same matter, and he commanded with cleaning between the toes.”¹⁷

saying of al-Hakam Ibn ‘Utaybah and Mujāhid (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ). Taqī ad-Dīn as-Subkī cited it in *al-Fatāwā* (1/148) as a statement of Ibn ‘Abbās, expressing amazement at its eloquence, then he said: “Mujāhid took this saying from Ibn ‘Abbās, and Mālik (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ) took it from both of them, and it became well known from him.” Note: Taqī ad-Dīn as-Subkī was not upon the creed of *Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā‘ah*. He followed, in general, the innovated Ash‘arī school. He adopted some innovations and false views that contradicted the way of *Ahlus-Sunnah*, promoted them, defended them, and argued in their favour. Many who came after him were influenced by his doubts.

¹⁷ The introduction to *al-Jarh wat-Ta’deel* of Ibn Abī Hātim (pp. 31-32), and al-Bayhaqī reported it in complete form in *as-Sunan* (1/81)