

An Explanation of Sharh us Sunnah of Imaam Al-Barbahaari - Lesson 4

Source: Irshaad As Saaree ila tawdeeh Sharh us Sunnah lil Barbahaari

By Shaykh Allaamah Ahmad ibn Yahya An Najmee

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'Umar ibn al-Khattaab (rahimahullaah) said, "There is no excuse for anyone going astray thinking that he is upon guidance. Nor for abandoning guidance thinking it to be misguidance, since the affairs have been made clear, the proof established and the excuse cut off."¹ That is because the Sunnah and the Jamaa'ah have consolidated and safeguarded all of the Religion. It has been made clear to the people, so it is upon the people to comply and follow.'

Explanation:

The author said (rahimahullaah): *'Umar ibn al-Khattaab (rahimahullaah) said, "There is no excuse for anyone going astray thinking that he is upon guidance. Nor for abandoning guidance thinking it to be misguidance, since the affairs have been made clear, the proof established and the excuse cut off.'*

These are incredible words that emanated from a great man, and that man was none other than the second Caliph 'Umar ibn Al-Khattaab (radhiallaahu anhu). This means that whomsoever goes astray thinking that they are upon guidance or abandons guidance thinking it to be misguidance, then there is no excuse for them before Allaah, because only someone who was negligent in seeking the truth in the Book or the Sunnah would do this. That is why there is no excuse for him.

Consequently, 'Umar said: *'since the affairs have been made clear'*

They have been clarified by the Book of Allaah, the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam) and by the actions of the Companions.

Moreover, the proof has been established upon the people based on the saying of Allaah (Subhana wa ta'ala):

¹ Reported by Ibn Battah in, al-Ibaantul-Kubraa (no. 162) by way of al-Awzaa'ee that it reached him that 'Umar ibn al-Khattaab said it. However, its chain is munqati' (disconnected).

"In order that mankind should have no plea against Allaah after the Messengers." ²

Therefore, the excuse is cut off. There is no excuse for the one who innovates something into the religion or someone who goes astray and is ignorant of various rulings, after Allaah has clarified and explained them upon the tongue of his Messenger (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam) through that which He revealed to him, from the Book and the Sunnah.

As for the saying of the author:

'That is because the Sunnah and the Jamaa'ah have consolidated and safeguarded all of the Religion. It has been made clear to the people, so it is upon the people to comply and follow.'

I say (Shaykh Ahmed An-Najmi): The creed ('aqeedah) of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaa'ah is clearly (documented) in the books of reference, and it is built upon the Sunnah. So whomsoever Allaah wants good for, He grants him success in returning to these sources, and He makes it easy for him to accompany those who propagate this 'aqeedah. I intend by this those who carry the madhab (belief and methodology) of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaa'ah. And whomsoever Allaah wants evil for He facilitates him for that which he has been created.

Whoever grew up at the hands of the Sufiyyah or the people of tasawwuf, believing that this was guidance is astray and leading others astray. Whoever grew up at the hands of those who were upon the 'aqeedah of the Jahmiyyah, remaining upon this and accompanying its people believing that this is the Sunnah is astray and leading others astray. Whoever grew up at the hands of those who held the belief of the Mu'tazilah believing that this is the Sunnah is astray and leading others astray. Whoever grew up at the hands of those who held the belief of the Ashaa'irah believing that this is the Sunnah is astray and leading others astray. Whoever grew up at the hands the people of Rafd (those who held the belief of the Raafidah) and Tashayyu' (who held the belief of the Shi'ah)- those who abuse the Companions (radhiallaahu anhum) of the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam) and discredit them- believing this was the truth is astray and leading others astray. Whoever grew up at the hands of the Kharijites, who wrongfully declare Muslims to be disbelievers, believing this to be the truth is astray and leading others astray.

However, people upon those innovations will definitely find discrepancies in their 'aqeedah, which will bring to light the mistakes in the manner they have formulated their 'aqeedah that they are upon. The same goes for the people of Irjaa (who hold the belief of the Murji'ah). The same applies to those present day groups who busy themselves with secondary matters and belittle matters of creed ('aqeedah), even though some of the people may hold that they are upon the truth due to the apparent adherence (to the religion) that they see from them. And in actual fact these groups neglect the foundation of 'aqeedah, they neglect this affair, and this is the matter of Tawheed Al-Uloohiyyah, and they belittle the importance of highlighting that which would damage or blemish this.

² Soorah An-Nisaa: 185

The important point, for those who desire saviour, is to stick to the Book of Allaah, and to the well known books of Sunnah, which are Saheeh Al-Bukhaari, Saheeh Muslim, As-Sunan Al-Arba'³ and the Musnad of Imam Ahmed, and that which follows on from this i.e. the books of Hadeeth. Also they should stick to those books which gather the narrations of the Salaf such as the Musannaf of Ibn Abi Shaybah, the Musannaf of AbdirRazzaaq and the Musannaf Sa'eed Ibn Mansoor. Likewise to the books of 'Aqaa'id (creed), such as Kitaab At-Tawheed of Ibn Khuzaimah, Ar-Radd 'alal Jahmiyyah of Imam Ahmed, Kitaab As-Sunnah of 'Abdullaah Ibn Ahmed, Ar-Radd 'alal Jahmiyyah of 'Uthmaan ibn Sa'eed Ad-Daarimee, Sharh 'Usool I'tiqaad Ahlis Sunnah by Al-Laalikaa'ee, Al-Ibaanah Al-Kubra of Ibn Battah, the books of Shaykhul Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah, Ibn Al-Qayyim and Muhammad Ibn Abdil Wahhaab, etc.

These are the books that will clarify the truth. Additionally, beware of slipping (into the path) of the Hizbiyyoon, and reading their books, traversing upon their narrow and restricted path and walking upon their crooked methodology.

Beware O my Muslim Brother of reading their books, because the truth they contain is mixed with falsehood, and the Sunnah they contain is blemished with innovation. Thus, if you want to drink from the pure fountain of which has no pollution, then it is upon you to stick to the Book of Allaah, the books of the Sunnah and those books that gather the narrations (of the Salaf), and to proceed upon the path of the Ahlul Athar, those who take this knowledge with a chain of narration from the Companions of the Messenger of Allaah who in turn take from their Prophet (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam).

And that which they say will never oppose the truth that they are upon.

Now you should understand that the words of the author: *'That is because the Sunnah and the Jamaa'ah have consolidated and safeguarded all of the Religion. It has been made clear to the people, so it is upon the people to comply and follow and to abandon innovating.'* These words are in their rightful place.

Furthermore, it is upon you to abandon reading the books of the people of innovation if you want saviour for yourself. May Allaah grant me and you success in accepting the truth. And all success lies with Allaah.

³ [TN] They are Sunan An-Nisaa'i, Sunan Abi Daawood, Sunan Ibn Maaajah and At-Tirmidhi.