

A Brief Advice to My Fellow Salafis in Pakistan

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

as-Salāmu ‘alaykum wa rahmatu-llāhi wa barakātuh,

All praises are due to Allāh, may peace and blessings be upon the Prophet, his family and all his Companions. I am sitting here today in the city of Madīnah with several of our brothers (may Allāh preserve them all). From them our brother Zubayr al-‘Abbāsī (may Allāh preserve him). After *ṣalat aṣ-Ṣuḥr* on the 20th of *Jumādah ath-Thānī* in the year 1439AH (7th March 2018CE). This is just a brief advice for myself and for my brothers in Pakistan - in Islamabad, Lahore and the parts of Kashmir - for the sake of Allāh (the Sublime and Exalted), just a small piece of advice. I am Advising you - may Allāh bless you all - to hold tight to the rope of Allāh; just as Allāh (the Sublime and Exalted) has stated:

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۚ وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا ۚ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ

And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allāh (i.e. this Qur’ān), and be not divided among yourselves, and remember Allāh’s Favour on you, for you were enemies one to another but He joined your hearts together, so that, by His Grace, you became brethren (in Islāmīc Faith), and you were on the brink of a pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus Allāh makes His Āyāt (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.,) clear to you, that you may be guided.

Allāh commands you to hold fast to the Rope of Allāh, which is of-course the Book of Allāh and the *sunnah* of Allāh’s Messenger (may Allāh raise his rank and grant him peace) upon the understanding of the Companions (may Allāh be pleased with them). As Shaykh al-Islām Ibnu Taymiyyah (may Allah have mercy on him) has mentioned and Ibn ‘Abd al-Barr (may Allah have mercy on him) and many of the scholars (may Allah have mercy on them) that the *ḥablu-llāh*, it refers to the *kitāb* and the *sunnah*, and the *jamā‘ah* and *tawḥīd* and *ikhlas* (sincerity). So I advise you to hold fast to that. And then Allāh mentions:

وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۚ

and do not divide amongst yourselves

meaning: hold fast to that which is *haqq* (the truth) and that which the Messenger of Allāh brought by way of *waḥīyayn* (the two revelations), of that which was sent to him (may Allāh raise his rank and grant him peace) by way of the *waḥīyayn*: The *kitāb* and the *sunnah*, and then Allāh (the Sublime and Exalted) mentions:

وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءَ فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا

and remember the bounty of Allāh upon you when you were enemies one to another and then Allāh brought your hearts together and united you and by the Grace of Allāh you became brothers one to another.

So remember the right that Allāh has placed upon you, that is the right of Allāh that you hold to the *tawḥīd*, that you hold to the *‘aqīdah*, that you hold to the *manhaj*, which is *ṣaḥīḥ* (correct, authentic), the *manhaj* of the *ṣaḥabah* (may Allāh be pleased with them) and the *tābi‘īn*, and the *atba‘u at-Tābi‘īn* (may Allāh have mercy on them) and that you are united upon that and anything else that causes you to fall away from that, that you are distant from that and distant from all of those *subul al-mutafarraqaḥ*, from those paths that are divergent and separate you away from the path of Allāh.

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا

And this is my straight path, so follow it and don't follow other paths, for they will divide you away from Allāh's straight path.

So hold on to that my brothers - may Allāh bless you all - and call to the straight path and be firm and united upon the way of Allāh's Messenger (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace), just as the Messenger of Allāh (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace) stated, "and hold on" that's what the Prophet said when he said, "I left you upon clear proof, its night is like its day and no one separates or departs from that except that he is destroyed". Then he the Messenger (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace) said, reminding and informing them that the differing will occur. So the Prophet informed them that you will see a great amount of differing after me, so hold on to that, which you know of my *sunnah* and the *sunnah* of the rightly guided Caliphs after me, Abū Bakr, ‘Umar, ‘Uthmān and ‘Alī and *ṣaḥabah* (may Allāh be pleased with them), hold on to their way and beware, as the Prophet (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace) said, "and beware of the newly invented matters, for every newly invented matter is a *bid‘ah* and every *bid‘ah* is *ḍalālāh* (misguidance). My brothers - may Allāh bless you all - be optimistic with regard to this *da‘wah*. Shaykh al-Albānī (may Allāh have mercy on him) used to say that the affair is for *Islām*, the affair is for the *sunnah* and for Ahl as-Sunnah.

So long as you are steadfast and you hold on to the *haqq* (truth) and you do not have any doubts regarding that and you are united upon that and you call to Allāh united upon that and you avoid all of the paths to differing and you have *ṣidq* (truthfulness), *ikhhlāṣ* (sincerity), and you're in touch with the '*ulamā*' (scholars), the greater amongst them the likes of Shaykh al-Fawzān, Muftī 'Abd al-'Aziz Āl ash-Shaykh, Shaykh al-Luḥaydān and the likes of Shaykh Rabī', Shaykh 'Ubayd and other than them from the '*ulamā*'; that you are in touch with them, even if you can't speak to them, that you open up their books, and you read their works, and you listen to their lectures, and you give honour to them, and give honour to their students, and you love them and you love those who love them, by Allāh! This for you is *khayr* (abundant good), all of this is for you is *khayr*.

So don't feel that just because you are thousands of miles away from us in the United Kingdom or from our brothers in the United States or UAE or Madīnah and Makkah or elsewhere that we have forgotten you. You are not forgotten, you are our brothers and we love you for the sake of Allāh and our unity is for Allāh and our end result is with Allāh. So live upon the *sunnah* and spend the whole of your life upon the *sunnah*. When the trials come to you then hold even stronger to the *sunnah* up until you meet Allāh and that we stand before Him, and that we can confess before Allāh and we can bear witness before Allāh that we lived our lives upon the *sunnah*, and we died upon the *sunnah* and that we met You O our Lord upon the *sunnah*. Inform your families of this *naṣīḥah* (advice), and inform your brothers and sisters in your communities of this *naṣīḥah*, because there is no success except upon this way.

Just as the Prophet (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace) said, when he was asked about the *firqat an-nājiyah*, which is the Saved Sect? He said, "that which I and my companions are upon today" and he said, "they are the *jamā'ah* (the Prophet and the way of his companions)" *jamā'ah* is not about the numbers, as 'Abd Allāh bin Mas'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him), he said, "*jamā'ah* is whatever is in agreement with the truth even if you are just one person." *jamā'ah* is not about numbers, the *jamā'ah* is about the *haqq*.

Stick to the way of Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal, Mālik, ash-Shāfi'ī, Abū Ḥanīfah, Ibn 'Awn, Sufyān ath-Thawrī and Sufyān Ibn 'Uyaynah (may Allah have mercy on them) from the early *salaf* of this *ummah*. Stick to the way of the likes of Ibn Baṭṭah (may Allāh have mercy on him) and read 'al-Ibānah', read the books that are available to you even in the English Language like '*Sharḥ as-Sunnah*' of Imām al Barbahārī (may Allah have mercy on him), '*Usūl as-Sunnah*' of Imām Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal (may Allah have mercy on him) with the explanations of the likes of Shaykh Rabī', Aḥmad an-Najmī (may Allāh have mercy on him) and

other than them. Read these works, understand them and hold on to them till you die. Read the works of Shaykh al- Islām Ibnu Taymiyyah (may Allāh have mercy on him), Muḥammad bin ‘Abd al-Wahhāb (may Allāh have mercy on him). Read the works of Ibnu ‘Uthaymīn, Ibnu Bāz, al-Albānī (may Allāh have mercy on them), Rabī‘ al-Madkhalī. Take the book of Shaykh Rabī‘ ‘*Manhaj al-Anbiyā*’ (The Methodology of The Prophets in Calling to Allāh), read this book from cover to cover and understand the path of the Prophets and the Messengers. Call your families, call your communities.

By Allāh! Pakistan is an open arena for *daw‘ah*. Be with the people in a good manner. These People, the population of Pakistan, they are our commodity, we love them and *in-shā’-Allāh* they will love us. We don’t look down upon them, we see them as our brothers, our sisters, our children, our uncles, our aunts and we treat them and we’re with them with the best of manners and the most excellent of character. So that they are invited to *Islām* and to the *sunnah* by way of your good character and by way of the good knowledge that you carry - may Allāh bless you all -. This is my advice to myself and all of you. May Allāh keep us steadfast upon the *sunnah*, ourselves and yourselves, and may Allāh keep us united in this world upon the truth and to meet Allāh upon the truth - *jazākumu-Allāhu khayran* -.

Transcribed by *Riyāḍ Sheikh*
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