

Chapter – 41

Imam Nasai

(829 - 916 AD)

His name is Ahmed, and Abu 'Abdur Rahman is his Kunniya. Father's name is Shu'aib bin 'Ali. Nasa is his home town. Relating to this, his ancestors were called Nasai. So he himself was called and become famous with the name of Nasai. Nasa is a town in Khorasan, located in West Asia. He was born in 214AH/829AD. Ahmad Nasai was having a very strong body. His memory was extraordinarily unusual. He was a dutiful and pious person. He used to observe non-obligatory fasts quite often. In his daily life he always kept following the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet.

Khorasan was known in those days as the centre of Islamic civilization. The work, especially in the fields of Hadith and Jurisprudence, was at its peak. Ahmad Nasai also studied Hadith from a large number of scholars. The prominent names of his teachers include Ishaq Ibn Rahwiya, Qutaiba Ibn Saeed and Imam Abu Dawood Sajistani, the author of Sunan Abu Dawood. After completing his primary education, he traveled to Iraq, Hijaz, Syria and Egypt in search of further knowledge, and finally settled in Egypt.

In Egypt, Imam Nasai started teaching. Very soon here he became famous as a great scholar. His personal character also attracted the people here.

In the series of compilations and his writings, Imam Nasai first composed a collection of hadiths, which he named "Sunan Kubra". When it was finished, then the Caliph of that time asked him whether all the hadiths of this book are true? He replied that most of them are correct but some are not up to the mark as well. On this the Caliph advised him to prepare a book in which all the hadiths are true. Then he prepared a summary of the correct Sunan from the same Sunan Kubra, and named it as "al-Mujtaba". This collection is also known as "Sunan Sughra". The Sunnan Nasai which is famous today is the same Sunan Sughra. His other major writings are Khasays-e-'Ali, al-Jarroh wa-Ta'adil and Um al-yaum wal-Laila.

The book which Imam Nasai wrote in his last days to pay homage to Hazrat 'Ali was named as "Khasays-e-'Ali" (*The personal characteristics of 'Ali*). After writing it, he presented it to the university of Damascus. At that time, in this university there was a great numbers of believers of Amir Muawiya, It is said that those supporters of Amir Muawiya first asked Imam Nasai to write a book of the same kind on Muawiya. When he refused, the people became so angry that they killed Imam Sahib so harshly that he had to leave his life.

He died in 303AH/916AD. According to the last wish of Imam Nasai he was brought to Makkah and buried over there.