

Friday Khutbah: Virtues of the Sahaba and their Position  
Friday 21/06/2013

Imam Ahmed reported the tradition from Abdullah Ibn Masoud, may Allah be pleased with him, in which he said: “Allah looked into the hearts of His servants and found the heart of Muhammad (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) to be the best of the hearts. So, He chose him and sent him with His message. He then looked into the hearts of the rest of His servants and found the hearts of his *Sahaba* to be the best after that of Muhammad. So, He made them ministers for His prophet, struggling for His *Deen*.”

*Sahaba* are the best among the *Ummah* of Muhammad (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*.) Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) is pleased with them and His Messenger (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) died while he was pleased with them.

That fact Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) is pleased with them and His Messenger was pleased with them is mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says “And the foremost to embrace Islam of the Muhâjirûn and the *Ansar* and those who followed them, Allah is well-pleased with them as they are well-pleased with Him. He has prepared for them Gardens under which rivers flow to dwell therein forever.”

He (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) also says: “Indeed, Allah was pleased with the believers when they gave the Bai'âh (pledge) to you (O Muhammad) under the tree, He knew what was in their hearts, and He sent down tranquillity upon them, and He rewarded them with a near victory.”

Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*.) said: “Do not insult my companions! By the One in Whose Hand my soul is, if one of you spends gold as much as the mountains of *Uhud*, he would not get a reward equal to that of a handful of what one of them spent or half of it...”

*As-Sahabi*, is one who met Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*.); who lived and died as a Muslim whether he accompanied Rasulullah for a short or long period.

*As-Sahabi* is not like any other person. He is a link in the chain between the *Ummah* and its Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*.) There is no way for us to know the *Deen* except through the *Sahaba*. The Qur'an reached us through them and the rest of the Shari'ah we took it from them. Without them there could be no *Deen* or *Sunnah*.

The scholars of Islam are all in agreement that all the *Sahaba* are trustworthy. It is strictly prohibited for any Muslim to discredit any of them.

Imam *At-Tawahi* summed up the *Aqeedah* of *ahl as-Sunnah waj-Jama'ah* with regard to *as-Sahaba*, he said: “We love the Companions of the Messenger of Allah but we do not go to excess in our love for any one among them nor do we disown any one of them. We hate anyone who hates them or does not speak well of them and we only speak well of them. Love of them is a part of Islam, part of belief and part of *Ihsan*, while hatred of them is unbelief, hypocrisy and transgression.”

The hearts of *ahl as-Sunnah* are clean towards the *Sahaba*. They do not carry any hatred towards any of them. They do not get involved into the differences and disputes that took place between them. They hold the opinion that all of them were *Mujtahid* who tried their

best to do what they thought was right. So, whoever hit the mark would have two rewards, and whoever was mistaken would have one reward and his mistake will be forgiven because of his effort and Jihad with Rasulallah (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam.*) They had abundant of *Hasanat* (credit) which will wipe out their mistakes.

As for the *Muafiqeen* (hypocrites) and *Batiniyeen* (secret sects) in whose hearts there is disease they hate the *Sahaba*, or most of them except a few. Some of them go as far as calling the *Sahaba* or most of them *kafir*.

It has been proven that challenging the trustworthiness of anyone of the *Sahaba* opens the door wide open to questioning the trustworthiness of all of them. The scholars of Islam were fully aware of this fact as were the enemies of Islam who attack it.

As for the scholars of Islam they set up a fortified fence to shield off and protect the *Sahaba* against discredit. By doing so their ultimate goal is to protect the Qur'an and *Deen*.

Imam Ahmed, may Allah have mercy upon him, said: "Whoever discredits any of the *Sahaba* of Rasulallah (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) or hates him or mentions some of his faults, then he is *mubtadi'* (man of *bid'a* – heresy) until he prays for Allah's mercy upon them and cleans his hear towards them."

Abu Zar'aa said: "If you see a person discrediting the *Sahaba*, then know that he is *zendik* (atheist, unbeliever.) That is so because the Prophet is true and the noble Qur'an is true. The *Sahaba* were the witnesses who conveyed the Qur'an to us. These *Zendik* seek to defame our witnesses in order to invalidate the Book and Sunnah. They are the ones who deserve to be discredited.

We ask Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) to grant us the love of the *Sahaba* and to join us with them in His abode of mercy and honour.

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As for the enemies who seek to attack Islam, they know that attacking Islam directly is counterproductive. This is simply because Muslims are not going to accept direct criticism of Islam. So discrediting the *Sahaba* is the way forward for them. Through this they throw doubts into the minds of Muslims or even derail them from the straight path without them realising.

The enemies choose from among the *Sahaba* those whom it is possible to criticise and those whom by discrediting, they can hope to damage Islam. One such example was the attack against Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) by the orientalist. The orientalist hope that by discrediting *Abu Hurairah* they can shoot down more than five thousand *Hadith* of Rasulallah (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) narrated by Abu Hurairah.

The enemies also attack Moawiyah Ibn Abi Sufyan, may Allah be pleased with him, because there are certain aspects of his *Seerah* that might lead people of weak knowledge and intellect to question some of his actions.

Misunderstanding could arise from the way Moawiyah, may Allah be pleased with him, became caliph following the stepping down of Al-Hassan Ibn Ali, may Allah be pleased with them, in his favour. Moawiyah also made *Ijtihad* and appointed his son Yazid as Caliph after him. So, whoever magnified this part of his *Seerah*, and does not balance it out with his countless merits, pictured him as one who was seeking power. Some went as far as accusing

him of having no interest in Islam and was only pretending. This is what people of *bid'a*; the *Batiniyyah*, the secularists and liberals say. They built mountains of falsehood out of these and other fabricated narrations.

The scholars of Islam predicted the damage to Islam that discrediting Moawiyah, may Allah be pleased with him, could cause. They made remarkable and very accurate statements regarding this issue.

Abdullah Ibn Al-Mubarak said: "For us Moawiyah is a test case (for the *Sahaba*). Whomever we find looking at him with distrust then we would have a reason to mistrust him with regard to the rest of the *Sahaba*."

One of the notable statements regarding Moawiyah, may Allah be pleased with him, was that of Abu Tauba al-Halabi. He said: Moawiyah is the screen (shield) of the *Sahaba* of Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam.*) If one tears the screen then one will have courage to challenge what is behind it.

Time would not allow me to say much about the virtues of Moawiya, may Allah be pleased with him. I will mention just two of his virtues.

He was one of the scribes of *al-Wahi* (the revelation of the Qur'an). No doubt that attacking the person who wrote *al-Wahi* is an attack against *al-Wahi* itself and against Islam as a whole.

Moawiya was close to the Rightly Guided *Khalifa* Umar Ibn al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him. Umar appointed him governor of Sham. Umar was a far-sighted and intelligent person. He would not favour anyone if he was not trustworthy and fit for the job. The Rightly Guided *Khalifa* Uthman Ibn Affan, may Allah be pleased with him, confirmed the appointment of Moawiya by Umar, may Allah be pleased with them, and extended the land under his governance. Any attack against Moawiya, is by extension an attack against Umar and Uthman an accusation that they deceived the *Ummah*.

We seek refuge with Allah from deviation and error. We ask Him to protect our tongues from saying anything that is not befitting to any of the *Sahaba* and *aal al-Bait*. "Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in faith, and do not place in our hearts any rancour against those who believe; Surely, Our Lord, you are Very-Kind, Very-Merciful."