



Chapter-5

Worksheet-4

LESSON 11

IMAM ABU HANIFA (R.)

Introduction

- Imam Abu Hanifa (R.) is the **father of Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence)**.
- Imam Abu Hanifa (R.) is the **founder of the Hanafi school (Mazhab)**.
- Born in 80 Hijri / 699 C.E. at Kufa. His name was Numan and pet name Abu Hanifa.
- His title is **Imam Azam (Greatest Imam)**.
- Thabit was his father's name.
- He was a **Tabiyi (2nd generation Muslim)**.

PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE

- Imam Abu Hanifa (R.) was blessed with a very keen intellect.
- At 17 years old, he acquired profound knowledge in Hadith, Tafsir, Fiqh etc. with astonishing rapidity.
- He studied Fiqh under his tutor Hazrat Hammad (R.) for ten consecutive years.

CONTRIBUTION TO FIQH

- Imam Abu Hanifa (R.) was the **designer of the science of Fiqh**.
- He formed a '**Fiqh Editorial Board**' consisting of **forty** of his disciples.
- This board gave Fiqh the shape of a perfect discipline after a devoted mission for **long 22** years. Later he formed a special board with **10 members** chosen from the former board.
- The contribution of this board to propagation and expansion of Fiqh is of the highest measure.
- As and when any **problem (Masahla)** was brought to its notice it would immediately plunge into its research in the light of Al-Quran and Hadith and offer a **solution (Fatwa)**.
- Thus **83 thousand Masahla and solutions** were recorded in **Kutub-i-Hanafiyat (Hanafi Treatises)**.
- Imam Abu Hanifa (R.) is the founder of the Hanafi school (Mazhab).
- That a complex matter can be rendered easy through mutual consultation, Imam Abu Hanifa's board is a proof thereto.

CONTRIBUTION TO HADITH

Because of his **greatest contribution to Fiqh**, Imam Abu Hanifa's (R.) contribution to Hadith may relatively seem little. His contribution to Hadith is his compilation known as **Musnad-i-Imam Abu Hanifa which contains 500 Hadith.**

QUALITIES

- Imam Abu Hanifa (R.) was the best Alim, Abid and intellectual of his time. He possessed profound knowledge.
- **Imam Shafi (R.) said**, "In the discipline of Fiqh men look up to (depend on) Imam Abu Hanifa (R)."
- Hazrat Makki Ibn Ibrahim, favourite **teacher of Imam Bukhari (R.)** says, "Imam Abu Hanifa was true to his words and deeds."
- He observed fast for 30 years at a stretch.
- For long 40 years he did not enjoy night-sleep.
- In every Ramadan he would finish Tilawat-i-Quran 61 times.
- He performed Hajj 55 times in all.
- He was so pious that on coming to know of stealing of a goat at Kufa that he refrained from purchasing mutton from Bazar for 7 years, with the apprehension that it could be the meat of the stolen goat.
- He imparted knowledge gratis and maintained his family from cloth-trade.

One day he went to take part in the funeral prayer of someone. It was scorching sun overhead in the field. All said, "You may please stand under the shade of that tree." He asked whose tree it was. He was said that it belonged to the father of one of his pupils. He reacted saying that he would not go under the shade of that tree because his disciple might think that he was thereby taking benefit in exchange of his service. This was a great instance of an ideal preceptor.

UNWILLINGNESS TO PERFORM AS JUDGE / (Death)

Imam Abu Hanifa (R.) refused to accept the office of the Chief Justice of Baghdad offered to him by **Khalifah Al-Mansur**. As a result, he was put into prison. It was said that this great intellectual **died by poisoning** at the Khalifa's order in 150 Hijri corresponding to 767 C.E. Imam Abu Hanifa held high the honour of moral and religious knowledge by rejecting the favours promised by the Government.

WorkSheet

- 1) Write 25 short questions with answer.
- 2) Who is Imam Abu Hanifa (R.)?
- 3) What is the contribution of Imam Abu Hanifa (R.) to Hadith?
- 4) How did Imam Abu Hanifa (R.) die?
- 5) Describe Imam Abu Hanifa's (R) contribution to Fiqh.
- 6) Evaluate the moral values of Imam Abu Hanifa (R.).
- 7) How does the life of Imam Abu Hanifa (R) help us to be careful in protecting the moral standard in cultivation of knowledge?

CQ

Mr. A contributed to Hadith. He is the founder of a Mazhab. He also contributed to muslim law and jurisprudence. Mr. B is a very religious person, he never takes benefit from from anyone for his service

- a) Who is Mr. A?
- b) What do you mean by Kutub-i-Hanafiyyat?
- c) Mr. B has the character of which Muslim scholar? Evaluate.
- d) Describe the contribution of the Muslim scholar who has same qualities as Mr B has.