

DID SHAYKH SĀLIH BIN 'ABDULLĀH AL-'UBŪD REFUTE SHAYKH SHAMS AS-SALAFĪ AL-AFGHĀNĪ AND HIS BOOKS ON THE MĀTURĪDĪS AND GRAVE-WORSHIPPERS?¹

Shaykh Sālih bin Abdillāh al-'Ubood (*hafīdh* *babullāh*), the former rector of the Islamic University of Madeenah, was asked in June 2008 CE by one of the British students at Madeenah Islamic University:

Questioner: I will mention the whole story to you so that the issue will be clear to you, some brothers in Britain translated a summary of the book on the Māturīdī creed by Shaykh Shams as-Salafī al-Afghānī. A brother translated a summary of it so that people could benefit from the book...

Shaykh Sālih al-'Ubood: Alhamdulillah!

Questioner: It was translated via the internet, yet some of the Sūfis came along Shaykh, *bārāk* Allāhu feekum, and tried to through doubt on the book and invalidate what was mentioned in the book by recourse to words which have been ascribed to you. These words ascribed to you have been placed on a website and fitna has spread as a result.

Shaykh Saalih al-'Ubood: What has been ascribed to me?

Questioner: The copy of the image of the words ascribed to you are not clear, but the title of the words are '*al-'Ubood yu'lin Bara'at Jāmi'at al-Islaamiyyah min Tadless ash-Shams al-Afghānī*' [al-'Ubood Announces that the Islamic University of Madeenah are Free from the Deception of Shams al-Afghānī]. It is about three pages in length O our Shaykh and there are some very hefty words mentioned therein, and the Sūfis have been using these words...

Shaykh Sālih al-'Ubood: No! It is not (as has been made out), the innocence of the Jāmi'ah was from *tadless* only and as for the book then I was one of the supervisors of it at the Islamic University of Madeenah and I did not free myself from the book! The origin of the book was a Masters thesis and I was one of the supervisors, but Shaykh Shams (*rahim* *abullāh*) printed the book and added some additions to it.

Questioner: But these additions O Shaykh, *bārāk* Allāh feekum, were they in the introduction or within the book itself?

¹ See this doubt which was initiated by the infamous Abu'l-Hasan ad-Deobandi al-Hanafi: <http://www.sunniforum.com/forum/showthread.php?t=7222>

Shaykh Sālih: No in the introduction and in the book itself, and this annoyed the university as he published more than what the University had recognised him for. So he added things to it as if that was what the university had accredited and this was not correct.

Questioner: And the original MA thesis of the book?

Shaykh Sālih: This is extant within the university and was debated and given a Master's certificate. As for what was published then there were some additions by the Shaykh (*rahimahullāh*). So if he added them and stated that these were from himself as opposed to saying that the whole thing with his additions were accredited to the University then nothing would have occurred from saying *tadlees*.

Questioner: But these additions in themselves are they correct?

Shaykh Sālih: They are not correct as it was evident that it came from one with an emotional background and I used to always say to him that an academic treatise has to be without additions and if you obtain the qualification do as you will yet ascribe it to yourself and he did not do this. If he had only ascribed the additions to himself and that the statements were from himself there would be no objections. But he added additions which the university did not recognise as there was an element of excitement and emotion within that which can confuse the academic method which has to be based on calmness and evidence, without emotion.

Questioner: So are these words are from you?

Shaykh Sālih: Yes, I said that printing of the book that was ascribed to the Islamic University included *tadlees* for which the Islamic University is not responsible, when I was responsible for the Islamic University of Madeenah. Even though I supervised the original thesis, was accredited by the university and we do not free ourselves from this. But the *tadlees* that occurred was in that it seemed as if the Islamic University accredited the published work. *Tadlees* is well-known and major hadeeth scholars committed it, to the extent that al-Bukhaaree deceived his Shaykh Muhammad ibn Yahyaa ad-Du'alee and used to say: 'Muhammad bin Khālid narrated to us....' So you know about this issue, it is not to detract from his efforts but the Islamic University had to explain the reality so that it would not be responsible for the errors of others.

Questioner: There are harsh words to be found, such as "Jahl al-Murakkab", I found this expression used.

Shaykh Sālih: I do not know about (saying) this, I have forgotten what has been ascribed to me. I wanted to write that the Islamic University is not responsible for the additions wherein he was deluded that the Islamic University of Madeenah had accredited him in that. He added much, the introduction was very long which was not accredited and it was stated that it had been sent to the university etc., the matter has finished anyway. The original thesis is extant at the university

and it is possible that this be circulated and there is no problem in this for the Islamic University accredited him for this and awarded him with a Masters degree and then accepted him to do his Doctorate! *Jubūd ul-'Ulama al-Hanafīyyah fee Ibtāl Aqā'id il-Qubūriyyah* [The Efforts of the Hanafī Scholars in Invalidating the Beliefs of the Grave-Worshippers] counterbalanced with what occurred with the MA thesis. Even the title of the MA thesis is different from that which was published on the book, so he changed the title of the work, may Allāh have mercy on him. For the title originally (for the MA thesis) was *The Position of the Māturīdīs on the Attributes of Allāh* and he (*rahimahullāh*) changed it to *The Enmity of the Māturīdīs to Ahl us-Sunnah wa'l-Jama'ah* or something of the likes.

Questioner: Ok Shaykh, so that we be upon clarity, and for the question to be very clear indeed: do you consider the Shaykh to be ignorant in this field (of the Māturīdī creed)?

Shaykh Sālih: Jāhil!? How can he be ignorant? We awarded him with a Doctorate in order to alleviate what had occurred from him! *Jubūd ul-'Ulama al-Hanafīyyah fī Ibtāl Aqā'id il-Qubūriyyah* [The Efforts of the Hanafī Scholars in Invalidating the Beliefs of the Grave-Worshippers] is a beautiful work!

Questioner: Finally Shaykh, do you allow me to announce what we have discussed here in order to inform the brothers?

Shaykh Sālih: Yes but with precision, do not add or detract from it, if so there is no problem.

Questioner: May Allāh increase you in goodness O Shaykh and grant you success!

Shaykh Sālih: And likewise to you.