

The Condition of One who Sits with the People of Innovation while Making the claim that he is a Sunni

Shaikh Muḥammad ibn Hādī al-Madkhalī, may Allāh protect him, said:

In Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim from Ibn ‘Umar, may Allāh be pleased with him [and his father], that the Prophet ﷺ said: "The example of a hypocrite is that of a [single] sheep wandering between two flocks, wandering over to this [flock] one time and to that [one another] time, not knowing which one to follow."

The Condition of One Who Sits with the People of Innovation

While Making the Claim That He Is a Sunnī: The Assembly of Mukhadh'dhils¹

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In Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim from Ibn 'Umar, may Allāh be pleased with him [and his father], that the Prophet ﷺ said: "The example of a hypocrite is that of a [single] sheep wandering between two flocks, wandering over to this [flock] one time and to that [one another] time, not knowing which one to follow."

So this is the situation of one who sits with the people of innovation, claiming he [himself] is a Sunnī while he sits with the people of innovation.

His situation is as the Prophet ﷺ described, "an example, the like of [a single] sheep wandering between two flocks," confused, hesitating, a lost, fallen, lowly failure--not knowing [whether] it should go to this or that group until it dies--we ask Allāh for protection and safety from every harm. This ḥadīth is in Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim.

The author, [Ibn Baṭṭah], may Allāh have mercy on him, commented in his [book] Al-Ibānah Al-Kubrā, saying: "This kind of person is found in great numbers in our time, may Allāh not increase them in number."

[This was] at his time, in the fourth century [A.H.], and we today are in the fifteenth century; between his time and our time today is about 1066 years.

Between his time and our time today is about 1066 years, and he was saying these [words] at that time: "Indeed, with absolute certainty, this kind of person is found in great numbers in our time, may Allāh not increase them in number."

Yes, what do we say today?! To Allāh we belong, and to Him we are returning. This is the assembly of mukhadh'dhils today--we ask Allāh for protection and safety from every harm.

These are the ones who have a devastating effect on the People of the Sunnah and the people holding onto correct beliefs, and they are, by Allāh, more

harmful to [the people of the Sunnah] than the open people of innovation whose origins are upon that.

He says, may Allāh the all-high have mercy on him: "This kind of person is found in great numbers in our time, may Allāh not increase them in number. May Allāh protect us and you from the evil of hypocrites and the evil plots of those who seek transgression against others. And May Allāh not make us [or] you from among those who play with the religion nor from those whom the devils have entranced, so they turned back on their heels in retreat and turned away in opposition, hesitating and confused as they did so."

This [statement of Ibn Baṭṭah's] is found in his [book] Al-Ibānah Al-Kubrā, may Allāh the all-high have mercy on him.

And all of this, O gathering of brothers and sons, is with regard to one who sits with the people of innovation and desires--just sitting with them--so what is the case with regard to one who defends them or argues on their behalf?!

There is no question that this [person] is [to be considered] from among them without any doubt since he has stated explicitly, with his pronouncing in no uncertain terms on his tongue, [his] defence of these [people of innovation and desires] while Allāh the majestic and all-high says:

And do not argue in defence of those who made treacherous criminals of themselves.... [English meaning of Al-Nisā' 107, extract]

So no one argues in defence of these [people of desires and innovation] except one who is [to be considered] from them.

¹ Literally, those who try to weaken the ranks by calling for people to give up the fight. The term "mukhadh'dhil" refers to people who appear to be from the People of Sunnah while they do not come to the defence of the Sunnah; instead, they defend the people of Bid'ah and attribute extremism to the scholars who criticize them. (Trans.)

Source: <https://miraath.net/ar/content/makalate/-البدع-ويزعم-/-الذي-يجالس-أهل-البدع-ويزعم->
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