

Shaykh Sālih Āli Shaykh

(hafidhahullāh)

ON HOLDING THAT EVERYTHING A SPECIFIC PERSON SAYS IS CORRECT AND ALL THAT HE DOES NOT SAY IS INCORRECT¹

Of the calamities of this era which have afflicted people is bigoted fanaticism to one who they are infatuated with. So you will see someone, especially from the youth, if he is infatuated with a person who may or may not have a big influence on the Muslims, have bigoted fanaticism wherein he will neither hear nor accept anything (against) him. This is a type of *ghulū* which is not permitted for the believers to have, rather his words are to be assessed as he is a man and a follower of the Prophet (*sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam*). So all that agrees with the Sunnah and guidance is to be looked at and accepted while all that which does not agree with that is to be rejected. How is this not the case when Imām Mālik (*rahimahullāh*) stated: “*There is none among us except that his statements are either accepted or rejected, except for the one in this grave (i.e. the Prophet, sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam).*” So anyone other than him (*sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam*) are to have their words accepted or rejected. This means that there should not be bigotry from a group which revolves around infatuation with a specific person wherein it is held that all that he says is correct and all that he does not say is incorrect.

Likewise, we should not have a corresponding bigotry from another angle wherein all matters that a scholar or student of knowledge is correct in are invalidated. Rather, it is obligatory to say to the one who has done good “you have done well”, and to say to the one who is correct “you are correct” and to the one who is wrong “you are wrong” – this is what is obligatory upon the believers. Not that they close their eyes and hearts and be followers of everything that whoever they are infatuated with comes with whether it is right or wrong. This needs a type of cultivation which has to be given importance and it is the cultivation which has to be given priority in the souls of the believers – which is the *manhaj* that does not err. The evidence which does not fall short: the Book, the Sunnah and what Ahl us-Sunnah wa'l-Jama'ah concurred upon and mentioned in their creed. Other than this, then all who are close to it or away from it is to be dealt with according to what he has of knowledge and guidance.

¹ Shaykh Sālih Āli Shaykh, *Sharh Masā'il ul-Jāhiliyyah*, p.57, in explaining *ghulū* in the righteous. The *Sharh* in book form can be downloaded here: <http://www.islam.st/mktba/play-8154.html>

This is an important issue which the youth have to open their hearts up to and they should not restrict their hearts and put forward a view over the Book and the Sunnah, no! **For there is no one except that his words are to be accepted or rejected and the intent should not to believe that the one who is correct is perfect and that the one who has his statements rejected is totally dropped, no! Rather, everyone combines between that which is correct and that which is incorrect,** so the one who is correct is to be followed in that which he was correct in, it is not to be held that he has digested correctness (permanently) rather he is to be highlighted by the correctness and praised for the correctness. Similarly, the one who errs is to have that rejected and it is to be said “you have erred in this matter” and he is not to be followed in his error and what he erred in is not to be taken.

This is the correct manhaj in these matters regarding the one who errs in issues of *ijtihad* so we do not go into excess or neglect as both excess and neglect are censured among Ahl us-Sunnah wa'l-Jama'ah. So it is apt, or rather obligatory, for this to be like certainty with us: to censure having *ghulū* in people, personalities, 'Ulama and the righteous, this is a principle of Ahl us-Sunnah wa'l-Jama'ah. Ghulū is a branch of the issues of Jāhiliyyah because it is a cause of bigotry wherein the soul accepts something and becomes infatuated with a person to the extent that the person's saying becomes his saying even if it is an error from the person.