WEEK 7. THE ROLES OF FOUR SUNNI SCHOOLS

HANAFI SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

The Hanafi school is one of the four Madhhabs (schools of law) in jurisprudence (fiqh) in Islam. The Hanafi Madhhab is named after the Persian scholar Abu Hanifah An Numan ibn thbit (699-767 CE/80-148 AH), a Tabi’i whose legal views were preserved primarily by his two most important disciples, Abu yusuf and Muhammad Al-shaybani.

Among the four established Sunni schools of legal thought in Islam, the Hanafi school is one of the oldest and by far, the largest in parts of the world. It has a reputation for putting greater emphasis on the role of reason. The Hanafi school also has many followers among the four major Sunni schools. This is largely due to its being adopted as the official Madhhab of the Abbasid caliphate and the Ottoman Empire. As such, the influence of the Hanafi school is still widespread in the former lands of these empires.

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

The sources from which the Hanifis derive Islamic law in order of importance and preference are the Quran, the authentic narrations of the prophet SAW (known as Hadith), consensus of the Muslim community (Ijma), analogical reasoning (Qiyas), Juristic direction (Ijtihad) and the custom of the local population enacting the said law (urf).

The Hanafi school of law based many of its rulings on the prophetic tradition as transmitted by those first generation Muslims residing in Iraq. Thus, the Hanafi school came to be known as the Kufaan or Iraqi school in earliest times.

HANAFI METHODOLOGY.

The Hanafi school of thought involved the logical process of examining the Book of Allah and all available knowledge of the Sunnah of the prophet SAW and then finding an example in them analogous to the particular case under review so that Allah’s Religion could be properly applied in the new situation.

MALIKI SCHOOL OF THOUGHT.

The Maliki Madhab is one of the four schools of fiqh or religion law in Islam. It was founded by Imam Malik Ibn Anas born in Madinah in 95AH. And it considers the ruling from Ulama from Madinah to be Sunnah. Its adherents reside mostly in North Africa, West Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait, in parts of Saudi Arabia, Oman and many Middle Eastern Countries, and parts of India. The Maliki school of Jurisprudence forms the official state legal codes of Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Imam Malik was a famous Independent Jurist. He was asked by Khalifah Harun AR_Rashid to come and teach him Islam but he declined says “Knowledge is sought, Knowledge does not seek people “ The Khalifa had to come to him to learn.
HIS PRINCIPLES OR SOURCE OF WORK.

The Maliki school derives from the work of Imam Maliki IbnAnas, primarily the Muwatta Imam Malik and the Mudawanna. The Muwatta is a collection of Hadith which are regarded as sound and find their place in Sahih of Imam Al-Bukhari.

The second main source, the Mudawwannah is the collaborator work of Imam Maliki’s long time student, Ibn Qasim and his Mujtihad students Sahnun.

Imam Malik studied under many Taliban companions of the companions of the prophet and he died in Madinah in 178A.H.

IMAM SHAFI’I SCHOOL OF THOUGHT.

Imam Shafi’i name was Imam Muhammad Ibn Idris Ash-Shafi. He was born in Palestine in 150 A.H. he grew up in object poverty. He memorized the whole Quran at the age of seven and Muwatta of Imam Malik by the age of fifteen. He was pious and generous. He was a student of Imam Malik in Madinah. He was crictical of government and he was once chained and deported to Iraq. He also was an expert in the schools of law of Imam Maliki and Hanifi. His followers saw his views as an amalgamation of Maliki and Hanifa schools.

HAMBALI SCHOOL OF THOUGHT.

Imam Hanbali is the founder of Hanbali school. It is name was Ahmad Ibn Hambali. He was born in Iraq in 164 A.H the Hambali school is one of the schools of fiqh or religious law in Islam. his school was considered very trict and conservative, especially regarding followed predominantly in Saudi Arabia and Qatar as well as majority communities in Syria and Iraq.

Hambali was a scholar of Hadith and law strong emphasis on verifying and utility law on the Quran and prophetic tradition. He wrote many books including Musnad. He was imprisoned for his views and was released from prison later before he died in 239A.H. he returned to Egypt in 202 A.H where he died.