

An Explanation of Sharh us Sunnah of Imaam Al-Barbahaari - Lesson 6

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

By Shaykh Allaamah Ahmad ibn Yahya An Najmee

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“Know that people never introduce an innovation until they abandon its like from the Sunnah. So, beware of newly invented matters, since every newly invented matter is an innovation and every innovation is misguidance and its people are in the Fire.”

Explanation:

The author intended that whomsoever abandons the Sunnah and introduces an innovation has fallen into two hideous crimes:

Firstly: They have abandoned the Sunnah.

Secondly: That they have introduced an innovation.

The invention of innovations is connected to the abandonment of the Sunan. There is not a slave who introduces an innovation except that they abandon a Sunnah. So beware of falling into this prohibition whereby contradicting what you have been commanded.

Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, will never reward someone unless they follow the Sunnah of the His Messenger (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam), and whomsoever abandons something of the Sunnah has surely forsaken something from the Qur’aan, because Allaah the Mighty and Majestic, in many verses in His Book, commanded that his Messenger (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) be followed, an example being the saying of Allaah the Most High:

“O you who believe! Answer Allaah (by obeying Him) and (His) Messenger (Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) when he calls you to that which will give you life, and know that Allaah comes in between a person and his heart (i.e. He prevents an evil person to decide anything). And verily to Him you shall (all) be gathered.”¹

“And fear the *Fitnah* (affliction and trial, etc.) which affects not in particular (only) those of you who do wrong (but it may afflict all the good and the bad people), and know that Allaah is Severe in punishment.”²

¹ Soorah Al-Anfaal: 24

² Soorah Al-Anfaal: 25

Here, Allaah the Mighty and Majestic has informed us that refusing to respond to Allaah and His Messenger (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) is a reason for being afflicted with a Fitnah that doesn't only affect the oppressive, rather it encompasses all.

Allaah the Most High said:

"Say (O Muhammad to mankind): "If you (really) love Allaah then follow me (i.e. accept Islamic Monotheism, follow the Qur'aan and the *Sunnah*), Allaah will love you and forgive you of your sins. And Allaah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." ³

The threat, for abandoning the Sunan and introducing innovations, is a severe threat as mentioned in the verses of Surah al-Anfaal and as found in Surah An-Noor:

"And when they are called to Allaah (i.e. His Words, the Qur'aan) and His Messenger (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam), to judge between them, lo! A party of them refuse (to come) and turn away.

"But if the right is with them, they come to him willingly with submission.

"Is there a disease in their hearts? Or do they doubt or fear lest Allaah and His Messenger (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) should wrong them in judgment. Nay, it is they themselves who are the *Zâlimûn* (polytheists, hypocrites and wrong-doers, etc.)." ⁴

Also the saying of Allaah the Most High:

"And whoever contradicts and opposes the Messenger (Muhammad Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) after the right path has been shown clearly to him, and follows other than the believers' way. We shall keep him in the path he has chosen, and burn him in Hell - what an evil destination." ⁵

And as the Prophet (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) said:

*"All of my nation will enter paradise except those who refuse.
They said, O Messenger of Allah, who will refuse?
He responded, Those who obey me will enter paradise and those who disobeyed me have refused."*

That is why the innovator is disobedient to Allaah and His Messenger, he is a follower of his own lusts, and he rates himself, because it is as if his actions are saying that his opinion and desires are superior to what the Messenger (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) came with. Beware of being from these types of people, and being threatened with the hellfire; and refuge is sought with Allaah.

And all success lies with Allaah.

³ Surah Aal-'Imraan: 31

⁴ Surah An-Noor: 48-50

⁵ Surah An-Nisaa: 115