



Shaykh Muḥammad Bashīr Albānī ¹

By Shaykh Majd Makki

Translated by Shaykh Shoayb Aḥmad

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Muḥammad Bashīr b. Tawfīq b. ‘Abd al-Raḥmān Albānī was born in a prominent and righteous Damascene family in 1911 CE (1329 H.) His father was Shaykh Tawfīq b. ‘Abd al-Raḥmān who passed away in 1919 CE (1338 H.), while his paternal uncle was Shaykh Muḥammad Sa‘īd b. ‘Abd al-Raḥmān who passed away in 1933 CE (1351 H.)

The Shaykh was raised under his uncle’s care and he studied at schools in Damascus where he graduated with a specialization in mathematics. Thereafter he joined the Faculty of Law from which he graduated in 1934 CE.

He was appointed to the Ministry of Finance and thereafter he became the *qāḍī* of Damascus in 1940 CE. He progressed until he was the Head of the Penal Courts in Damascus. Thereafter he was a member of Cassation Court after which he was an advisor. He served in this position until he retired in 1990 CE.

In his youth he made the acquaintance of Shaykh Muḥammad Amīn al-Kuṭtāro. He frequented his lessons and studied *Bidāyat al-Mujtahid* by Ibn Rushd. Very often Shaykh Muḥammad Amīn would make him lead the *salāt*, training him and acknowledging his position and virtue. When Shaykh Muḥammad Amīn passed away in 1938 CE, Shaykh Albānī remained a faithful student of his son, Shaykh Aḥmad Kuṭtāro.

¹ Translated from <http://www.islamsyria.net/Details.php?QType=7&Id=119>

He accompanied Shaykh Aḥmad on many of his travels to Europe, America and the Soviet Union. Shaykh Albānī delivered some memorable and inspiring lectures at universities in Russia and America.

Shaykh Albānī trained as a public speaker from a young age at the Jāmi‘ Abī al-Nūr and he assumed this task at various mosques until he was the public speaker (*khaṭīb*) at the Mosque of Shaykh Muḥiy al-Dīn b. ‘Arabī and then at the Grand Umayyad Mosque in Damascus.

Shaykh Aḥmad appointed him as a teacher at the Faculty of Da‘wa in Damascus and then at the Faculty of Uṣūl al-Dīn where he taught Uṣūl al-Fiqh and the History of Tasawwuf. He was chosen to lecture at the Faculty of Shari‘ah at the University of Damascus.

He authored books in education, the judicial system and on the biographies. Some of his works are:

- *Nazarāt fī al-Qaḍā*
- *Al-Murshid al-Mujaddid*
- *‘Abqariyāt al-Muḥaddith wa-Fiqh al-Khaṭīb*
- *Minbar al-Du‘a*
- *Al-Ḥajj*

He was granted an honorary doctorate by the Umm Durman Islamic University in 1994 CE for his contributions. Shaykh Albānī is also regarded as one of the founders of the Shaykh Aḥmad Kuftāro Centre and the Chairman of Jami‘at al-Anṣār al-Khayriyya. He even deputised on behalf of Shaykh Aḥmad Kuftāro and he led the *janāza* prayer of his Shaykh who passed away in 2004 CE. He had a weekly lesson on a Friday between Maghrib and ‘Isha. His brothers, Shaykh ‘Abd al-Raḥmān Albānī (born in 1917 CE) and Shaykh ‘Abd al-Hādī Albānī are both scholars. Shaykh Albānī did not leave behind any offspring but he had hundreds of students who benefited from his knowledge.

He was known for his high aspirations, his time management, his precision in all his affairs. He was blessed with control of his senses and he even drove his own car even at his advanced age. He continued serving the Din and sharing his valuable advice until he passed away in 2008 CE (5th of Sha‘bān 1429 H.).

