Shaykh ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz Āl al-Shaykh

Early Life

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Azīz Āl al-Shaykh was born on the 3rd Dhul Hijjah 1362 AH / 1941 CE in Saudi Arabia. Some reports state he was born in Makkah and others in Riyadh.



He suffered from poor eyesight from childhood and became completely blind in 1960 when he was just 19 years old.

He spent his childhood in the remembrance of Allah. He memorised the Qur'an by the age of 12 and from a young age

joined the gatherings of the scholars in Riyadh.

He came from the noble Āl al-Shaykh family, the descendants of Imām Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhāb. This family has been known for centuries as a house of knowledge that the Saudi Royal family consulted for religious advice.

Imām Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhāb's books are studied to this day. Among his most famous works are:

- Kitaab At-Tawheed (The Book of Tawheed)
- Usool Athalatha (The Three Principles)
- Kashf Al-Suhubuhaat (Removal of Doubts)

His Studies

Shaykh Āl al-Shaykh studied not only with the senior scholars of Riyadh in their circles of knowledge. He also graduated from the College of Sharī'ah, Riyadh, with a degree in Islamic Sciences and Arabic.

He studied under many great scholars includina:

Shaykh Muhammad b. Ibrahim Āl al-Shaykh

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Azīz ibn Bāz

Shaykh ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz al-Murshid

(May ALLAH have mercy on them)

His Great Character

Dedicated

He gave fatwas consistently on the famous Noor Al-Darb radio show. Every week callers could ask the Shaykh their Islamic questions. He even continued when he was hospitalised, giving fatwas from his sickbed.

A great advisor

He gave good advice to the rulers and made du'aa for them regularly.

Humble

He was humble and did not care about status and fame.



His Teaching and Roles

He taught in many institutions and was later appointed the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia. The Grand Mufti is the highest religious authority in Saudi Arabia. He gives fatwas (Islamic rulings), leads the Council of Senior Scholars, advises the rulers on religious matters, and guides Muslims in issues of worship, daily life, and major national events like Hajj.

1962–1971: Teacher at Imām al-Da'wah Institute, Riyadh.

1971–1991: Professor at College of Sharī'ah, Imām Muhammad ibn Saud University, Riyadh.

1986: Appointed to the Council of Senior Scholars.

1990s: Member of the Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Fatwa.

1999: After Shaykh Ibn Baz's death, appointed Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, head of the Council of Senior Scholars and Presidency of Scholarly Research and Ifta.

Alhamdulillah, some of the Shaykh's fataawa collections have been translated into English for us to read and learn from.



The Khutbah At Arafat

For over a decade he gave the khutbah to the Muslims performing Hajj on the Day of Arafat. This is a very special honour, as not only do the pilgrims on Arafat hear the address but millions of Muslims around the world also listen in.

A Quote from the noble shaykh

In A Speech to the Muslim World League 2017

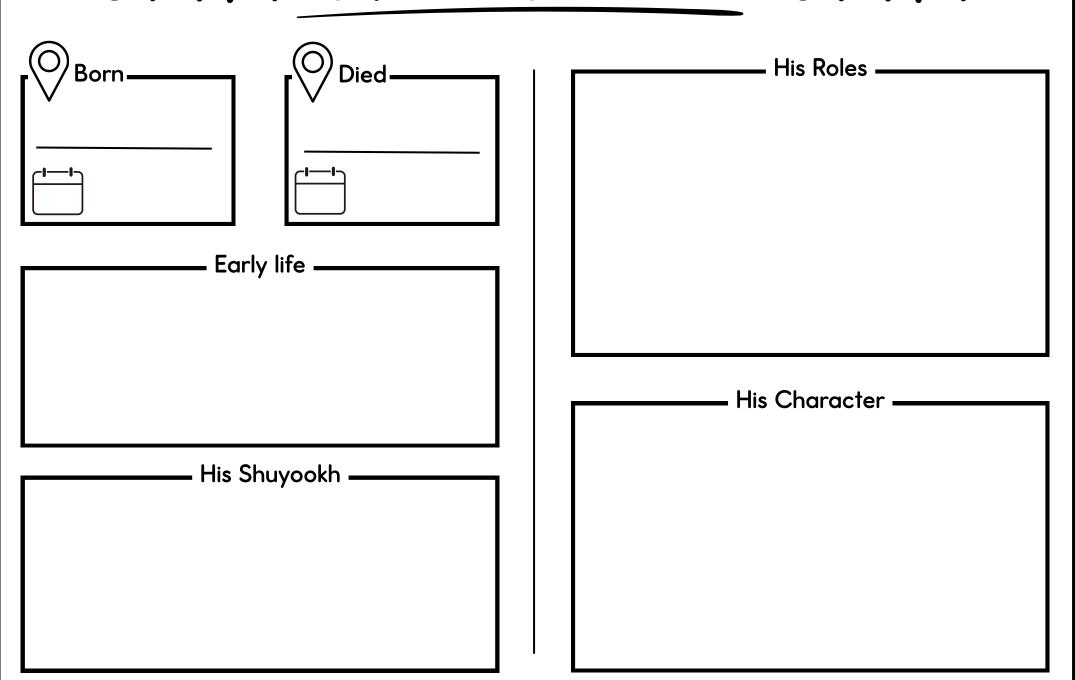
In the current age and in consideration of the fact many youth have been affected by the Western civilizations and the civilizations conflicting with the revealed messages, we remark that among them have spread the principles that contradict the basic tenets of Islam and intellectual trends that deviated from the proper method and straight path.

The Muslim should be cautious not to make his intellect a controlling element over what was definitely confirmed by a clear text in the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah.

Allah says (That is the bounty from Allah, and sufficient is Allah as Knower). (Qur'an 4:70)

Our Shaykh returned to his Lord on the 30th Rabi⁶ al-Awwal 1447 AH / 23rd September 2025. He died and was buried in Riyadh, May Allah have mercy upon him.

SHAYKH 'ABD AL-'AZĪZ ĀL AL-SHAYKH



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