

Condition of the 'Arabs Prior to the Prophet's Mission & After It

An excerpt from our publication

Unity and the Abandonment of Parties

With appendix

Democracy: a Modern Day cause of Disunity

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(حفظه الله تعالى)

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First Edition: May 2011

Published by: Tarbiyyah Bookstore

PO Box 398075

Dallas, Texas 75339

United States of America

E-mail: orders@tarbiyyahpublishingonline.com

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Condition of the 'Arabs Prior to the Prophet's Mission & after it

Indeed, prior to the Prophet's ﷺ mission, the 'Arabs were separated. Murdering one another and long wars arose between them like *Daahas* and *Ghabaraa'* War¹ and *Bu'aath*², and other great wars, some of which lasted for a hundred years or more. Within these wars there was strife and hatred, and raids would continually erupt until Allaah ﷻ bestowed upon them the Prophet's ﷺ mission and he called them to worship Allaah ﷻ alone without any partners and to be united brothers. Those who were blessed by Allaah responded to his call and gathered under the banner of *Tawheed* and the leadership of the Prophet ﷺ. The enmity which had been among them disappeared as they became loving brothers after they had been infected with discord. Allaah ﷻ reminded them of this blessing in His Speech:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ ؕ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿١٢٢﴾
 وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۗ وَادْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً ۗ
 فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ
 فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا ۗ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ءَايَاتِهِ ۗ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٢٣﴾ وَلَتَكُنَّ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ
 يَدْعُونَ إِلَىٰ الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۗ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ
 الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٢٤﴾ وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاخْتَلَفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ ۗ

¹ TN: This was a war between the 'Abbaas & Zabyan tribes. They raced their horses, named *Daahas* and *Ghabaraa'*. One tribe felt like the other tribe infringed upon the rules to win the race and this began a feud which lasted forty years.

² This refers to a war between two tribes of the *Ansaar*, the *Khazraj* and the 'Awws, tribe before Islaam.

وَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٥﴾ يَوْمَ تَبْيَضُّ وُجُوهٌ وَتَسْوَدُّ وُجُوهٌ فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ
 أَسْوَدَّتْ وُجُوهُهُمْ أَكْفَرْتُمْ بَعْدَ إِيمَانِكُمْ فَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ ﴿١٦﴾
 وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ أَبْيَضَّتْ وُجُوهُهُمْ فِى رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿١٧﴾

“O you who believe! Fear Allaah (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islaam [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allaah)]. And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allaah (i.e. this Qur’aan), and be not divided among yourselves, and remember Allaah’s Favor on you, for you were enemies one to another but He joined your hearts together, so that, by His Grace, you became brethren (in Islaamic Faith), and you were on the brink of a pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus Allaah makes His *Ayaat* (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) clear to you, that you may be guided. Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good (Islaam), enjoining *Al-Ma’roof* (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do) and forbidding *Al-Munkar* (polytheism and disbelief and all that Islaam has forbidden). And it is they who are the successful. And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves after the clear proofs had come to them. It is they for whom there is an awful torment. On the Day (i.e. the Day of Resurrection) when some faces will become white and some faces will become black; as for those whose faces will become black (to them will be said): “Did you reject Faith after accepting it? Then taste the torment (in Hell) for rejecting Faith.” And for those whose faces will become white, they will be in Allaah’s Mercy (Paradise), therein they shall dwell forever.”

[Soorah Aali ‘Imraan (3):102-107]

Ibn ‘Abbaas ؓ said:

تَسْوَدُّ وُجُوهُ أَهْلِ الْفُرْقَةِ وَالْإِخْتِلَافِ وَتَبْيَضُّ وُجُوهُ أَهْلِ الْإِجْتِمَاعِ وَالْإِئْتِلافِ

“This is when the faces of followers of the *Sunnah* and the *Jamaa’ah* will radiate with whiteness, and the faces of followers of *Bid’ah* (innovation) and division will be darkened.”³



³ Refer to *Tafseer al-Qur’aan al-‘Adheem* from Ibn Katheer [2/92]