

# FORTY HADĪTH IN CLARIFICATION OF THE MADHHAB OF THE SALAF—THAT IS THE MADHHAB OF AHLUL-HADĪTH

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## 7. The Aided and Victorious Group until the Last Day: *Ahlu-Sunnah, Ahlul-Hadeeth, Ahlul-Athar*

Mu‘āwiyah (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) said: I heard Allah’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) say:

لَا يَزَالُ مِنْ أُمَّتِي أُمَّةٌ قَائِمَةٌ بِأَمْرِ اللَّهِ لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَذَلَهُمْ وَلَا مَنْ خَالَفَهُمْ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَهُمْ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ وَهُمْ عَلَى ذَلِكَ

“There shall not cease to remain in my Ummah a group obedient to the commands of Allah. They are not harmed by those who forsake them, nor by those who oppose them until there comes to them the decree of Allah (the Last Day) while they are in that state.”<sup>54</sup>

In a narration from ‘Amr Ibn Shu‘ayb from his father who said: Mu‘āwiyah stood to deliver a Khutbah, and he said:

أَيْنَ عُلَمَاؤِكُمْ أَيْنَ عُلَمَاؤِكُمْ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - يَقُولُ لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ إِلَّا وَظَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي ظَاهِرُونَ عَلَى النَّاسِ لَا يُبَالُونَ مَنْ خَذَلَهُمْ وَلَا مَنْ نَصَرَهُمْ

“Where are your scholars? Where are you scholars? I heard Allah’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) say: ‘The Hour will not be established except that there will remain a group from my Ummah who are apparent among the people—they do not care who forsakes them or who supports them.’<sup>55</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Al-Bukhārī, no. 3641.

<sup>55</sup> Ibn Mājah, no. 9, graded *saheeh* by Imām Al-Albānī.

## Explanation:

The Righteous Salaf of this Ummah described this Aided Group (*at-Tā'ifah al-Mansoorah*) and repeated their mention in numerous sayings. Al-Imām ‘Abdullāh Ibn al-Mubārak (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said:

هُمْ عِنْدِي أَصْحَابُ الْحَدِيثِ

“According to me, they are the People of Hadeeth.”<sup>56</sup> At-Tirmidhī said after narrating this hadeeth in his *Jāmi‘*:

قَالَ مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ إِسْمَاعِيلَ الْبُخَارِيُّ: قَالَ عَلِيُّ بْنُ الْمَدِينِيِّ: هُمْ أَهْلُ الْحَدِيثِ

“Muhammad Ibn Ismā‘eel Al-Bukhārī said that ‘Alī Ibn Al-Madeenī said: They are Ahlul-Hadeeth.” Al-Imām Ahmad Ibn Hanbal (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said:

إِنْ لَمْ تَكُنْ هَذِهِ الطَّائِفَةُ الْمَنْصُورَةُ أَصْحَابَ الْحَدِيثِ فَلَا أَدْرِي مَنْ هُمْ

“If this Aided Group is not the Companions of Hadeeth, then I know not who they are!”<sup>57</sup> Commenting on these words, Al-Imām Abu ‘Abdillāh Al-Hākim An-Naysaboorī (d. 405 H رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) stated: “Verily, Ahmad Ibn Hanbal has done well in explanation of this report, that the *Aided Group* from whom treachery has been lifted until the establishment of the Hour, are the People of Hadeeth—and who can be more deserving of this description than a people who traverse the path of the righteous, follow the narrations of the Salaf who preceded and repel the people of innovation and the opposers with the Sunnah of Allah’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).”<sup>58</sup> Al-Qādī ‘Iyād (d. 544 H رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said: “Ahmad intended *Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā‘ah* and whoever follows the

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<sup>56</sup> Reported by Khateeb al-Baghdādī in *Sharaf As’hābil-Hadeeth*.

<sup>57</sup> See *Ma‘rifah ‘Uloom al-Hadeeth* of Al-Hākim, p. 3.

<sup>58</sup> *Ma‘rifah ‘Uloom al-Hadeeth* of Al-Hākim, p. 30.

*madhhab* of *Ahlul-Hadeeth*.”<sup>59</sup> For this reason Shaikh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah stated in the beginning of *Al-‘Aqeedatul-Wāsiṭiyyah*:

فَهَذَا عَقِيدَةُ الْفِرْقَةِ النَّاجِيَةِ الْمَنْصُورَةِ إِلَى قِيَامِ السَّاعَةِ أَهْلِ السُّنَّةِ وَالْجَمَاعَةِ

“What follows is the Creed of the Saved and Aided Sect until the establishment of the Hour, *Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā‘ah*.” And he stated at the end of this *‘Aqeedah*:

وَهُمْ — أئ: أَهْلُ السُّنَّةِ — الطَّائِفَةُ الْمَنْصُورَةُ الَّذِينَ قَالَ فِيهِمْ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: وَلَا تَزَالُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي عَلَى الْحَقِّ مَنْصُورَةٌ لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَالَفَهُمْ وَلَا مَنْ خَذَلَهُمْ حَتَّى تَقُومَ السَّاعَةُ

“They, *Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā‘ah* are the Aided Group about whom the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: **‘There shall not cease to remain in my Ummah a group that is Aided upon Truth, not harmed by those who oppose them, nor by those who betray them until the Hour is established.’**”

Al-Imām Abu Hātim Ar-Rāzī (d. 277 H رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) stated:

مَذْهَبُنَا وَاخْتِيَارُنَا اتِّبَاعُ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ وَالتَّمَسُّكُ بِمَذْهَبِ أَهْلِ الْأَثَرِ مِثْلِ أَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ أَحْمَدَ بْنِ حَنْبَلٍ.

“Our *Madhhab* and what we have chosen is to follow Allah’s Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم), his Companions and the *Tābi‘een*, and to hold fast to the *Madhhab* of *Ahlul-Athar* (the People of Narrations) such as Abu ‘Abdillāh Ahmad Ibn Hanbal.” He also said:

وَعَلَامَةُ أَهْلِ الْبِدْعِ الْوَقِيعَةُ فِي أَهْلِ الْأَثَرِ  
وَعَلَامَةُ الزَّنَادِقَةِ تَسْمِيَتُهُمْ أَهْلُ السُّنَّةِ حَشْوِيَّةٌ يُرِيدُونَ إِبْطَالَ الْأَثَرِ

<sup>59</sup> See *Sharh Saheeh Muslim* of An-Nawawī, *Kitāb al-Imārah*, 13/67.

“The distinguishing sign of the people of innovation (*Ahlul-Bid‘a*) is that they revile *Ahlul-Athar*. The distinguishing sign of the heretics (*zanādiqah*) is that they label *Ahlus-Sunnah* as ‘the worthless ones’—and they seek to invalidate the Narrations.”<sup>60</sup>

So, Al-Imām Abu Hātim Ar-Rāzī equates *Ahlul-Athar* with *Ahlus-Sunnah*, i.e., that they are the same people, and they are *Ahlul-Hadeeth*.

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<sup>60</sup> Reported by Al-Lālikā’ī in *Sharhu Usool I’tiqād Ahlis-Sunnah wal-Jamā‘ah*, 1/179, 180, 181.