

Recent disastrous events – loss of knowledge

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 15th January 2010. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Oh Muslims, Scholars are the heirs of the prophets as they inherited knowledge from them. They inherit the mission of teaching people, providing guidance to them, reminding the heedlessness and clarifying the religion without any changing, distorting or concealing. They are the people of knowledge who realise the greatness of the responsibility to deliver their trust despite any difficulties. They face tests with patience, adversity with consistent sincerity and determination because they know the importance of knowledge and the status of scholars in Islam. They are not deceived by false appearances or decorated positions.

Quran praises such people for their truthful stance. Among them are those faced Qarun with his treasures of a vast wealth, Qarun who stood before people in the fullest and most beautiful adornment and with the stateliness of the kings, presidents and the greats. Those who desired the worldly life said: "Oh, would that we had like what was given to Qārūn. Indeed, he is one of great fortune" [Al-Qasas 28:79], but the view of the people of knowledge was totally different. The Quran recorded their view to keep it as a living example for Muslims to learn from - especially those who choose the way of seeking knowledge and take the route to lead this nation with the prophetic knowledge they inherited. God says in the next verse "But those who had been given knowledge said, 'Woe to you! The reward of God is better for he who believes and does righteousness. And none are granted it except the patient.'" [Al-Qasas 28:80].

Due to their truthfulness with God, steadfastness on the truth and adherence to the constant principles - God (Glory be to Him) combined between the people of belief and the people of knowledge – their levels were raised as the verse states: "God will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees." [Al-Mujadalah 58:11]. Those degrees are evidences of highness and greatness of the reward both in this worldly life (with the high status, good reputation and people's love) and in the Hereafter (with a high status in Paradise by God's will).

Oh Muslims, we found that there are still some righteous scholars in this Ummah who are saying the word of truth and defending its rights in many well known scholars like:

- Sa'id ibn Jubayr and Imam Malik in their respective tribulations,
- Imam Ahmed during the turmoil of the Mu'tazila doctrine of (the creation of the Quran) and

many others who hold the banner of knowledge and protected the status of the heirs of the prophets. These are the true leaders of this community, scholars who raise people and sincere jurists who experience the matters of concern for the community, feel for its pains, hold its hopes, desire good and advancement for it and put their effort to defend it. Their right upon us is to respect, honour and revere them as the prophet (pbuh) said: "He is not one of us who does not show esteem to our elderly and mercy to our young ones and realise the status of our knowledgeable". These are the people who we should respect and realise their status as long as they are on the truth. Imam Ali said regarding scholars: 'you should respect and honour him as long as he preserves the orders of God'.

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Once, Zaid ibn Thabit was about to mount his horse after he prayed on a funeral so Abdullah bin Abbas went up to help him. Zaid said: (out of respect to Ibn Abbas) 'Do not bother, O cousin of the Messenger of God.' Abdullah bin Abbas replied: 'Thus have we been instructed to treat our scholars'. With this type of people God's community revives itself and protects its identity and principles not with those who God (GLORY BE TO HIM) said about "indeed many of the scholars and the monks devour the wealth of people unjustly and avert [them] from the way of God." [Al-Tawbah 9:34] and in another verse "And [mention, O Muhammad], when God took a covenant from those who were given the Scripture, [saying], "You must make it clear to the people and not conceal it." But they threw it away behind their backs and exchanged it for a small price. And wretched is that which they purchased." [Al-Imran 3:187]. Indeed, this type of people cause harm and their all religions are affected by their presence.

Second khutba

Imam Bukhari narrated from Anas bin Malik the prophet (pbuh) said: "Among the signs of the Hour will be the disappearance of knowledge and the spread of ignorance." Life without knowledge does not deserve to exist and the disappearance of knowledge is an indication for the ruin of the world. This knowledge includes the worldly knowledge and the religious knowledge as both types bring good for people and earth. It was narrated in Bukhari and Muslim that Abdullah bin Amr ibn al-A'as said: "I heard the prophet (pbuh) saying:

'God does not take away the knowledge, by taking it away from (the hearts of) the people, but takes it away by the death of the religious knowledgeable men till when none of the (religious knowledgeable men) remains, people will take as their leaders ignorant persons who when consulted will give their verdict without knowledge. So they will go astray and will lead the people astray'"

The prophet (pbuh) said in his farewell pilgrimage: "learn the knowledge before it gets raised" a Bedouin asked: "how will it be raised?" The prophet (pbuh) replied: "by the death of the people holding it" three times.

From this we conclude that the death of dedicated, honest and trustworthy scholars is indeed that disaster Muslims should grieve. When Zaid bin Thabit (a writer of the revelation, a recite of Quran and the scholar of Ansar) died, Abdullah bin Abbas said: 'whoever would like to see how knowledge disappears then it disappears like this'. Alhasan Albasri said: 'the death of a scholar leaves a gap in Islam that will not be filled for as long as days and nights pass'. It was said in the commentary of the verse-

"Have they not seen that We set upon the land, reducing it from its borders? And God decides; there is no adjuster of His decision. And He is swift in account." [Raad 13:41]

- that this will happen when knowledge get raised after the death of the scholars.

Last week, the Muslim nation lost one of its well known scholars and most decorated jurists; Dr Abdul Adheem Al-Deeb. He was a scholar from Egypt and he lived in Qatar from long time. He worked on the knowledge inheritance of the Imam of the Two Holy Mosque Al-Juwayni and came out with treasures that are hardly found in what is known nowadays as the field of

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tahqeeq (research/finding truth) of the inherited texts. He was known as the ‘companion of the Imam of the Two Holy Mosque’ and although he was away from limelight and fame but he is considered one of the best scholars in this Ummah. Also at the end of last year the Muslim Ummah lost two of its big scholars; Sheikh Abdullah bin Jibreen and the Mauritanian scholar Sheikh Muhammed Salim Al-Addod. May God shower them with His mercy, grant them paradise and forgive their shortcomings.