



(From left to right: Shaykh ‘Abdul Fattāḥ al-Bazm, Shaykh Kurayim Rājīḥ, **Shaykh Muḥshid ‘Ābidīn** and Shaykh Muḥiyuddīn al-Kurdī)



Shaykh Muḥammad Muḥshid ‘Ābidīn

*Compiled from the writings, translation and comments of
Shaykh Yahya al-Ghawthani¹ Shaykh Shoayb Ahmad and Shaykh Gibril Fouad Haddad*

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He is Shaykh Muḥammad Muḥshid b. Muḥammad Abū al-Khayr b. Aḥmad b. ‘Abdul Ghanī b. ‘Umar ‘Ābidīn, the brother of the great Ḥanafī Faqīḥ Muḥammad Amīn Effendī, better known as Imām Ibn ‘Ābidīn al-Shāmī. He was born in 1914 (1332 H) and received his formal education at the primary schools of Damascus.

¹ Dr. Yahya al-Ghawthani is Syrian scholar and certified in the ten readings of the Qur’ān. We thank Shaykh Abul Hasan for informing us of the biography he has written.

Shaykh Murshid ‘Ābidīn however began his studies with his father, Shaykh Abū al-Khayr ‘Ābidīn (d. 1343 H) the renowned scholar of Damascus, and received his first Ijāzāt from him. Shaykh Murshid completed his education at the government schools and then continued his studies at the Faculty of Law at the University of Damascus where he graduated in 1935. He studied a great deal and benefited from his brother, the Qāḍī (judge) and physician, the Muftī of Syria Shaykh Abū al-Yusr ‘Ābidīn (d. 1401 H), who raised him. He took also received Ijāzāt from him. Shaykh Murshid mentioned in the introduction of his large book on Tafsīr entitled *Murshid al-Ḥayrān ilā Buḥūth al-Qur’ān* that he heard the Ḥadīth of Rahma from his brother, and read with him the Musalsalāt of Ibn ‘Āqila and the Awā’il al-‘Ajlūniyya of which Shaykh Murshid in turn read the opening Ḥadīth with his students.

In his career, Shaykh Murshid ‘Ābidīn first worked as a trainee lawyer and then as a teacher. Thereafter he entered the judiciary from 1942 till 1974. He was appointed as a Qaḍī in Haska, Dhak, Dūmā and finally in Damascus.

Shaykh Murshid ‘Ābidīn wrote several books:

- *Murshid al-Ḥayrān ilā Buḥūth al-Qur’ān (3 volumes)*
- *Al-Ad’iyyat wal-Awrād wal-Adhkār*
- *Al-Mustazraf fī al-Nawādīr wal-Qaṣaṣ wal-Hikāyāt wal-Ḥikam*
- *Al-Durr al-Thamīn fī Nasab al-Sādat al-Ṭāhirīn*

In *al-Durr al-Thamīn fī Nasab al-Sādat al-Ṭāhirīn* he wrote a genealogy of the ‘Ābidīn family and also included his own biography. Shaykh Murshid is known for remarkable high chains:

1. He narrated from his father, from his grandfather, from his grandfather’s uncle, Imām Ibn ‘Ābidīn the author of Radd al-Muḥṭār ‘alā Durr al-Mukhtār also known as Hāshiyat Ibn ‘Ābidīn. This is one of the highest chains to the author of the Hāshiyā.
2. He narrates from his father, from Abū Al-Maḥāsin al-Qāwqujī.
3. He narrates from his father, from Shaykh Yūsuf b. Badruddīn from al-Amīr al-Ṣaghīr and al-Kuzbarī al-Ṣaghīr.

In his final years Shaykh Murshid taught the *Durr al-Mukhtār* and Imām Ibn ‘Ābidīn’s Hāshiyā as well as Imām al-Pazdawī’s Uṣūl in his house as Shaykh ‘Abdul Jalīl ‘Atā al-Bakrī read and Shaykh Wa’il Ḥanbalī and others attended. He passed away on the 3rd December 2007 (24 Dhu al-Qa’da 1428 H) and his Janāzah prayer was performed in Jāmi‘ Abū al-Yusr ‘Ābidīn.

Shaykh Gibril Fouad Haddad also mentioned: “Shaykh ‘Abd al-Hafidh Wentzel and myself visited him and heard from him the Ḥadīth of Raḥma in Safar al-Khayr 1425 (April 2004) at which time he gifted each of us a copy of his book on the genealogy of the ‘Ābidīn family, entitled *al-Durr al-Thamīn fī Nasab al-Sādat al-Ṭāhirīn*. I handed Sayyid Murshid a copy of my bilingual ‘40 Ḥadīths on the Faḍā’il of Shām and its People’, which he would subsequently bring out before visitors and students and point to the word "wa-Ahlihi" (And Its People) on the cover with his finger with a big smile. He would also say to me: ‘You have beaten us all, don’t ever remove it’ in reference to the turban, which he said his father Abū al-Khayr, a Naqshbandī like the entire ‘Ābidīn family, greatly emphasized. But Sayyid Murshid was less of a Sufi and

Muḥaddith and more of a Qāḍī. He graced my son Fouad with an Ijāza ‘Amma when we last visited him in June 2006 in his house on Barniyya Street, Damascus, in the company of the Qārī’ al-Jāmi‘ Shaykh ‘Abd al-Ḥakīm Ushbara al-Jazā’irī. Jazāhullāhu ‘an Ummati Sayyidinā Muḥammadin Khayra al-Jazā’. Wa-Inna lillāhi wa-inna ilayhi raji`ūn.”

Shaykh Shoayb Ahmad further adds: “I visited him in 2006 along with my wife and Shaykh Wā’il Ḥanbalī and we heard the Ḥadīth al-Raḥma from him.”

We pray Allah grants him the highest rank in Jannat al-Firdaws.

