



On Tuesday 2 Ramadan 1429 (September 2 2008), the Association of Islamic Charitable Projects sadly announced the death of Shaykh *^Abdullah ibn Muhammad Al-Harariyy*, the great scholar in

*Tafs*

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th and Fi

q

h. The passing of Shaykh

*^Abdull*

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was an enormous loss to the Muslim nation and to humanity at large. A righteous scholar and master of the religious sciences, he was a man of piety and humility who had given his whole life to the studying and teaching of Isl

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m.

Shaykh *^Abdullah*, also known as *Abu ^Abdur-Rahman ^Abdullah Ibn Muhammad Ibn Yusuf al-Harariyy ash-Shaybiyy al-^Abdariyy*

, was the Mufti of Somalia. He was born in Harar in Ethiopia. Shaykh

*^Abdull*

*a*

*h*

was related to

*Banu Shaybah*

, the clan within the

Q

*uraysh*

that was in charge of the

*Ka^bah*

and to

*^Abd-ud-Dar*

, the clan of

Q

*usayy ibn Kil*

*a*

*b*

, the fourth grandfather of Prophet Mu

*h*

*ammad,*

*s*

*allall*

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*hu ^alayhi wa sallam*

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Shaykh *^Abdullah* was born around 1327 (1910) and grew up in a humble household where he learned to love Islamic knowledge. By ten years of age he had memorised the

*Q*

*ur'*

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n by heart, diligently practising the rules of

*Tajw*

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*d*

, and other religious texts too. He gave a great deal of attention to the knowledge of

*H*

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th and memorised the six books by

*al-Bukh*

*a*

*riyy*

,

*Muslim*

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*at-Tirmidhiyy*

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*Ab*

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*ibn M*

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*jah*  
and  
*an-Nas*  
*a*  
*'iyy*  
and other texts of  
H  
ad  
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th, including the full details of the narrators and their biographies.

The scholars authorised Shaykh *^Abdullah* to pass religious edicts and to transmit the Hadith when he was less than eighteen years old. During his early life, he travelled to many places in Ethiopia and Somalia in order to seek religious knowledge and its people. During these journeys, he encountered many hardships and difficulties but would not allow this to discourage him from his efforts to study the religion.

Shaykh *^Abdullah*'s great intelligence and exceptional memory enabled him to attain a rare mastery of *Shafi'iyy*, *Malikiyy*, *Hanafiyy* and *Hanbaliyy* law. People from all over Ethiopia and Somalia would travel to meet him and benefit from his knowledge. He later became the Mufti of Somalia, the highest religious authority in passing Islamic judgements.

Shaykh *^Abdullah* learned Arabic grammar and the science of inferring religious judgements from a number of scholarly authorities and studied many important books in the fields of the Islamic sciences. He also studied the explanation of the Qur'an and the Hadith from many notable teachers.

Among other religious personalities, Shaykh *^Abdullah* met *Ahmad ibn ^Abdul-Muttalib*, the scholar in H  
ad  
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th and recitation of the Q  
ur'  
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n and head of the reciters at the Great Mosque in Makkah, from whom he learned the fourteen ways of recitation. By this time, he had earned a remarkable reputation for his religious expertise.

In Makkah Shaykh <sup>^</sup>*Abdullah* met many great scholars and attended their circles. He later went to Madinah and stayed near the Mosque of the Prophet for around a year as he spent time with the learned and studied manuscripts at the

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*A*  
*rif*  
*H*  
*ikmat*  
and Ma  
h  
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diyyah libraries.

In the 1940s Shaykh <sup>^</sup>*Abdullah* went to Jerusalem, and later in Damascus he was welcomed by its people, especially after the death of the *Muhaddith* *Badr-ud-D* *in*

*Al-*  
*H*  
*asaniyy*  
. He also travelled to Homs, Hama, Aleppo and other cities. The scholars and students of *Sh*  
*a*  
*m*

, the area that includes Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Jordan, sought his knowledge and guidance. He soon attained a great reputation and became known as the

*Mu*  
*h*  
*addith*  
of  
*Sh*  
*a*  
*m*

In 1950 Shaykh <sup>^</sup>*Abdullah* arrived in Beirut where he continued to cultivate relationships with

the people of knowledge and teach the Islamic sciences. In 1969, at the request of the director of the *Azhar* in Lebanon, he began to lecture students in Islamic belief and remained a resident of Beirut until his passing in 2008.

For the course of his life Shaykh *^Abdullah al-Harariyy* spent his time teaching knowledge and worshipping Allah. Despite his fame and reputation, he did not care for worldly pleasures and lived an austere and ascetic existence; he occupied himself with acts of piety, diligently performing *dhikr*, reciting the Qur'an, and guiding the Muslims.

Shaykh *^Abdullah* maintained a strict adherence to the Qur'an and Sunnah. Alongside his formidable religious education, he had an excellent memory and keen intellect. He was among the most conscientious in urging the people to perform the obligations and avoid sins and he was renowned for his steadfastness in obeying the commandments of Allah, the Exalted. All who knew his merit mourned his passing.