
Recommended books for the beginning student of knowledge

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: What are the books you recommend a young person that is starting out in his Islaamic studies to read?

Answer: Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ¹): If he is a novice, then from the books of Fiqh, we advise him to read "Fiqh as-Sunnah" of Sayyid Saabiq, while seeking assistance from some of its references, such as "Subul-us-Salaam" (of Imaam as-Sana'aanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)). And if he looks into "Tamaam-ul-Mannah" (of al-Albaanee) then that will be stronger for him. And I advise him to read "Ar-Rawdat-un-Nadiyyah" (of Sideeq Hasan Khan).

As for the subject of Tafseer, then he should habitually read from the book "Tafseer al-Qur'aan-ul-'Adheem" of Ibn Katheer – even though it is somewhat long – for it is the most authentic from the books of Tafseer today.

Then, on the subject of religious exhortation and heart-softening narrations, he should read the book "Riyaad-us-Saaliheen" of Imaam an-Nawawee.

Then, with regard to the books related to Creed, I advise him to read the book "Sharh al-'Aqeedat-ut-Tahaawiyyah" of Ibn Abee al-'Izz al-Hanafee. And he should seek assistance, also, from my comments and explanations to it.

Then, he should make it his customary practice to study from the books of Shaykh-ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah and his student Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah, may Allaah have mercy on them. For I hold them to be from the rare and unique Muslim scholars that have treaded upon the methodology of the Salaf as-Saalih (righteous predecessors) in their understanding, while having Taqwaa and righteousness. And we do not purify anyone over Allaah.

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him