



Intrinsic and Essential Qualities of a Caller

By Sh Ṣāliḥ Ibn Fawzān al-Fawzān حفظه الله

From: Methodology of the Prophets (Manhaj-ul-Anbiya) in calling to Allāh by Rabīʿ bin Hādī

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In his preface to Sh Rabīʿs *Methodology of the Prophets (Manhaj-ul-Anbiya) in calling to Allāh*, Sh Ṣāliḥ Ibn Fawzān al-Fawzān حفظه الله states some of the intrinsic and essential qualities that a caller to Allāh, the Sunnah of His Messenger ﷺ and to *Salafiyyah* should possess. Amongst that which he mentions are the following:

Purity of intention – *al-Ikhlāṣ*:

Such that the call is made purely and sincerely to seek the Face of Allāh (and seeking His Reward) - not for show, or repute, or status, or leadership, nor desiring worldly goals - since if any of these goals adulterate it, the call will not be for Allāh, rather it would then be a call for oneself or for the attainment of the worldly goal - as Allāh informs that His Prophets said to their people:

﴿لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا﴾

“I do not ask you for any reward for conveying this Qurʾān. [Soorah al-Anʿam 6:90]

﴿لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مَالًا﴾

“I do not ask you for any wealth for my admonition.” [Soorah Hood 11:29]

Patient perseverance in facing difficulties encountered in calling to Allāh, and in facing harm from the people:

For the path of da'wah is not strewn with roses, rather it is covered with hardships and hazards. The best example of this is the case of the Messengers, may Allāh's Praises and Blessings of peace be upon them all, with regard to the harm and the mockery which they suffered from their people. As Allāh, the Most High, said to His Messenger ﷺ:

﴿وَلَقَدْ أَسْتَهْزِئُوا بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَحَاقَ بِالَّذِينَ سَخِرُوا مِنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ﴾

"Indeed, Messengers were mocked before you, but those who mocked them were overtaken by the punishment which they made light of?" [Soorah al-An'aam 6:10]

He, the Most High, said:

﴿وَلَقَدْ كُذِّبَتْ رُسُلٌ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَصَبَرُوا عَلَىٰ مَا كُذِّبُوا وَأُوذُوا حَتَّىٰ أَنزَلْنَاهُمْ نَصْرَنَا﴾

"Indeed, Messengers were also denied before you, but they bore these denials with patient perseverance, and they suffered harm until Our help came to them." [Soorah al-An'aam 6:34]

Likewise, the followers of the Prophets are met with the same harm and hardship in proportion to their effort in calling to Allāh, following the example of those noble Messengers - may Allāh's praises and purest blessings of peace be upon them.

The caller must be a person of good manners:

He must use wisdom in his call, since this will be an important reason for the acceptance of his call. Just as Allāh ordered His two noble Prophets, Moosa and Haaron, that this was the manner in which they were to face the worst unbeliever upon the earth - Fir'awn (Pharaoh) - who claimed Lordship for himself.

Allāh, the One free of all imperfections, said:

﴿فَقُولَا لَهُ، قَوْلًا لَّيِّنًا لَّعَلَّهُ، يَتَذَكَّرُ أَوْ يَخْشَى﴾

"And speak mildly to him that he might accept admonition or fear and obey Allāh." [Soorah Taa Haa 20:44]

Allāh, the Most High, said to Moosa ﷺ:

﴿أَذْهَبْ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ طَغَىٰ - فَقُلْ هَلْ لَكَ إِلَىٰ أَنْ تَزُكَّىٰ - وَأَهْدِيكَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ فَتَخْشَىٰ﴾

"Go to Fir'awn (Pharaoh) who has transgressed all bounds in his haughtiness, pride and disbelief, and say, 'Will you not purify yourself from the sin of disbelief and be obedient to your Lord, so that you may submit fearfully to Him and obey Him?'" [Soorah an-Naazi'aat 79:17-19]

Allāh, the Most High, said, concerning His Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ:

﴿فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ﴾



"By the Mercy of Allāh you behaved with gentleness to them and had you been severe and harsh-hearted they would have left you and departed." [Soorah Aal-'Imraan 3:159]

Allāh, the Most High, says:

﴿وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ﴾

"Indeed you, O Muḥammad ﷺ, are on an exalted standard of character." [Soorah al-Qalam 68: 4]

He, the Most High, says:

﴿ادْعُ إِلَىٰ سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ ۚ وَجَادِلْهُمْ بِالتِّي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ﴾

“O Muḥammad ﷺ, call mankind to the way prescribed by your Lord (i.e. Islām) with the Revelation sent down to you (the Book and the Sunnah), and admonish them with the examples and warnings which Allāh has provided in His Book, and argue with them in a way that is better.” [Soorah an-Naḥl 16:125]

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