



Shaykh Muhammad Sukkar

By *Shaykh Shoayb Ahmad*

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He is Muḥammad b. Ṭāhā Sukkar al-Sayādī al-Rifā'ī al-Ḥusaynī ؒ, Abū Hishām, an accomplished *faqīh* and a living master of Qur'ān recitation (*qira'āt*).

The noble Shaykh ؒ was born in the suburb of al-Afif in Damascus, Syria in 1922 (1335 H). His mother raised him, teaching him the Qur'ān at a very young age. He completed the recitation of the Qur'ān with her when he was fifteen years old.

During his early years Shaykh Muhammad punctually attended the study circles (*halaqāt*) of the `Ulemā. He read the entire Qur'ān according to the narration of *ḥafṣ* under the guidance of Shaykh Fayiz al-Dā'ir Atānī. While doing this he memorised numerous texts (*mutūn*) in *qira'āt*. Shortly thereafter he read *al-Shātṭbiyya* and *al-Durra* to his Shaykh. He then began reciting the complete Qur'ān according to every one of the famous modes of recitation. In this way he probably read about

twenty complete Qur'āns with various narrations under him. Shaykh Fayiz used to constantly question him about the areas of reference related to the different modes of recitation.

The Shaykh also attended lessons that were conducted by Shaykh 'Alī al-Tikrītī and he studied various subjects under him including *Mishkāt al-Masābih*.

Shaykh Muhammad Sukkar later joined his colleague Shaykh Muḥiy al-Dīn al-Kurdī and was included among the *qurra* who were under Shaykh Sa'īd al-Halwānī's supervision. They established a gathering wherein the Qur'ān was recited and studied with its different variations and modes of recitation. This practice continues to this day and is known as the *Majlis al-Qurra*.

Today, Shaykh Muhammad follows the way and approach of his teachers in his own teaching method and is very particular on the manner in which his students recite. With beginners he first teaches the 30th *juz* of the Qur'ān and the laws of *tajwīd* and pronunciation before moving on to the higher sciences.

The noble Shaykh taught at his home and in the Mosque of Shaykh Muḥiy al-Dīn b. 'Arabī, the Khayātīn Mosque, Nūr al-Dīn al-Shahīd Mosque and Jāmi' al-Tawba. He passed away on the 13th of August 2008 CE (12th of Sha'bān 1429 H.).

May Allāh reward him and pardon him.

Amin.

