

Chapter – 29

Imam Hafs

(709 - ??? AD)

The Kunniya of Imam Hafs is Abu 'Umar. He was born in Kufa, Iraq, in about 90AH/709AD. His father's name is Suleiman bin al-Mughira. His family used to trade clothing. This led to the title of Imam Hafs as "Al-Bazaz" (*cloth merchant*). But his true fame is due to the perfection in the recitation of Qur'an, that is '*Tajweed*'.

Hafs studied Tajweed from Imam 'Asim Koofi. The daughter of Imam 'Asim was the wife of Imam Hafs. Hafs moved from Kufa to Baghdad after the death of his teacher, Imam 'Asim. Here he established a teaching centre of Tajweed and as a result he had a large number of students. Afterwards, he left Makkah for the promotion of his teacher's Tajweed education. Although al-Sha'aba bin 'Aiyash had a prominent role in the promotion of the recitation of Imam 'Asim, but the narration by Imam Hafs was considered more authentic. So, the printing of the Quran initiated in accordance with this narration. And to this day, the same text is recognized as the most authentic.

By the efforts of Imam Hafs, the narration that has since been transferred onwards was chosen to determine the text of the manuscript of Quran which was published in 1342AH/1924AD, under the patronage of King Fawad and it is still considered genuine.

Asim Kofi's and Imam Hafs' narrations are more prevalent in Pakistan, India and most Islamic countries. The main reason for this is that it is closer to the Quraish dialect. That is why everywhere the versions of the Holy Quran are generally published with this technique.

Historically, following is the upper links of the Narrators of Imam Hafs.

