

# The Command of Allah to Abandon the People of Desires and those who Quarrel upon Falsehood

Imām Al-Bukhari (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) reported that A'ishah (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا) said that Allah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) recited:

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْهُ آيَاتٌ مُحْكَمَاتٌ هُنَّ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ وَأُخْرُ  
مُتَشَابِهَاتٌ فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ زَيْغٌ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ مَا تَشَابَهَ مِنْهُ ابْتِغَاءَ الْفِتْنَةِ  
وَأَنْتَعَاةَ تَأْوِيلِهِ ۗ وَمَا يَعْلَمُ تَأْوِيلَهُ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ۗ وَالرَّاسِخُونَ فِي الْعِلْمِ يَقُولُونَ آمَنَّا  
بِهِ كُلٌّ مِنْ عِنْدِ رَبِّنَا ۗ وَمَا يَذَّكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

**“It is He Who has sent down to you (O Prophet) the Book. In it are verses that are entirely clear, they are the foundations of the Book, and others not entirely clear. So as for those in whose hearts there is a deviation they follow that which is not entirely clear therein, seeking through that Fitnah (to incite tribulations) and seeking their hidden meanings, but none knows their meanings save Allah—and those who are firmly grounded in knowledge say: ‘We believe in it (the Quran), the whole of it (clear and unclear verses) are from our Lord.’ And none receive this admonition except men of understanding.”** (‘Āli ‘Imrān: 7) And then he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

فَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ مَا تَشَابَهَ مِنْهُ، فَأُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ سَمَى اللَّهُ،  
فَاحْذَرُوهُمْ

**“If you see those who follow the ambiguous verses from the Quran, then they are the ones who Allah has labelled, so beware of them.”** (Bukhari, no. 4547, Muslim 2665) And this refers to Ahlul-Bid’ah because they are the one’s who resort to false interpretation of the ambiguous verses and seek to put the people to trial and tribulation. So Allah (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى) commanded us to abandon them and to beware of them. And this is from the foundations (usūl) of our Religion. Allah (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى) said:

وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ الَّذِينَ يَخُوضُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ حَتَّى يَخُوضُوا فِي حَدِيثٍ غَيْرِهِ ۗ وَأَمَا يُنْسِيَنَّكَ الشَّيْطَانُ فَلَا تَقْعُدْ بَعْدَ الذِّكْرِىٰ مَعَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ

**“And when you see those who engage in a false speech concerning Our verses, keep away from them till they turn to another topic. And if Shaytān causes you to forget, then after being reminded, do not sit in the company of the wrongdoing and sinful people.”** (Al-An’ām: 68)

وَقَدْ نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الْكِتَابِ أَنْ إِذَا سَمِعْتُمْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ يُكْفَرُ بِهَا وَيُسْتَهْزَأُ بِهَا فَلَا تَقْعُدُوا مَعَهُمْ حَتَّى يَخُوضُوا فِي حَدِيثٍ غَيْرِهِ ۗ إِنَّكُمْ إِذَا مِثَلْتُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَامِعُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْكَافِرِينَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ جَمِيعًا

**“And it has already been revealed to you in the Book that when you hear the verses of Allāh being denied and mocked, then do not sit with them, until they they turn to another topic. Otherwise, in that case, you are just like them. Surely, Allah will gather the**

**hypocrites and disbelievers all together in Hell.”** (An-Nisā: 140)

Ibn ‘Awn (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) said that Muhammad Ibn Seereen (d. 110H رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) used to hold that the quickest people to exit Islam (apostate) are Ahlul-Ahwā, i.e. the people of innovation and desires—and he held that this verse was revealed concerning them:

وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ الَّذِينَ يَخُوضُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ

**“And when you see those who engage in a false speech concerning Our verses, stay away from them.”** (Al-Ibānah 2/431)

At-Tabaree (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) said: **“This āyah is a clear proof showing the forbiddance of sitting with the people of falsehood (ahlul-bātil) of every type whether it be the innovators or the open sinners while they continue to engage in their falsehood.”** (Tafseer At-Tabari, 7/229)

And that is why Abdullāh Ibn ‘Umar (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا) said regarding a group of Ahlul-Bid’ah: **“If you meet them, tell them I free from them and they are free from me.”** (Muslim, no. 8)

And Ibn ‘Abbās (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا) said: **“Do not sit with ahlul-Ahwā for indeed their sittings are the cause of sickness in the hearts.”** (Al-Ibānah, 2/438)

And Abu Hurayrah (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) narrated that Allah’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **“There will appear at the end of my Ummah people who will narrate to you matters that you have never heard nor had your**

**ancestors, so beware of them and stay away from them.”** (Introduction of Sahīh Muslim, 1/12)

So all this proves that abandoning Ahlul-Bid’ah is a Shari’ah obligation, commanded by Allah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)—and that was the methodology of the Companions (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ) and the early Salaf.

So, if some of the late comers come along and claim that this methodology is not applicable with the sects of bid’ah and hizbiyyah, and is not fit for this era where unification of the Ummah (with all of its sects) is the more important, then they have opposed the Revelation, the Religion and the ijma’ of the Salaf.

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all creation—and may He extol the Messenger in the highest company of Angels, and grant him peace and security—likewise to his family, Companions and true followers.

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