

Imam Muslim R.A. (202 - 261H)

Author of one the two most authentic books after the Qur'an, known commonly as Saheeh Muslim.

The full name of Imam Muslim is Abu'l-Husain 'Asakir-ud-Din Muslim b. Hajjaj al-Qushayri al-Naisaburi. "Muslim," as his nasba shows, belonged to the Qushayr tribe of the Arabs, an offshoot of the great clan of Rabi'a. He was born in Naisabur (Nishapur) in 202/817 or 206/821. His parents were religiously minded persons and as such he was brought up in a pious atmosphere. This left such an indelible impression on his mind that he spent the whole of his life as a God-fearing person and always adhered to the path of Righteousness. He was in fact a saint of high calibre. His excellent moral character can be well judged from the simple fact that he never indulged in backbiting, a very common human failing.

Imam Muslim travelled widely to collect traditions in Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Iraq, where he attended the lectures of some of the prominent Traditionists of his time: Ishaq b. Rahwaih, Ahmad b. Hanbal, 'Ubaydullah al-Qawariri, Qutaiba b. Sa'id, 'Abdullah b. Maslama, Harmalah b. Yahya, and others.

Having finished his studies, he settled down at Nishapur. There he came into contact with Imam Bukhari, and was so much impressed by his vast knowledge of Hadith and his deep insight into it that he kept himself attached to him up to the end of his life. He was an ardent admirer of another great-teacher of Hadith, Muhammad b. Yahya al-Duhali and attended his lectures regularly, but when the difference of opinion between Muhammad b. Yahya and Imam Bukhari, on the issue of the creation of the Holy Qur'an, sharpened into hostility, Imam Muslim sided with Imam Bukhari and abandoned Muhammad b. Yahya altogether. He was thus a true disciple of Imam Bukhari.

Did you know??

- for his book Sahih Muslim, Imam Muslim carefully selected 3033 Ahadeeth from a total of 300 000 Ahadeeth.
- he was a student of the great Imam Bukhari R.A. He had such love and respect for his teacher, that Ahmad bin Hamdun says, " I once observed that Imam Muslim R.A upon entering, kissed the forehead of Imam Bukhari R.A . then said O My Teacher and Master, allow me to kiss your feet.

Rasulullah Sallalhu alaihi wasallam has said:

"They are the losers, those who make the religion hard and tough. They imperil themselves who enforce tough practices of Islam. They destroy themselves, those who are extremes."

-Hadeeth as reported by Ibn Masud in Sahih Muslim.