

Excerpts from the life of Imam Nawawi R.A.

Muhy ud-Din Abu Zakariyyah Yahya ibn Sharaf al-Hizami an-Nawawi was born in the 631H (1233CE) in the village of Nawa, south of Damascus, Syria.

His pursuit of knowledge dominated his entire life. He would put all of his time into studying, learning, and teaching. It is even stated that he would not sleep except when sleep would overtake him. He would rest on his book and sleep for a little, then he would act startled upon awakening and continues studying. He once said about himself, "I spent two years without lying on the ground [to sleep] on my side." That is, he would always study and write until sleep overtook while in a sitting position. Al-Qutb al-Yawnini said about him, "He would not waste any moment of the day or night but he would spend it busy with attaining knowledge. Even when he walking and in the streets he will be busy going over what he had remembered and reviewing his notes. He continued gaining knowledge in that way for a period of six years.

A thief once stole Imam Nawawi's turban & made off with it. The imam pursued him calling out, "By Allah, I have made you its owner".

"Say, 'I accept it', so that you be saved from the fire.

When Imam Nawawi was young, he used to be pursued by the children of his town as they continually asked him to join them in their games.

They used to sneer, jeer, and try every conceivable method to get him to join, but he used to break away from them crying while saying,

"Allah did not create me to play"