

An Explanation of Sharh us Sunnah of Imaam Al-Barbahaari - Lesson 5

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

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v1.00

"May Allaah have mercy upon you. Know that the religion is what came from Allaah, the Blessed the Most High. It is not something left to the intellect or opinions of men. Knowledge of it is what comes from Allaah and His Messenger (Sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam), so do not follow anything based upon your desires and so deviate away from the religion and leave Islaam. There will be no excuse for you since Allaah's Messenger (Sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam) explained the Sunnah to his Ummah and made it clear to his Companions and they are the Jamaa'ah, and they are the main body, and the main body is the truth and its followers. So he who contradicts the Companions of the Allaah's Messenger (Sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam) in any of the affair of the religion then he has fallen into disbelief."

Explanation:

This kind of expression has been used regularly by the author (may Allaah have mercy upon him), and these kinds of words have to be understood in one of three ways:

1. Either it is understood to mean that; whosoever denies any of the fundamental beliefs of the religion has disbelieved.
2. Or he intends by this; that this action could possibly lead to disbelief.
3. Or he intends by this statement the minor disbelief.

As not everyone who opposes something that the Companions were upon falls into disbelief that exits them from the fold of Islaam - this is not the creed of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaa'ah.

Anas ibn Maalik (Radiya Allaahu 'anhu) said when arriving in Madeenah towards the end of his life, "I don't recognise anything that I was accustomed to with the exception of the prayer, and you have delayed that from its proper time."

In another narration, "And you have been negligent to this extent."

This meaning: that they had removed the prayers from their proper times. However, this did not cause (Anas) to declare them to be disbelievers, and none from Ahlus Sunnah understood his statement to mean that those present at his time were disbelievers. Hence, his statement:

"So he who contradicts the Companions of the Allaah's Messenger (Sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam) in any of the affair of the religion then he has fallen into disbelief."

This has to be understood in the ways that we highlighted earlier, because the 'aqeedah (creed) of Ahlus Sunnah is that they do not declare the Muslim who commits a sin to be a disbeliever unless they commit shirk, or deny a ruling of Islaam that is unilaterally agreed upon, or if they mock the religion or its people, and that which resembles this, from those issues that have been documented amongst those matters that nullify ones Islaam. Also Ahlus Sunnah do not declare anyone to be a disbeliever even if they were to commit a major sin, even if they persist and die upon it, because this is the belief that is proven by the texts of the Book and Sunnah.

As for his statement:

"May Allaah have mercy upon you. Know that the religion is what came from Allaah, the Blessed the Most High. It is not something left to the intellect or opinions of men."

This is something plain and obvious. Allaah- Who is free from all imperfections the Most High- said:

"O Children of Aadam! If there comes to you Messengers from amongst you, reciting to you, My Verses, then whosoever becomes pious and righteous, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve."¹

He, the Blessed the Most High, said:

"[Say (O Muhammad) to these idolaters (pagan Arabs) of your folk:] Follow what has been sent down unto you from your Lord (the Qur'aan and Prophet Muhammad's Sunnah), and follow not any Auliya' (protectors and helpers, etc. who order you to associate partners in worship with Allaah), besides Him (Allaah). Little do you remember!"²

Allaah, Who is free from all imperfections the Most High, said:

"And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allaah (i.e. this Qur'aan), and be not divided among yourselves, and remember Allaah's Favour on you, for you were enemies one to another but He joined your hearts together, so that, by His Grace, you became brethren (in Islāmic Faith), and you were on the brink of a pit of Fire, and He saved you

¹ Soorah An-'Araaf: 35

² Soorah An-'Araaf: 3

from it. Thus Allaah makes His Ayât (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.,) clear to you, that you may be guided.

Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good (Islaam), enjoining Al-Ma'rûf (i.e. Islâmic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do) and forbidding Al-Munkar (polytheism and disbelief and all that Islaam has forbidden). And it is they who are the successful.

And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves after the clear proofs had come to them. It is they for whom there is an awful torment."³(Al-'Imraan: 103-105)

Moreover, what is the rope of Allaah? What is the straight path that we have been commanded to follow?

The answer: It is that which came from Allaah and has been transmitted from the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam), from both the Book and Sunnah.

Additionally, we must know that Allaah, Who is free from all imperfections the Most High, never left the truth to the intellect or desires of men because people's intellects differ and their desires vary and are dissimilar. Thus, if the truth was left to the desires of the people it would, like their skin colour, faces and physique differ.

But the truth is what came from Allaah upon the tongue of the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam). And Allaah, Who is free from all imperfections the Most High, said:

"And if the truth had been in accordance with their desires, verily, the heavens and the earth, and whosoever is therein would have been corrupted! Nay, We have brought them their reminder, but they turn away from their reminder."

O student of Allaah! If you have understood this point, then it is upon you to search for the truth in the Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam), not in the refuse of the minds or the scum of the intellect; the truth is not to be found in any of these. And Allaah, Who is free from all imperfections the Most High, said:

"Or have they partners with Allaah (false gods), who have instituted for them a religion which Allaah has not allowed. And had it not been for a decisive Word (gone forth already), the matter would have been judged between them. And verily, for the Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers), there is a painful torment."

O seeker of justice, O seeker of safety! It is upon you to stick to what has come from Allaah. Allaah promised to safeguard it. He said:

"Verily We: It is We Who have sent down the Dhikr (i.e. the Qur'aan) and surely, We will guard it (from corruption)."

³ Soorah Al-'Imraan: 103-105

Allaah preserved this Qur'aan from the lies of the astrologers, fortune-tellers and soothsayers, by preventing the devils from eavesdropping when it was being revealed to foil any attempt to steal a hearing of any part of it. If successful, they would present it upon the tongues of the fortune tellers which would result in the truth being confused with falsehood, but Allaah safeguarded the Qur'aan when it was being revealed.

After its revelation He preserved it from the distortion of the deviants, plans of the plotters and fabrications of the liars, until it reached us; exactly the way it was revealed, clear, and free from any alteration.

Likewise, Allaah safeguarded the Sunnah through men that Allaah created to preserve and protect it from any distortion, and they fortified it from everything that the deviants attempted to add, to a degree that the Sunnah is as clear as the sun and as apparent as the dawn of Fajr.

Allaah created in every era scholars of Hadeeth to differentiate between what is authentic and what is weak, or fabricated, or a blatant lie.

After understanding this you should recognise that the proof has been established, and there is nothing left for you apart from following the truth and searching for it in its sources, in order to know and act upon it and advise towards it anyone who requests direction.

Also, you should know that the truth is what has come from Allaah and His Messenger, from both the Book and the Sunnah, even if its people and those who have embraced it are few in number.

Whatever is found in Islamic legislation is the truth, even if the majority of the people oppose it and those who follow it are few, as Allaah, Who is free from all imperfections the Most High, said:

"Then We have put you (O Muhammad) on a plain way of (Our) commandment [like the one which We commanded Our Messengers before you (i.e. legal ways and laws of the Islâmic Monotheism)]. So follow you that (Islâmic Monotheism and its laws), and follow not the desires of those who know not."⁴ [Tafsir At-Tabarî Vol. 25, Page 146].

Verily, they can avail you nothing against Allaah (if He wants to punish you). Verily, the Zâlimûn (polytheists, wrong-doers, etc.) are Auliya' (protectors, helpers, etc.) to one another, but Allaah is the Walî (Helper, Protector, etc.) of the Muttaqûn (pious - see V.2:2). "⁵(Al-Jaatiyah: 18-19)

Strive -O slave of Allaah- to follow the truth, and walk upon the straight path, and to stick to the rightly guided predecessors, the Companions of the Messenger of Allaah. Don't be saddened by the small numbers of people following the truth and the great number of opposition, as Ibraaheem, alone, was a nation. And success lies with Allaah.

⁴ Tafsir At-Tabarî Vol. 25, Page 146

⁵ Surah Al-Jaatiyah: 18-19