

THE BOOK

# AL-SHARĪḤ AH

A COMPRESSIVE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE CREED OF AHL AL-SUNNAH

Imām Muḥammad b. Husayn al-Ājurri (d. 360H)

Translated by Hassan Hussein Abdi

1. Abū Bakr Ja'far b. Muḥammad al-Firyābī narrated to us saying: Qutaybah b. Sa'īd narrated to us saying: Sa'īd b. 'Abd al-Jabbār al-Ḥimsī narrated to us saying: Mu'ān b. Rifā'ah al-Salāmī narrated to us saying: Ibrahīm b. 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-'Uthrī narrated to us saying:<sup>1</sup>

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

“This knowledge will be carried by the trustworthy ones of every generation. They will expel from it the distortions of the extremists, the fabrications of the liars and the false interpretations of the ignorant.”

2. Abū 'Abdullah b. Aḥmad b. al-Hasan b. 'Abd al-Jabbār al-Ṣūfī informed us saying that Abū Rabi' al-Zahrānī narrated to us saying: Hammad b. Zayd narrated to us saying: Baqīyah b. al-Walid narrated from Mu'ān b. Rifā'ah from Ibrahīm b. 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-'Uthrī who said:<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Ḍa'īf] This chain is weak. There are two defects:

- i. It is *Mursal* [A *Tābi'ī* narrates something directly from the Prophet (ﷺ) without mention of the intermediary narrator]. Ibrahīm b. 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-'Uthrī is not a Companion, but a student of the Companions. In addition to that his state is unknown.
- ii. Mu'ān b. Rifā'ah is weak.

This *Hadīth* has a number of supporting narrations. Some scholars still conclude that it is weak. However, some declared it to be authentic like Imām Aḥmad. Shaykh Rabi' graded it to be sound [Ḥasan] due to supporting narrations. [*Al-Dharī'ah* (1/41)]

<sup>2</sup> [Ḍa'īf] This chain is also weak like the previous one. Another problem with this chain of narrators is that Baqīyah b. al-Walid does not clearly state that he heard this narration directly from Mu'ān; and he is a *Mudallis*.

the extremists, the fabrications of the liars and the false interpretations of the ignorant.”

- Muḥammad b. Bukayr informed us saying that Ibn Salmān narrated from ‘Abd al-Ṣamad b. Ma‘qil from Wahb b. Munabbih (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) who said:<sup>1</sup>

“The *Faqīh* [scholar] is the righteous, abstinent person who clings to the Sunnah. They are the followers of the Prophets in every age.”

Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said:

May Allāh – through His favor and generosity – make us and you from those through whom the Sunnah is revived, innovations die, the hearts of the people of truth are strengthened and the souls of the people of innovation are crushed.

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<sup>1</sup> [Dā’īf] The chain of narration is weak, as there are narrators missing between Imām Ājurrī and Muḥammad b. Bukayr (d. 220H). The latter is definitely not one of the Shaykhs of Ājurrī as he is from the same generation as the teachers of Bukharī.

## Chapter

### Mention of the Command to Cling to the Jamā'ah [Orthodox Body] and the Prohibition of Splitting. Rather, to Adhere [to the Sunnah] and Abandon Innovation

Muḥammad b. al-Husayn (رحمة الله) said:

Indeed, Allāh – through His blessing and grace – informed us in His Book about those who came before us from the People of the Book, the Jews and the Christians, that they perished when they divided in their religion. Our Generous Guardian told us that what led them to split from the *Jamā'ah* and incline to falsehood, from which they were forbidden, was nothing but transgression and jealousy. This occurred after they had knowledge that others did not possess. Severe transgression and jealousy caused them to become sects, and thus they were destroyed. Therefore, our Generous Guardian warned us from being similar to them, as [if we imitate them] we will perish like they did.

He (عز وجل) commanded us to stick to the *Jamā'ah* and He prohibited us from splitting. Similarly, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) warned us against splitting and commanded us with the *Jamā'ah*. The Imams who preceded us from scholars of the Muslims – all of them – used to command with clinging to the *Jamā'ah* and prohibited splitting.

If someone was to say: “Mention to us [these verses] so that we can avoid what you have mentioned. And Allāh is the One Who grants us success to traverse upon the path of correct conduct.”

It is said to him: I will cite what I am able to recall according to the level of my knowledge that Allāh has given me, as advice to my brothers from the people of the Qur'ān, the people of *Hadīth*, the people of *Fiqh* and other than them from the Muslims. Allāh is the One Who grants us success to attain what I intended, and He is the One Who aids [us] to achieve this – by the Will of Allāh.

Allāh (the Most High) said in *Sūrah* al-Baqarah:

كَانَ النَّاسُ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً فَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ النَّبِيِّينَ مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ وَأَنْزَلَ مَعَهُمُ  
الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ فِي مَا اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ ۗ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ فِيهِ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ  
أُوتُوهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَاتُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ ۗ فَهَدَى اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَا  
اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ مِنَ الْحَقِّ بِإِذْنِهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

Mankind were one community and Allāh sent Prophets with glad tidings and warnings, and with them He sent the Scripture in truth to judge between people in matters wherein they differed. And only those to whom (the Scripture) was given differed concerning it after clear proofs had come unto them through hatred, one to another. Then Allāh by His Leave guided those who believed to the truth of that wherein they differed. And Allāh guides whom He wills to a Straight Path.

He (the Most High) said:

تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ ۗ مِنْهُمْ مَنْ كَلَّمَ اللَّهُ ۗ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَهُمْ  
دَرَجَاتٍ ۗ وَآتَيْنَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَيَّدْنَاهُ بِرُوحِ الْقُدُسِ ۗ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ  
مَا أَفْتَتَلَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَلَكِنْ اخْتَلَفُوا فَمِنْهُمْ  
مَنْ آمَنَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ كَفَرَ ۗ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا أَفْتَتَلُوا وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَفْعَلُ مَا يُرِيدُ

Those Messengers! We preferred some to others; to some of them Allāh spoke (directly); others He raised in degrees; and to 'Isa (Jesus), the son of Maryam (Mary), We gave clear proofs and evidences, and supported him with [Jibrīl (Gabriel)]. If Allāh had willed, succeeding generations would not have fought against each other, after clear verses of Allāh had come to them, but they differed - some of them believed and others disbelieved. If Allāh had willed, they would not have fought against one another, but Allāh does what He likes.

He (the Most High) said in *Sūrah Al 'Imrān*:

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ ۗ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا  
جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَعِيًّا بَيْنَهُمْ ۗ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ

Truly, the religion with Allāh is Islam. Those who were given the Scripture did not differ except out of mutual jealousy after knowledge had come to them. And whoever disbelieves in the *Āyāt* (verses and signs) of Allāh, then surely, Allāh is Swift in calling to account.

He (the Most High) said in *Sūrah al-An'ām*:

إِنَّ الدِّينَ فَرَقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِيْعًا لَسْتُ مِنْهُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ ۚ إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُمْ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ  
يُنَبِّئُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ

Verily, those who divide their religion and break up into sects (all kinds of religious sects), you (O Muḥammad) have no concern with them in the least. Their affair is only with Allāh, Who then will tell them what they used to do.

He (the Most High) said in *Sūrah Yūnus*:

وَلَقَدْ بَوَّأْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مُبَوَّأً صِدْقٍ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِّنَ الصَّيِّبَاتِ فَمَا اخْتَلَفُوا حَتَّىٰ  
جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ ۗ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ

Indeed, We settled the Children of Israel in an honorable dwelling place, and provided them with good things, and they differed not until the knowledge came to them. Verily, Allāh will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection in that in which they used to differ.

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

وَمَا تَفَرَّقُوا إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ ۗ وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِنْ رَبِّكَ  
إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى لَّفُضِّي بَيْنَهُمْ ۗ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُورِثُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ لَفِي شَكٍّ  
مِّنْهُ مُرِيبٍ

And they divided not till after knowledge had come to them through selfish transgression between themselves. And had it not been for a Word that went forth before from your Lord for an appointed term, the matter would have been settled between them. And verily, those who were made to inherit the Scripture after them are in grave doubt concerning it .

He (the Most High) said in *Sūrah* ‘Those who disbelieve from among the people of the Scripture and among the polytheists, were not going to leave (their disbelief) until there came to them clear evidence:

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.