LECTURE # 12

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FOUR SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT:

* In the times of Prophet (P.B.U.H), when sahaba wanted to learn religion, they would ask the Prophet(P.B.U.H) and he would readily tell them. The info would be followed to next generation likewise.
* Followers of companions, ‘tabaeen’ would pass on the knowledge to ‘taba tabaeen’.
* There were people everywhere learning from different mufti sahabas and that’s how people got to know about legal rules and became ‘faqih’.
* There were about 17 to 20 topnotch halaqahs of fiqh, usul and ijtihad.
* There were basically two types of students:
  + - 1. Dedicated were in a halaqa and learnt from one teacher.
      2. Travellers were travelling and inquiring of different sahabas what they have heard from the prophets and then used to preserve it.
* In halaqahs, when students were in conflict as to which sahaba was actually right, they would go with majority of the sayings.
* The founder of four schools of thought were:

1. Imam hanifa
2. Malik
3. Shafi’i
4. Ahmad bin hanbal

* The founders didn’t come up with things on their own; they had teachers to learn from.
* Source for all four schools of thought is the same, but they differ because of features as methodology behind it.

Important points from the lecture:

* Mazhab comes from the word ‘zahb’.
* Zahb is a verb, meaning ‘to go’.
* Tabaeen: followers of companions
* Taba tabaeen: followers of followers
* Mujtahid does ijtihad, which is mental exertion.
* Muhadith: hadith scholars (Imam Bukhari, most authentic)
* The Arabic word ‘ila’ means ‘to’.
* Al thaboot means proof/source of law.
* Matn: text of hadith.
* Sanad: chain of scholars citing the hadith.
* Mustahib: recommended (for example, nafl prayers).
* Makruh: disliked (for examples, eating prawns).
* The word ‘halaqa’ means group of students.

CONCLUSION:

Difference of opinion is a blessing in disguise. It is always safer to follow one school of thought; keeping in mind all the four schools are valid. If Allah wanted, he would have mentioned everything in Qati’i but he wanted us to do some research and have different interpretations.