

six *Farsakhs*<sup>[1]</sup> away from it.<sup>[2]</sup>

Abū Al-Faḥ Al-Qushayrī Al-Hāfiẓ states:

It is Tirmidh with a *Kasrah*. This is what is widespread upon people's tongues such that it is like that which is *Mutawatir*.<sup>[3]</sup>

### The City of Tirmidh:

As-Sam'ānī states concerning the ascription of At-Tirmidhī:

This is an ascription to an ancient city along the river of Balkh called Jayḥūn. The people are in disagreement concerning this ascription. Some of them say, Tarmidh, others say, Turmidh, and others still say, Tirmidh. What is most commonly in use by the people of that city is Tarmidh. What we used to know of old was that it was Tirmidh. However, the proficient and the people of knowledge prefer Turmudh, and everyone claims a meaning for what they claim.

All of this is the words of As-Sam'ānī, and Allāh knows what is correct.

I have asked those who have actually seen it whether it is towards the direction of Khawarizm or the direction of *Mā Warā' an-Nahar* (Transoxania).<sup>[4]</sup> He said, rather, it is

[1] A *Farsakh* can be from three miles to six. [*Lisān al-'Arab*, "Chapter: *Farsakht*"]

The measure of the *Farsakh* varied from region to region as was fairly common before standardized universal measures were developed.

[2] *Waḥayāt al-A'yān* (4/278).

[3] *Siyar A'lām An-Nubalā'* (13/274).

[4] Literally, *Mā Warā' an-Nahar* means "what is beyond the river." In English, the name for it is Transoxania, which is Latin for "Beyond the Oxus river," this being the Latin name for the Jayḥūn river.

counted as part of *Mā Warā' an-Nahar* in that direction.<sup>[1]</sup>

Ibn Baṭūṭah mentioned in his *Travels* that he entered Tirmidh, even though he is not trustworthy, I shall mention what he had to say so long as it does not contradict any reliable information that we have mentioned:

"Then we reached the city of Tirmidh to which the Imām, Abū 'Īsā Muḥammad ibn 'Īsā ibn Sawrah At-Tirmidhī, the author of *Al-Jāmi' Al-Kabīr fī As-Sunan*, is attributed. It is a large city with beautiful buildings and marketplaces, with rivers flowing through it. It possesses many gardens, grapes, and quince which are extremely fragrant.<sup>[2]</sup> There are many types of meat to be found there, and likewise much milk products.

"Its inhabitants wash their hair with it at the baths instead of *Ṭāfl*.<sup>[3]</sup> The owner of every bath will have large vessels filled with milk. When a man enters the bath he takes a small vessel of it and washes his head. This moistens the hair and makes it strong. The people of India put sesame oil on their heads and they call it *Shīrī*. Afterwards, they wash their hair with *Ṭāfl*, which makes the body fresh and it helps strengthen and lengthen the hair. It is for this reason that the beards of the people of India and those who reside with them are long.

"The ancient city of Tirmidh was built along the shore of the Jayḥūn, but when Genghis (Khan) destroyed it, the new city was built two miles from the river. We resided there at the *Zāwiyah* of the righteous *Shaykh*, 'Uzayzān, one of the senior scholars of great generosity. He had much wealth, houses, and gardens. He spent from his

[1] *Waḥayāt Al-A'yān* (14/278).

[2] Quince are a type of fruit.

[3] A type of clay.

wealth on those coming and going. Before reaching the city, I had met with its ruler, the great King, Khudāwand Zadah. He wrote to me inviting me as a guest. Provisions would be brought to me and my companions daily for the whole length of our stay there. I also met its Qādī, Qawām Ad-Dīn, and he is headed to see the Sultan Tarmishirīn, and to seek permission to travel to India..."

Then he states:

"Then the river of Jayhūn took us to the lands of Khurāsān. After our departure from Tirmidh and our crossing the valley, we traveled for a day and a half through sand and pebbles seeing no buildings before we reached the city of Balkh".<sup>[1]</sup>

### The Age in Which He Lived:

At-Tirmidhī lived in an age of advancement in the various scientific and academic fields. Many scholars reached a high level in various subjects. The science of *Ḥadīth* and its people had a great status as did all of the other sciences of the *Sharī'ah*. However, the greatest disaster was the acceptance with which the sciences of philosophy and other such sciences were received which caused all kinds of corruption to the *Ummah*. However, Allāh repels the people of evil with the people of good; such is always the case.

At-Tirmidhī was born in the year 210 H in the days of the *Khilāfah* of Banū Al-'Abbās.

The *Khilāfah* of Banū Al-'Abbās:<sup>[2]</sup>

- 1) Al-Ma'mūn Abdullah ibn Hārūn Ar-Rashīd (d. 218 H)

[1] *Riḥlah ibn Baḥūtah* (1/188).

[2] The following is summarized from *Tārīkh al-Khulāfā'* (1/349-416).

Al-Ma'mūn 'Abdullāh, Abū Al-'Abbās, ibn Ar-Rashīd. He was born in the year 170 on the night of *Jumu'ah* in the middle of Rabī' Al-Awwal, the night on which Al-Hādī died, and his father became *Khalīfah*. His mother was a *Umm Walad*.<sup>[1]</sup> Her name was Marājil and she died during her childbirth. He studied knowledge in his youth.

He heard *Ḥadīth* from his father Hārūn Ar-Rashīd, Hushaym, 'Abbād ibn Al-'Awwām, Yūsuf ibn 'Aṭīyyah, Abū Mu'awiyah Aḍ-Ḍarīr, Ismā'il ibn 'Ulayyah, Ḥajjāj Al-A'war, and others from their generation. He was educated by Al-Yazīdī and a number of *Fuqahā'* from various lands. He excelled in *Fiqh*, 'Arabic language, and history. When he reached adulthood, he turned to philosophy and the sciences of the ancients, excelling in them. This led him to adopt the view that the Qur'ān was created.

He was from the most noble of Banū Al-'Abbās and the greatest of them with respect to knowledge, understanding, courage, and leadership. He had many praiseworthy qualities, were it not for the great trial he started for the people concerning the creation of the Qur'ān.

It was during his rule that Imām At-Tirmidhī, may Allāh have mercy on him, was born.

- 2) Al-Mu'taṣim Billāh (d. 227 H)

Al-Mu'taṣim Billāh, Abū Ishāq, Muḥammad ibn Ar-Rashīd. He was born in the year 180 H. Adh-Dhahabī states:

[1] A slavegirl who has a child by her master.