

THE BOOK
AL-SHARĪḤ AH

A CLASSICAL TEXT THAT CLARIFIES THE CREED OF THE TRUE
ADHERENTS TO THE PROPHETIC SUNNAH

Imām Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn al-Ājurri (d.
316H)

Translated by Hassan Hussein Abdi

وَمَا تَفَرَّقَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَةُ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ

And the people of the Scripture differed not until after there came to them clear evidence. and whatever was revealed to him). And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allāh, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him), perform the Prayer and give *Zakāh*: and that is the right religion.

Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) said:

Our Generous Guardian told us that they were given knowledge, yet some transgressed against others and some were jealous of others, until this culminated in them splitting, so they were destroyed.

If someone was to say:

“Where are the places in the Qur’ān where Allāh prohibits us from imitating them, so that we can avoid this division that our Guardian has warned us about, so that – instead – we can stick to the *Jamā’ah*?”

It is said to him: Allāh (the Most High) said in *Sūrah Al ‘Imrān*:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

O you who believe! Fear Allāh (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islam (as Muslims) with complete submission to Allāh.

Until His Saying:

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاخْتَلَفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ ۗ وَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ
عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ

And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves after the clear proofs had come to them. It is they for whom there is an awful torment.

He (the Most High) said in *Sūrah* al-Anām:

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ ۗ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ ۗ
ذَٰلِكُمْ وَصَّاكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

‘And verily, this is my Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path. This He has ordained for you that you may become pious.’

He (the Most High) said in *Sūrah* Ḥa Mīm ‘Ayn Sīn Qāf:

شَرَعَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا وَصَّىٰ بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيْنَا بِهِ
إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ ۗ كَبُرَ عَلَى الْمُشْرِكِينَ
مَا تَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَيْهِ ۗ اللَّهُ يَجْتَبِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ يُنِيبُ

He (Allāh) has ordained for you the same religion (Islam) which He ordained for Nūḥ (Noah), and that which We have inspired in you (O Muḥammad), and that which We ordained for Ibrahīm (Abraham), Mūsá (Moses) and ʿĪsá (Jesus) saying you should establish religion (i.e. to do what it orders you to do practically), and make no divisions in it (religion) (i.e. various sects in religion). Intolerable for the Mushrikūn [polytheists], is that to which you (O Muhammad) call them. Allah chooses for Himself whom He wills, and guides unto Himself who turns to Him in repentance and in obedience.

He (the Most High) said in *Sūrah* al- Rūm:

مُنِيبِينَ إِلَيْهِ وَاتَّقُوهُ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَلَا تَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا
دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شَيْعًا كُلُّ حِزْبٍ بِمَا لَدَيْهِمْ فَرِحُونَ وَإِذَا مَسَّ النَّاسَ ضُرٌّ دَعَوْا
رَبَّهُمْ مُنِيبِينَ إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا آذَقَهُمْ مِنْهُ رَحْمَةً إِذَا فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمْ بِرَبِّهِمْ يُشْرِكُونَ

(Always) Turning in repentance to Him (only) and be afraid and dutiful to Him; and perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat) and be not of Al-Mushrikūn [polytheists] of those who split up their religion and became sects, each sect rejoicing in that which is with it. And when harm touches men, they cry sincerely only to their Lord (Allāh), turning to Him in repentance, but when He gives them a taste of His Mercy, behold! a party of them associate partners in worship with their Lord.

Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) said:

Can there be a clarification more beneficial than this for the one who understands what Allāh is Saying and contemplates over what His Generous Guardian is warning him against: splitting?

Furthermore, know – may Allāh have mercy upon us and you – that Allāh (the Most High) has told us and you in His Book that differing will definitely occur between His creation; He will misguide those whom He wills and to guide those whom He wills. Allāh has made this an admonition about which the believers can reflect, so that they can avoid splitting, cling to the *Jamā'ah*, forsake argumentation and quarrelling in the religion. Thus, they follow and do not innovate.

If someone was to say: “Where is this in the Book of Allāh?”

It is said to him:

Allāh (the Most High) said in *Sūrah Hūd*:

وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً ۗ وَلَا يَزَالُونَ مُخْتَلِفِينَ إِلَّا مَن رَّحِمَ
رَبُّكَ ۗ وَلِذَلِكَ خَلَقَهُمْ ۗ وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ
أَجْمَعِينَ ۗ وَكَلَّا نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الرُّسُلِ مَا نُثَبِّتُ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ ۗ وَجَاءَكَ فِي
هَذِهِ الْحَقِّ وَمَوْعِظَةٌ وَذِكْرَىٰ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ

And if your Lord had so willed, He could surely have made mankind one Ummah [nation or community (following one religion only i.e. Islam)], but they will not cease to disagree. Except him on whom your Lord has bestowed His Mercy (the follower of truth – Islamic Monotheism) and for that did He create them. And the Word of your Lord has been fulfilled (i.e. His Saying): ‘Surely, I shall fill Hell with the Jinn and men all together.’ And all that We relate to you (O Muhammad) of the news of the Messengers is in order that We may make strong and firm your heart thereby. And in this (chapter of the

Quran) has come to you the truth, as well as an admonition and a reminder for the believers.

Also, Allāh (the Most High) commanded His Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to follow what was revealed to him and to not follow the desires of the previous nations as it relates to the matters they differed in, and he did this; he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) warned his nation from differing, self-amazement and following desires.

Allāh (The Most High) said in Surah Ḥa Mīm al-Jāthiyah:

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلِنَفْسِهِ ۗ وَمَنْ أَسَاءَ فَعَلَيْهَا ۗ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ تُرْجَعُونَ ۖ وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا
بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحُكْمَ وَالنَّبِيَّةَ وَوَرَّرْنَا لَهُم مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَا لَهُم عَلَى
الْعَالَمِينَ ۖ وَآتَيْنَاهُمْ بَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ ۗ فَمَا اخْتَلَفُوا إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَعِيًّا
بَيْنَهُمْ ۗ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يُضَيِّقُ بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ ۗ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاكَ عَلَىٰ
شَرِيعَةٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ فَاتَّبِعْهَا وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّهُمْ لَن يُغْنُوا عَنْكَ
مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا ۖ وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ ۗ وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ

Whosoever does a good deed, it is for his own self, and whosoever does evil, it is against (his own self). Then to your Lord you will be made to return. Indeed, We gave the Children of Israel the Scripture, and the understanding of the Scripture and its laws, and the Prophethood; and provided them with good things, and preferred them above the creation. And We gave them clear proofs in matters. They differed not until after the knowledge came to them, through envy among themselves. Verily, Your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection about that wherein they used to differ. Then We have put you (O Muhammad) on a plain way of (Our) commandment [like the one which

We commanded Our Messengers before you. So follow that, and follow not the desires of those who know not. Verily, they can avail you nothing against Allāh. Verily, the wrong-doers, etc.) are protectors to one another, but Allāh is the Protector of the pious.

Then He (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) said:

هَذَا بَصَائِرٌ لِلنَّاسِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ

This (Quran) is a clear insight and evidence for mankind, and a guidance and a mercy for people who have Faith with certainty.

3. Abū Bakr b. Sa'īd al-Qarāṭīs narrated to us saying: Aḥmad b. Maṣnūr al-Ramādī narrated to us saying: Abū Ṣāliḥ 'Abdullah b. Ṣāliḥ narrated to us saying: Mu'āwiyah b. Ṣāliḥ narrated to me saying: from 'Alī b. Abū Ṭalḥah from Ibn 'Abbās [that he said] concerning the Saying of Allāh:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِيَعًا

Indeed, those who split up their religion and became sects.

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاخْتَلَفُوا

And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves.

فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ زَيْغٌ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ مَا تَشَابَهَ مِنْهُ

So as for those in whose hearts there is a deviation (from the truth) they follow that which is not entirely clear thereof.

فَتَقَطَّعُوا أَمْرَهُمْ بَيْنَهُمْ

But they (men) have broken their religion among them into sects.

وَقَدْ نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الْكِتَابِ أَنْ إِذَا سَمِعْتُمْ آيَاتَ اللَّهِ يُكْفَرُ بِهَا وَيُسْتَهْزَأُ بِهَا فَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا مَعَهُمْ

And it has already been revealed to you in the Book (this Quran) that when you hear the Verses of Allah being denied and mocked at, then sit not with them.

وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَن سَبِيلِهِ ۚ

And follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path.

أَنْ أَقْبِمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ ۚ

You should establish religion (i.e. to do what it orders you to do practically) and make no divisions in it (religion).

Ibn 'Abbās (رضي الله عنه) said:

“Allāh commanded us with the *Jamā'ah* and He prohibited us from differing and splitting; and He informed them that those who came before them were destroyed due to argumentation and quarrelling in the religion of Allāh (The Most High).

Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) said:

This is what I can recall from the verses where Allāh commanded the nation Muḥammad to cling to the *Jamā'ah* and avoid splitting.

If someone was to say:

“Mention from the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) where he warned his nation from this.”

It is said to him:

Yes. It is obligatory upon you to listen to this, and to avoid splitting and to cling to the *Jamā'ah*. We seek the aid of Allāh, the Most Great in this.