

وقف لله تعالى

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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## “Who is Ahmad Darwish”

وقف لله تعالى على روحه  
حَقًّا عَلَى الْمُتَّقِينَ فَمَنْ بَدَّلَهُ بَعْدَمَا سَمِعَهُ فَإِنَّمَا إِثْمُهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُبَدِّلُونَهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ  
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Founded and authored by Sidi Hafiz Abdullah Ben Siddique,  
his son Ahmad Darwish with his wife Anne-Khadeijah

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Ahmad Darwish was born in Cairo, Egypt in the proximity of the minarets of Azhar and within sight of the Pyramids during the revolution.

Even as a youngster his thirst for Islamic knowledge was of paramount importance to him. He bought and soon acquired a large library of Islamic literature and attended many lectures conducted by the leading shaykhs of the day. He learned and subsequently taught the intricate rules of the recitation of the Holy Koran to his fellow brothers and sisters in local mosques.

In his early twenties Ahmad wrote and printed a small booklet called "What is Islam" and received a letter of recognition from the first lady of Egypt, Jihan Sadat for his work in which he presented the tolerant, peaceful nature and justice of Islam.

This successful booklet was subsequently translated into several languages including German. Several years after its publication in German an article appeared in the April, 16<sup>th</sup>, 1986 international edition of the Egyptian newspaper "The Pyramids" narrating the story of how a German priest who was on missionary visit to the campus of Munich University to invite Muslims to Christianity was attracted to a recording he heard and asked what it was. He was told it was the Holy Koran and the student he was visiting gave him a copy of Darwish's booklet now called "Was ist Islam". The priest read the booklet, needed no further convincing and embraced Islam. Since that time the former priest has been successfully active preaching Islam and inviting his fellow countrymen and women to Islam.

Ahmad who was still in his 20's was tutored by several leading shaykhs including the late shaykh of Azhar Dr. Abdul Haleem Mahmood and wrote a Bibliographical Index of Authentic Islamic reference in each of the Islamic sciences and was blessed with exposure and understanding of the complex terminology and vocabulary essential to explanation which was later to be of great help in his translations.

When his father passed away he left a wife, three sons and two daughters. Ahmad, being the eldest took upon the responsibility of head of the household and sought employment in the United Arab Emirates to support his family. He worked for the Dubai Municipality and in his spare time taught Islam in several schools and arranged for the insertion of his booklet "What is Islam" to be distributed with the English edition of the "Khaleej Times". The booklet again met with success and English readers embraced Islam, Al Hamdulillah.

Throughout his studies Ahmad read many of the books of the late Grand Muhaddith of Morocco, Shaykh Abdullah ben Sadek Al Ghumari, and arranged for him to visit the Emirates where he was welcomed by princes and businessmen alike. It was a blessed, close connection one that would continue until the Shaykh's passing in 1993.

It was before the visit of Maulana Shaykh Abdullah to the UAE that Ahmad was invited to the royal court of Sharjah where he met the Afro American Muslim leader, Imam Warith ud-Deen Muhammad, son of the late Elijah Muhammad who had falsely claimed prophethood. Imam Warith-ud-Deen Muhammad was on a mission to the UAE to raise funds to direct his followers to the true path of Islam and upon meeting Ahmad invited him to go to America to teach.

In the late 1970's Ahmad and his English convert wife migrated to America where he took on the task of guiding the seekers of truth to the path of Islam. Mr. Jabir Muhammad, the brother of Imam Warith-ud-Deen had been supporting the compilation and publication of the book "Prayer and Islam", but faced many difficulties in conveying the correct message. Ahmad was invited to review the book and made several adjustments and recommended that Maulana, Shaykh Abdullah visit America to make the final review, and give the seal of authenticity. Shaykh Abdullah approved the work and 50,000 copies of the book were printed.

It was during this time that Ahmad received a very blessed, concentrated infusion of Islamic studies from Maulana Abdullah and was granted the centuries old traditional permission to transmit the Prophetic Sayings (Hadith). It was at that time the flame for compiling all the sayings of Prophet Muhammad, praise and peace be upon him, together with their classification, subject order, scholarly ratings, chains of transmitters and rulings etc., into one source was lit.

Maulana Abdullah was to visit America again and in the years that followed visited and stayed with Ahmad at his home in England and upon his return to Morocco they were in constant contact with one another.

The 1980's saw the birth of the PC personal computer. Ahmad was quick to realize the multi benefits it offered that would assist him in the fulfillment of his intention to compile all the Prophetic Sayings into one source. Meanwhile, he started work on the translation of the meaning of the Holy Koran into English, the translation of Imam Nawawi's book on hadith "The Gardens of Righteousness" together with several other major references and continues to translate to present.

It was also during the 1980's that the internet became public. Yet again Ahmad was blessed with the realization that the internet would offer world wide preaching opportunities through this new form of media, and was blessed to register the very popular sites of Allah.com and Muhammad.com. All of his work is given away without charge and he quotes the verse from the Koran that reads "For this I ask of you no wage. My wage is only with He who created me." Chapter 11.51.

To gain full advantage of this modern technology, Ahmad immersed himself in the study of this emerging technology and became an expert sought after the Fortune 500 companies. The blessings were two-fold. First he learned how to analyze problems faced by industry and then adapted the logic to his ultimate aim which was the production of the gigantic effort of the much needed Hadith Data Warehouse and Islamic Search CD. Secondly, to provide for his family and finance his Islamic work. Allah blessed him in such a way that major companies contracted him to solve their problems, sometimes for six months, at other times longer. The interval between these contracts enabled him to continue with his Islamic translation and with devising the comprehensive, intricate, yet simple to use, search method for the Hadith Data Warehouse CD.

Until the release of the Hadith Data Warehouse and Islamic Search CD's in 2007 not much has been known about Ahmad. This is largely due to the fact as you will have now realized that he confined himself solely to much need production and translation of Islamic material rather than the time consuming, touring, lecturing and entailed public relations – his work was and still is freely available through the internet for serious searchers, Muslim and non-Muslim to enjoy.

However, on the rare occasions when he lectures his infectious charisma conveys not only the message but the heart warming light which blesses the audience with a deeper understanding. He prefers not to be called "shaykh" and is not a person who leads others to himself – such kind of attraction is disastrous for all concerned in this life and the Hereafter - rather his aim is to lead

brothers and sisters to Allah and His Prophet, praise and peace be upon him, after all Allah, His Message and His Messenger, praise and peace be upon him, are the ultimate source and not those at the end of the chains of transmission.

You will not understand Ahmad Darwish until you have read the introduction of Hafiz Sidi Abu Jamrah's, book "Bajat Al Nofoos", because, quite simply it is a methodology and personality that focuses on Baraka (blessings), light, and the spirituality of Ihsan which he himself tries best to emulate and convey. Simply speaking, he focuses on the third pillar of Islam, namely Ihsan, as it is a means to uplift oneself to higher spiritual ranks. Many other ulama have successfully covered the two other essential pillars – Islam and Iman so he has left these pillars to them. However, one must not suppose he neglects these essential pillars, rather he approaches them from a sound analytical Ihsan view point. It is most likely that this is the reason his presentation sounds different, intriguing and uplifting. In essence, the pure Ihsan approach is not reached via a "tariqa", but rather through concentrating on the Prophet, praise and peace be upon him, his blessed family and Companions.

Ahmad says, "We have now reached the cross-roads. What I mean is take a minute and reflect upon the tremendous success rate of the pure and harmonious traditional way of transmitting Islamic knowledge and compare it to the methods of nowadays. Despite the fact that a lot of energy, time and wealth are employed nowadays, it is simply not working, or, at best short-lived. Look at all the famous workers who come and just fade away while the status of Muslims declines on the ever increasing slippery slope – think about it!

The great scholar of Islam, the Jurist, Ahmad ibn Hanbal, the Imam of As-Sunnah wa Jammah gave us the short and simple solution, he warned, "Do not take Islamic knowledge from those who ask of you in return an exchange element of "dunya" (i.e. money and favors)." It was for this reason that the ulama of days gone by took to a trade to support their worldly needs. Ahmad Darwish feels that when Islamic knowledge is given in exchange for the "dunya" it means both the giver and receiver have set a "dunya" price on it, and it is for this reason those who resort to such means have lost the spirit and guidance; there are many PhD's in Islam and their rate of success is very low and one sees confusion, disputes, jealousy, hate etc, in these environments. It is for this reason Ahmad reminds and follows the Koranic verse, "For this I ask of you no wage. My wage is only with He who created me." Chapter 11.51.