



The Trustworthiness of Abu Nuâim al-Fadl ibn Dukayn

Description

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Abu Nuâim al-Fadl ibn Dukayn, the great Hafiz and Shaykh of Islam, was a partner of Abd al-Salam ibn Harb al-Malaa'i. They ran a shop in Kufa selling fabrics and other goods, as was common among many early scholars who relied on their own earnings for sustenance (10/142).

Ahmad ibn Mansur al-Ramadi said: *âim* I went out with Ahmad (ibn Hanbal) and Yahya (ibn Maâ'in) to Abd al-Razzaq as their servant. When we returned to Kufa, Yahya ibn Maâ'in said, *âim* I want to test Abu Nuâim *âim*. Ahmad said, *âim* Do not do so; the man is trustworthy. *âim* Yahya replied, *âim* I must. *âim* He took a piece of paper and wrote thirty hadiths, placing at the head of every ten a hadith that was not from Abu Nuâim *âim*'s narrations. They then went to Abu Nuâim *âim*, who came out and sat on a clay bench. Ahmad ibn Hanbal sat him on his right, Yahya on his left, and I sat below the bench.

Yahya took out the paper and read ten hadiths to him. When he reached the eleventh, Abu Nuâim *âim* said, *âim* This is not from my narrations; strike it out. *âim* He then read the second set of ten, and Abu Nuâim *âim* remained silent until the second hadith, when he said, *âim* This is not from my narrations; strike it out. *âim*

When he read the third set and reached the third hadith, Abu Nuâim *âim*'s expression changed, and his eyes turned red. He turned to Yahya and said, *âim* As for this one (pointing to Ahmad), his piety is too great to do such a thing. As for this one

(pointing to me), I am too insignificant for him to do this to. But this is your doing, O wrongdoer!â He then kicked Yahya with his foot, throwing him off the bench, stood up, and went inside his house. Ahmad ibn Hanbal said to Yahya, â Did I not warn you and tell you that he is reliable?â Yahya replied, â By Allah, his kick is more beloved to me than this entire journey.'â

From al-Husayn ibn Amr al-Anqazi, who said: â A man knocked on Abu Nuâ aymâ s door. Abu Nuâ aym asked, â Who is it?â The man replied, â It is me.â Abu Nuâ aym asked, â Who is â meâ ?â The man said, â A man from the children of Adam.â Abu Nuâ aym came out, kissed him, and said, â Welcome! I did not think anyone from this lineage remained.'â

Abu Nuâ aym said: â I often marvel at Aishaâ s statement, â Those who provided for us have passed away.â But I say:
â *The people have gone, leaving us behind,
Among the worst of humankind.
We count them as part of our number,
But when examined, they are not people.
Whenever I seek something from them,
They preempt me with despair before I even ask.
They weep for me until I wish
I could escape from them unscathed.*'â

(Siyarul Aâ laamin Nubalaa: 10/142)

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