

"RENEWER IF RELIGION" HADITH

The Prophet ﷺ said: “Truly Allāh ﷻ shall send forth for this Community, at the onset of every hundred years, someone / those who will renew for it <the status of> its Religion.”¹

The scholars agreed, among them Abū Qilāba (d. 276) and Imām Aḥmad, that the “Renewer” narration signified ‘Umar ibn ‘Abd al-‘Azīz and then al-Shāfi‘ī.²

Allah be well-pleased with them and grant us the baraka of their knowledge.

¹A sound ḥadīth by agreement of the ḥadīth Masters cf. al-Suyūṭī in *Mirqāt al-Su‘ūd ilā Sunan Abī Dāwūd* as cited by al-‘Azīm Ābādī in *‘Awn al-Ma‘būd* (4:182) who also cited the authentication of al-Zayn al-‘Irāqī as *ṣaḥīḥ*, narrated “with a strong chain” as stated by Ibn Ḥajar in *Tawālī al-Ta’nīs* (p. 49) from Abū Hurayra by Abū Dāwūd in his *Sunan*, al-Ḥākim (4:522), Ibn ‘Adī in the introduction to *al-Kāmil* (1:152), al-Khatīb in *Tārīkh Baghdād* (2:61), al-Sakhāwī in *al-Maqāṣid al-Ḥasana* (p. 121-122), al-‘Ajlūnī in *Kashf al-Khafā’* (1:243) – both declaring its chain sound and its narrators trustworthy –, al-Munāwī (2:281), al-Bayhaqī in *Manāqib al-Shāfi‘ī* (1:53) and *Ma‘rifat al-Sunan*, and Ibn ‘Abd al-Barr in *al-Intiqā’* (p. 126). Shaykh ‘Abd al-Fattāḥ Abū Ghudda documented it at length at the conclusion of his edition of the latter (p. 341-350) to show that some versions add the word “status” (*amr*).

²As narrated in al-Bayhaqī’s *Manāqib al-Shāfi‘ī* (1:54), Ibn Ḥajar’s *Tawālī al-Ta’nīs* (p. 47-49), al-‘Ajlūnī’s *Kashf al-Khafā’*, and elsewhere.