
The consequences of bida' and extremism in the Religion

Translated by Abbas Abu Yahya

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Taken from 'Silsilah Ahadeeth As-Saheehah' (vol 5/2005)

2005 – 'Indeed there are people who read the Qur'aan, but it does not go pass their throats, they leave Islaam just like the arrow leaves the prey.'¹

From 'Amroo bin Salamah (rad iyallaahu `anhu)²: We were sitting by the door of Abdullaah ibn Mas'ood (rad iyallaahu `anhu) before lunch, so that if he came out, we could walk with him to the Masjid.

Aboo Moosaa al-Ash'aree (rad iyallaahu `anhu) came and said: Has Aboo Abdurrahmaan come out yet?

We said: No.

So, he sat down with us, waiting for him to come out, and when he came out, we all gathered towards him, and Aboo Moosaa (rad iyallaahu `anhu) said:

'O Aboo Abdurrahmaan! Previously I saw something in the Masjid which I disliked. But, Alhamdulillah³, what I saw, was nothing but good.'

He said: What was it?

Aboo Moosaa (rad iyallaahu `anhu) said, 'If you live, you will see it.'

Then Aboo Moosaa (rad iyallaahu `anhu) said, 'I saw a group of people, sitting in circles waiting for the prayer. In every circle there was a man and in their hands were small stones and he would say: 'Say Allaahu Akbar⁴ 100 times' and they would say 'Allaahu Akbar' 100 times. Then, he would say, 'Say laa ilaha illaallaah⁵ 100 times' and they would say 'laa ilaha illaallaah' 100 times and he would say, 'Say Subhaanallaah⁶ 100 times and they would say 'Subhaanallaah' 100 times.'

Abdullaah ibn Mas'ood (rad iyallaahu `anhu) said, 'So what did you say to them?'

He said: 'I did not say anything to them, rather I waited for your opinion [or 'I waited for your command'].'

He said: 'Why did you not command them to count their bad deeds [i.e. seek forgiveness from your deeds] and guarantee them that their good deeds would not be lost?!'

¹ Collected by ad-Daarimee

² (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him

³ Alhamdulillah (الحمد لله) All praise is due to Allaah

⁴ Allaahu Akbar (الله اكبر) Allaah is Greater

⁵ (لا اله الا الله) There is no deity truly worthy of being worshiped except Allaah.

⁶ Allaah is free from imperfection

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Then he walked and we walked with him until he reached one of those circles and he stood there and said, 'What is this that I see you doing?'

They said: 'O Aboo Abdurrahmaan! These are nothing but small stones with which we are counting, saying 'Allaahu Akbar, laa ilaaha illaallaah and Subhaanallaah.'

He said, 'Count your sins; I guarantee that you will not lose anything of your good deeds! Beware, O Ummah⁷ of Muhammad! How quick you are to your destruction!

Here we are, the Companions of your Prophet – Abundant, everywhere and here is his clothing which has not been [wasted away] and his utensils have not been broken. I swear by Him in Whose Hand is my soul, either you are an Ummah more rightly-guided than the Ummah of Muhammad or you are opening the door of misguidance.'

They said; 'We swear by Allaah, O Aboo Abdurrahmaan, we did not intend anything but good.'

He said: 'How many people intend good but never achieve it. Verily the Messenger of Allaah narrated to us, **'Indeed there will be a people who read the Qur'aan but it does not pass beyond their throats.'** I swear by Allaah, I do not know. Perhaps most of them are from amongst you.'

Then he went away.

'Amroo bin Salamah (rad iyallaahu `anhu) said, 'We saw some of those sitting in those circles fighting on the Day of *Nahravaan*, along with the Khawaarij^{8,9}.

Shaykh al-Albaanee mentions in the Takreej (research) of the above narration:

'Indeed there is a lesson to be learnt from this narration, for those who follow Soofee paths and Dhikr¹⁰ gatherings which are against the Sunnah. When someone forbids an evil action that they perform they accuse him of forbidding Dhikr from its very foundation!

This is Kufr¹¹ which no Muslim in this world should fall into; the evil action which they adhere to, from those forms of Dhikr and gatherings which, were not legislated at the time of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)¹², otherwise why would Ibn Mas'ood (rad iyallaahu `anhu) disapprove of those who were sitting in their gatherings?

Is it not, a gathering done on a specific day, and doing an amount of Dhikr which is not indicated by the Sharee'ah' but is listed by the Shaykh of the gathering, and he commands them with the amount of Dhikr that they should do from himself, as if he is a legislator on behalf of Allaah Ta'ala¹³!

[Or do they have partners with Allaah, who have instituted for them a religion which Allaah has not allowed.]¹⁴

⁷ Nation

⁸ The Khawaarij were the first sect to split away from the main body of the Muslims when they rebelled against and tried to kill 'Alee ibn Abee Taalib (rad iyallaahu `anhu) over the issue of Ruling and leadership.

⁹ Narrated by ad-Daarimee in his Sunan.

¹⁰ Remembrance of Allaah

¹¹ Denial or rejection of the Truth

¹² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

¹³ Ta'aala (He, The Most High)

¹⁴ Soorah ash-Shooraa [42:21]

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To add to this, the Sunnah which is established by the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) verbally and practically is to perform the *Tasbeeh* (remembrance of Allaah) on your fingertips, as it is clear in 'The refutation against al-Habshee' and in other places.

From the benefits which can be reaped from the hadeeth and this story is; that the importance is not of performing a large amount of worship, but rather, is it according to the Sunnah and far away from bida'.

Ibn Masood (rad iyallaahu `anhu) also indicated to this point in his saying: 'sticking to the Sunnah is better than striving in bida'.'

And another benefit is: that a small bida' leads to a greater bida'. Do you not see that those people from these gatherings afterwards became from the Khawaarij who were killed by the rightly guided Khaleefah 'Alee bin Aboo Taalib? So is there anyone who will take heed?!