

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allāh, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

### “It Is They Who Are The Foolish”

Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) says,

﴿ وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ ءَامِنُوا كَمَا ءَامَنَ النَّاسُ قَالُوا أَنُؤْمِنُ كَمَا ءَامَنَ السُّفَهَاءُ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ السُّفَهَاءُ وَلَكِن لَّا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٣﴾ ﴾

“And when it is said to them, “Believe as the people have believed,” they say, “Should we believe as the foolish have believed?” Unquestionably, it is they who are the *foolish*, but they know [it] not.” [Sūrah al-Baqarah (2): 13]

Al-Imām al-S’adī (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) explained this verse by saying,

“Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) rejected that [speech] from them, and He (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) informed [mankind] that they (i.e. *al-Munāfiqīn*) are the fools in reality, because the reality of foolishness [is the following]: **that a person is ignorant of what benefits himself, and that he puts effort into what harms himself**; and this characteristic applies to them and is the truth concerning them.

This is just as intelligence and sound reasoning cause a person to recognize what will be of benefit to himself; that he should strive to achieve it, and that he should ward off all that will be of harm to himself.

And this characteristic applies to and is the truth concerning the Companions (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ) and the Believers.

So the decisive factor [in affairs] returns to [accurate] descriptions and to evidences, not mere claims and empty speech...”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See *Tafsīr al-S’adī*, p. 29, *Dār Ibn Ḥazm*.

**Benefits<sup>2</sup>:**

1. Foolishness is **that a person is ignorant of what benefits himself, and that he puts effort into what harms himself.**
2. The Companions (رضي الله عنهم) strove hard at that which would benefit them, and they stayed away from that which would harm them.
3. The decisive factor [in affairs] returns to [accurate] descriptions and evidences, not mere claims and empty speech.

Translated by:

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<sup>2</sup> These clear benefits were added by the translator.