

Pinnacle Papers
VOLUME 2

بَاطِنُ الْإِثْمِ
الْحَطَرُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي حَيَاةِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

Inward Sin
*The Greatest Danger in
the Lives of Muslims*

By
Imam Muḥammad Sa'īd Ramaḍān al-Būṭī

Translated by
Mahdi Lock



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Pinnacle Papers: A Collection of Masterpieces by Imam Muḥammad Saʿīd Ramaḍān al-Būṭī

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INWARD SIN - The Greatest Danger in the Lives of Muslims

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Imam Muḥammad Sa'īd Ramaḍān Al-Būṭī is one of the foremost Muslim theologians and legal scholars of this age. Born in 1929 in the village of Ayn Dewar in northern Syria, the imam moved to Damascus at the age of four with his father, the great scholar Mullā Ramaḍān al-Būṭī رحمه الله, where he received his primary and secondary education. In 1953, he joined the Faculty of Sharī'ah at the University of al-Azhar in Cairo, Egypt, graduating with a first class in 1955. The following year he obtained a Diploma in Education from the Faculty of Arabic Language at the same University.

In 1958, the Imam was appointed as a teacher at the secondary school in Homs and in 1961, he was appointed as a lecturer in the Faculty of Sharī'ah at the University of Damascus. In 1965, at the University of al-Azhar once again, he obtained his doctorate with high distinction and a recommendation for a teaching post. That same year, he was appointed as a teacher in the Faculty of Sharī'ah at the University of Damascus, then an assistant professor and finally a full professor. He became the vice dean of that college in 1975 and then the dean in 1977. A few years later, he was appointed head of the department of Theology and Comparative Religion.

In addition to his lecturing, Imam al-Būṭī wrote around sixty books covering various Islamic sciences and subjects, the most prominent ones being *Fiqh al-Sīrah* (The Jurisprudence of the Prophetic Biography), *Kubrā al-Yaqīniyyāt al-Kawniyyah* (The Greatest Universal Sureties) and his four-volume commentary on the spiritual aphorisms of Imam Ibn ‘Aṭā’illāh al-Askandarī. He was also very active in teaching common believers in local masjids, especially Masjid al-Īmān in Damascus, and on television, recordings of which can be found online and especially on the site www.naseemalsham.com. He also served as the imam at the Umayyad Grand Masjid in Damascus for Friday prayers, a post he held for decades.

On March 21, 2013, Imam al-Būṭī, along with approximately fifty students, was murdered by terrorists while teaching Qur’ānic commentary in Masjid al-Īmān. Despite the immense trials and tribulations that Syria was and is still enduring, Imam al-Būṭī ﷺ was never dissuaded from his dedicated service to knowledge. After a funeral prayer that was attended by thousands of people, the Imam was buried next to Imam Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn al-Ayyūbī ﷺ in Bāb al-Saghīr graveyard in Damascus. May the Lord ﷻ bless and have mercy on him and all of us.