

FOLLOWING A MADHHAB STARTER KIT

In Light of The Quran
and The Sunnah

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

السلام عليكم ,

Insh'Allah this will be of benefit to those interested, as well as those who are walking the fence on this tremendously important facet of our deen. In the past, it might have not been an issue, but in our times, many people tend to believe that they understand the religion better than the Fuqaha and the Shayouk who have long been gone (peace and blessings upon them). This detrimental logic is what has lead us to the state we are in, thus ultimately downplaying the importance of proper understanding of matters related to Fiqh. May Allah grant us tawfeeq and give us the right guidance in obeying Him, Insh'Allah.

Being as there is an overwhelming amount of material on this topic, I've included 8 various sources that I personally found very beneficial, whether it be in the form of book, audios, articles, or Q/A. All of these can be found within the links of this PDF file. Please check it out, read, listen, ponder, gain some insight Insh'Allah, and pass it on to others.

Abdullah Ibn Masud (ra) narrates: Rasulullah Sallallahu 'alahi Wasallam said: Whenever Allah decides (wishes) for His slave (some) good; He makes him understand Deen, and inspires him with proper guidance. [Bazzar, Tabarani and Majma Al-Zawa'id]

Wa' Allahu Alim

و عليكم السلام

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[COPY AND PASTE THE LINKS TO READ THE ARTICLES AND DOWNLOAD THE AUDIO]

1. **Umm Nabeel** - *Understanding Madhhabs: A Beginner's Guide and FAQ* (Short Article)
<http://www.modernmuslima.com/madhhabs.htm>
2. **Imam Zaid Shakir** - *Introduction To Following a Madhhab* (Audio)
<http://www.zshare.net/audio/imam-zaid-shakir-introduction-to-following-a-madhab-mp3.html>
3. **Sh. Abdul Hakim Murad** - *Understanding The Four Madhhabs* (Online Reading: Article)
<http://www.masud.co.uk/ISLAM/ahm/newmadhh.htm>
4. **Mufti Muhammad Ibn Adam** - *Taqleed Series* (Audio)
<http://www.zshare.net/download/mufti-muhammad-ibn-adam-taqleid-series-rar.html>
5. **Sh. Hamza Yusuf** – *Imam Murabit al-Haaj's Fatwa On Madhhabs* (Audio & Article)
<http://www.zshare.net/download/murabit-al-hajj-fatwa-explanation-rar.html>
6. **Mufti Taqi Usmani** - *What Is The Legal Status of Following a Madhhab* (Book)
<http://www.cometoislam.com/figh/legal/main.htm>
Purchased at: <http://www.al-rashad.com/The-Legal-Status-of-Following-a-Madhhab/>
7. **Sh. Faraz Rabbani** - *Objection to Following Another Madhhab* (Q & A)
<http://www.sunnipath.com/resources/Questions/QA00000499.aspx>
8. **Sh. Nuh Keller** - *Seeking Out Dispensations & Following Another School*
<http://www.sunnipath.com/resources/Questions/QA00000506.aspx>

CONTENTS

LESSON 1: *Understanding Madhhabs: A Beginner's Guide and FAQ*

BIO:

- Written by **Umm Nabeel** (www.modernmuslima.com)
- Sister who is a part of ModernMuslima.com, a website that caters to many issues that relate to women as well as men in the scope of Traditional Islam.

CONCEPTS:

- This primer provides the mere basic concepts needed in understanding the importance of adhering to one madhhab. It also answers a few concerns that many people who've come unto Islam might have about how to go forth in finding the madhhab that is right for them.

LESSON 2: *Introduction To Following a Madhhab*

BIO:

- Audio lecture by **Imam Zaid Shakir** [Shafi] (www.zaidshakir.com)
- One of the recent driving forces behind Zaytuna Institute, the Imam currently lectures all over the US, Canada, and even the UK among other places. Imam Zaid Shakir obtained a BA with honors in International Relations at the American University in Washington DC, and later earned his MA in Political Science from Rutgers University. He has studied traditional sciences in Egypt, Syria, and Morocco, in fields such as Arabic, Islamic law, Qur`anic studies, and Islamic spirituality. Aside from writing books, he teaches at Zaytuna Institute, as well as at Minara Programs that take place in cities across the US.

CONCEPTS:

- The audio provides an introductory insight into the basis of what a madhhab is, and why we must follow one. Many beneficial examples are referred to, and in 77 minutes one will have a better understanding of the concept of Taqleed than prior to having listened to the lecture Insh'Allah.

LESSON 3: *Understanding The Four Madhhabs*

BIO:

- Written by **Sh. Abdul Hakim Murad** [Maliki] (www.masud.co.uk)
- With footnotes by **Azhar Usman**
- The Shaykh is the Lecturer of Islamic Studies at Cambridge University. He holds an MA (Arabic) from Cambridge, and has studied for a D.Phil. at Oxford (with a dissertation topic on Normalcy in Early Ottoman Society and Theology). In addition, he has studied Turkish and Persian at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, bringing the number of language in which he is proficient to six. Prior to this, he studied Arabic and the Islamic sciences for a period of six years at Al Azhar and under traditional scholars in the Hijaz, with very close relations with Scholars in Hadramaut. Upon being a proficient writer, his translated works include Treatises by Imam al-Ghazali, Imam Bayhaqi, and Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani.

CONCEPTS:

- The article provides an intellectual look into the formation or rather the principles that coincide within Sunni Islam in relation to the four madhhabs. The Shaykh focuses on how Islam is being weakened from the inside when people proclaim themselves capable of declaring legal rulings without the proper tools and education.

Lesson 4: *Taqleed Series Audio*

BIO:

- Lectures by **Mufti Muhammad Ibn Adam** [Hanafi] (www.daruliftaa.com)
- Mufti Muhammad Ibn Adam enrolled into Darul Uloom Bury at the age of 12, and studied the Arabic Language, and other various Islamic Sciences under the likes of Sh. Muhammad Yusuf Motala. He has Ijazahs in various books, including the six major books of Hadith. He has also studied with Mufti Taqi Usmani in Pakistan, Sh. Abd al-Razzaq al-Halabi and Shaykh Doctor Abd al-Latif Farfur Al-Hasani in Syria, and many others. He has published numerous works dealing with issues from Abortion in Islam to rulings of Zakat. He currently resides in Leicester, UK, where he teaches at Jamiah Uloom al-Qur'an, and answers questions on Darul Iftaa.

CONCEPTS:

- The lecture is divided into:
 1. What Is Taqleed?
 2. Life of Imam Abu Hanifah
 3. Scholarship in Islam
 4. Questions and Answers
- This is a very beneficial lecture that intricately explains the fallacies of people who claim that following a madhhab is invalid. The Mufti focuses a lot on the importance of proper scholarship in Islam towards understanding our tradition, as well as bringing the infamous banner of "follow the Quran and Sunnah" into light. There are many references to the Quran, and the Sahaba's mentioned, which should suffice any person in understanding this issue.

Lesson 5: Murabit al-Haaj's Fatwa On Madhhabs Audio with written explanation

BIO:

- Fatwa by **Imam Murabit al-Haaj** [Maliki]
- Considered Shaykh ul-Islam by some, but in most cases he is seen as a great Imam of our times. He was born and raised in Mauritania, which is in West Africa. Imam Murabit al-Haaj began his study of the 18 sciences of the Shariah at an early age. He has memorized the Quran, knowing over 5 ways of reciting it, and thoroughly studied the six Sahih Hadith collections. He is 95 years old, and still teaches at his school in Mauritania. Along with the many Muftis and Qadis, Zaytuna Institute has been deeply influenced by the Imam's teachings as well.
- Explanation and Lecture by **Sh. Hamza Yusuf** [Maliki] (www.zaytuna.org)
- Upon embracing Islam, Sh. Hamza Yusuf went to study abroad in the UAE, and eventually in places such as Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Morocco. Some of his teachers were Imam Murabit al-Haaj, Sh. Baya bin Salik, Sh. Muhammad Shaybani, Sh. Hamad al-Wali, among many others, some from whom he received ijazahs to teach various Islamic subjects. After ten years of studying abroad, he returned to the USA and took degrees in Religious Studies and Health Care. Soon after, he co-founded Zaytuna Institute in California, which is still in the early stages, disseminating traditional Islamic knowledge to the masses. The Sh. has published a few works, travels all over the world giving lectures, and continues to invite people to Islam.

CONCEPTS:

- Imam Murabit al-Haaj sets a scholarly precedent in current times with a very valuable Fatwa that depicts the necessity of Taqleed with references to Scholars of the past, predominantly from the Maliki Madhhab. On the audio, Sh. Hamza explains the significance and deeper meanings behind the choice of words and concepts the Imam has presented in the Fatwa.

Lesson 6: What Is The Legal Status of Following a Madhhab

BIO:

- Written by **Mufti Taqi Usmani** [Hanafi] (www.darululoomkhi.edu.pk)
- The son of the late Mufti Muhammad Shafi of Pakistan, and a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Mufti Taqi is possibly one of the brightest and most well renowned Scholars from Pakistan in our times. He received what is equivalent to a PhD in Islamic education from Darul 'Uloom Karachi in 1961. He also holds a master's degree in Arabic literature from Punjab University and a bachelor of laws (LLB) degree from Karachi University. One of his most important works in Arabic has been his Takmilat Fath al-Mulhim, in which he completed in six volumes the commentary of Allama Shabbir Usmani (ra) on Sahih Muslim. He has also done a lot in the world of Islamic Finance in many Muslim countries, and serves on many boards and committees. When not busy publishing works, traveling for meetings and lectures, or giving spiritual guidance to his students, the Mufti gives talks at Darul 'Uloom Karachi.

CONCEPTS:

- One of the best books, if not the best, that clears up any misconceptions related to following one madhhab, Taqleed, Ijtihad, along with many other issues that may arise. Mufti Taqi has done a great job Mash'Allah, especially with historically referencing the issue in lieu of the Quran and Sunnah of our beloved Rasul (saw).

Lesson 7: Objection to Following Another Madhhab

BIO:

- Answered by Sh. **Faraz Rabbani** [Hanafi] (www.sunnipath.com)
- After graduating from University of Toronto, Shaykh Faraz traveled with his family to Damascus, Syria, to formally seek Islamic knowledge. In Damascus, he studied Arabic, Aqida, Mantiq, Hanafi Fiqh, Shafi'i Fiqh, Usul al-Fiqh, and Hadith with a number of scholars including Shaykh Haytham Idilbi, Sayyidi Shaykh Adib Kallas, Sh. Abd al-Razzaq al-Halabi, and many others. He has also published two titles on White Thread Press, maintains a Hanafi Fiqh Q/A Group, and currently teaches courses on Sunnipath Academy.

CONCEPTS:

- The answer is a really beneficial and short read on the generality of taking from another madhhab. This question often arises, and the explanation should suffice the average laymen.

Lesson 8: Seeking Out Dispensations & Following Another School

BIO:

- Translated by **Shaykh Nuh Keller** [Shafi] (www.vasuhba.com) (www.masud.co.uk)
- Sh. Nuh Ha Mim Keller studied Arabic and Philosophy at University of Chicago and UCLA, and eventually embraced Islam at Al-Azhar. Later he studied the traditional Islamic Sciences of Hadith, Shafi'i and Hanafi jurisprudence, legal methodology (usul al-fiqh), and tenets of faith (ʿaqidah) in Syria and Jordan, where he has lived since 1980. The Sh. has also translated *The Reliance of The Traveler*, which received much recognition throughout the world; as well as *Al-Maqasid* by Imam Nawawi, and a few other texts. Aside from the works and articles he has written, he is also a spiritual teacher who travels around the world giving Suhbas.
- Text originally written by **Ahmad ibn Naqib al-Misri**
- Al-Misri was from the 14 century, and wrote the medieval manual *Umdat as-Salik, Reliance of the Traveler: A Classic Manual of Islamic Sacred Law*, which compiles and summarizes rulings in the Shafi School of Fiqh. It is based mainly on the Fiqh conclusions of Imam al-Nawawi, the great Hadith master (hafiz) and Shafi'i scholar of jurisprudence (mujtahid). The appendices form an integral part of the book and present original texts and translations from classic works by al-Ghazali, al-Nawawi, al-Qurtubi, al-Dhahabi, Ibn Hajar and others, on topics of Islamic Law, faith, spirituality, Qur'an exegesis and Hadith sciences, making the work a living reflection of Islam as understood by some of its greatest scholars. It also contains biographies of everyone mentioned within the text.

CONCEPTS:

- The extract provided is from *The Reliance of The Traveler*, and discusses the notion of dispensation in detail. Many a time people try to make the deen so easy for him or herself that they end up creating a new formula that has no basis within the 4 madhhabs, and can be very dangerous. The answer looks into this from the Shafi perspective, but as stated in the web link, the position is similar to that of the Hanafi madhhab.