

Advice to the Students of Knowledge

From the Book

*Tanweer ath-Thulumaat al-Kashf Mafaasid wa Shubuhaatul
Intikhaabaat*

By

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

We counsel the students of legislative knowledge that they engage themselves in and commit themselves to seek benefit from the Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah ﷺ upon the Manhaj (methodology) of the Salaf of this Ummah and those that followed them. We advise that they attempt to advance in beneficial knowledge since this concern and extraordinary dedication will cause them to, by the permission of Allaah, benefit from this knowledge. They will emulate those who strictly comply with the Salaf as-Saalih, traverse upon their methodology, and establish an abundance of good. It is hoped for them that in the Hereafter they will be from those that Allaah has stated regarding them,

﴿ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ
وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ وَحَسُنَ أُولَٰئِكَ رَفِيقًا ﴿٦٩﴾ ذَٰلِكَ الْفَضْلُ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ عَلِيمًا



“And whosoever obeys Allaah and the Messenger, and then they will be in the company of those on whom Allaah has bestowed his Grace, of the Prophets, the truthful, the martyrs, and the righteous. And how excellent these companions are! Such is the bounty of Allaah, and Allaah is sufficient as All Knower.”

[Soorah an-Nisaa’ (4):69–70]

I also advise them to not involve themselves in much argumentation and debate with the opponents since arguing and debating hardens the heart, causes strife, and discord to a person’s natural disposition, and vanquishes the honor and reverence that Allaah has legislated for the Mu’min (believer).

We also advise them to uphold excellent, high and lofty character with the opponent. Just as we do not accept what the opponent possesses of errors whether they are opponents of old or new, we must also utilize justice and fair dealing with him. He, The Exalted, has stated,

﴿ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَاٰنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوْا أَعْدِلُوْا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۖ ﴿٨﴾

“And do not let the enmity and hatred of others make you avoid justice. Be just. That is closer to piety, and fear Allaah.”

[Soorah al-Maa’idah (5):8]

And He, The Glorified, The Exalted, stated,

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ بِالْقِسْطِ شُهَدَاءَ لِلَّهِ وَلَوْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ ءَوِ الْوَالِدِينَ
وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ ۚ إِن يَكُنْ غَنِيًّا أَوْ فَقِيرًا فَاللَّهُ أَوْلَىٰ بِهِمَا ۖ فَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا أَهْوَىٰ ۖ إِن تَعَدِلُوا وَإِن تَلْوُوا أَوْ
تُعَرِّضُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرًا ﴿١٣٥﴾﴾

“O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allaah, even though it is against yourselves, or you parents, or your kin, be he rich or poor.

Allaah is a Better Protector (than you). So do not follow the lusts (of your hearts), lest you avoid justice, and if you distort your witness or refuse to give it, verily, Allaah is Ever Well Acquainted with what you do.”

[Soorah an-Nisaa’ (4):135]

So concerning the opponent we obey Allaah and we do not disobey Him. We apply the verdict of Allaah to him and we do not surpass the legislative boundaries with the opponents and the innovators (Mubtadi’ah). We believe that clarifying the error or warning from him is a fair statement, a witness for him, and justice that is closer to Taqwaa (i.e. fear of Allaah).

It is not permissible for any Muslim amongst the scholars or the students of knowledge to exit from this, since exiting from this will harm us gravely, we will be disobeying Allaah, and we will be aiding what the opponent is upon of opposition. The opponent will utilize this abuse to spread his Shubuhaat (i.e. doubts and ambiguities), which in turn leads to wastage of time, distractive thoughts, and straying away from worship.

So every issue that causes you problems, O student of knowledge, return it to the scholars. Beware of preceding the scholars thinking that you are more knowledgeable and have more understanding in these issues, and concern yourselves with calling (i.e. Da’wah) to Allaah. Rather, any person that does not restrict himself to the aforementioned method – and it is returning the affairs to the people of knowledge – will become isolated and I fear for him that he will become weak and not be successful.

I ask Allaah, The Magnificent, Lord of the Magnificent Throne, that He benefits me and all of my fellow Muslim brothers with this advice. Certainly, He is the best to ask.

