

## Follow the Book & Sunnah

**Sh. Dr. 'Alī ibn Nāsir al-Faqīhī [d.1446 AH رَحْمَةُ اللهِ] wrote:**

“ Indeed, Allāh has commanded His servants to be united and forbade them from division and discord, so He, the Most High said:

﴿وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَى شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ﴾

And hold firmly to the rope of Allāh all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of Allāh upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers. And you were on the edge of a pit of the Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus does Allāh make clear to you His verses that you may be guided. [Sūrah Āl-Imrān 103]

And in order to preserve this unity and adherence to the rope of Allāh and not to divide, Allāh the Mighty and Majestic has commanded His servants to follow what He has revealed to His Messenger ﷺ. He, the Most High said:

﴿المص كتاب أنزل إليك فلا يكن في صدرك حرج منه لتنبذ به وذكري للمتؤمنين أتبعوا ما أنزل إليكم من ربكم ولا تتبعوا من دونه أولياء قليلاً ما تذكرون﴾

Alif-Lām-Mīm-Ṣād. [This is] a Book revealed to you, [O Muḥammad] - so let there not be in your breast distress therefrom - that you may warn thereby and as a reminder to the believers. Follow, [O mankind], what has been revealed to you from your Lord and do not follow other than Him any allies. Little do you remember. [Sūrah al-Ārāf 1-3]

Just as He forbade following what was found with the forefathers, and likewise the [misguided] religious leaders and the people of innovations and desires in matters that are contrary to the Book of Allāh and the Sunnah of His Messenger

ﷺ, saying: **﴿وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا أَوْلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ لَّا يَعْقِلُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ﴾**

**And when it is said to them, "Follow what Allāh has revealed," they say, "Rather, we will follow that which we found our fathers doing." Even though their fathers understood nothing, nor were they guided? [Sūrah al-Baqarah 170]**

And His statement:

**﴿وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا وَجَدْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا أَوْلَوْ كَانُوا الشَّيْطَانُ يَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَىٰ عَذَابِ السَّعِيرِ﴾**

**And when it is said to them, "Follow what Allāh has revealed," they say, "Rather, we will follow that upon which we found our fathers." Even if Satan was inviting them to the punishment of the Blaze? [Sūrah Luqmān 21]**

Just as is found in the Mighty Book of Allāh, the command to follow what Allāh has revealed in His Book, and the prohibition against following what is found with the forefathers, callers to whim, and Satan, as in the previous verse:

**﴿أَوْلَوْ كَانُوا الشَّيْطَانُ يَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَىٰ عَذَابِ السَّعِيرِ﴾**

**Even if Satan was inviting them to the punishment of the Blaze?  
[Sūrah Luqmān 21]**

Hence there occurs, authentic and explicit narrations, from the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ that urge the Ummah to adhere to the Book and the Sunnah, and that in them is salvation and protection, just as the Prophet ﷺ said:

"تركت فيكم ما إن تمسكتم به لن تضلوا كتاب الله وسنتي"

**"I have left with you that [which] if you adhere to it, you will not go astray, the Book of Allāh and my Sunnah" [al-Muwatta 1773]**

Indeed, he ﷺ guaranteed for the one who adheres to the Book of Allāh and His Sunnah guidance and salvation, and not going astray - which leads to destruction in this world and misery in the hereafter.

Conversely, he ﷺ forbade innovation in the religion of Allāh and warned against [religious] innovation, and he clarified to his Ummah that every innovation in the religion of Allāh is misguidance. He ﷺ said as occurs in the Hadīth of ‘Irbād ibn Sāriyyah and collected by Abū Dāwūd and Tirmithi who said its chain is good and authentic - he [‘Irbād ibn Sāriyyah] said:

"The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ gave us a sermon which frightened the hearts and caused the eyes to shed tears. So we said, ‘O Messenger of Allāh! it is as if it is a farewell sermon so advise us.’ He ﷺ said,

"أوصيكم بتقوى الله، والسمع والطاعة، وإن تأمر عليكم عبد، وإنه من يعش منكم بعدي فسيرى اختلافا كثيرا، فعليكم بسنتي وسنة الخلفاء الراشدين المهديين، عَضُوا عليها بالنواجذ، وإياكم ومحدثات الأمور فإن كل بدعة ضلالة"

**‘I advise you to fear Allāh and to hear and obey even if a slave were to rule over you. For surely, he who lives from amongst you after me will see much differing, so upon you is to stick to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the Rightly Guided Caliphs. Bite on to it with your molar teeth and beware of newly invented [religious] matters, for indeed, every newly invented [religious] matter is misguidance.’** [Abū Dāwūd 4607 and at-Tirmithi 2676]

This hadith clarifies for us a great aspect in preserving the essence of the Ummah and ensuring its safety from division that leads to trials and tribulations; and that is by urging it to adhere to the jamā’ah [muslim community upon the Sunnah] and stick to the Sunnah, and stay away from all [religious] innovations in beliefs, actions, words, and methodologies that drag the Ummah into discord and dispute leading to disagreement and division.

That is because the Messenger of guidance ﷺ did not depart from this world until he had conveyed to his ummah [all of] what Allāh had revealed to him of the laws of His religion.

He ﷺ clarified to the ummah everything that would benefit its religious and worldly life, leaving it [the ummah] on the clear path, whose night is like its day, from which there is no straying except for the destroyed, and because Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, perfected the religion for His Prophet, completed His blessing upon him, and chosen Islām as the religion for all humankind.

As He said:

﴿الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا﴾

**This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islām as your religion.**

[Sūrah al-Mā'idah 03]

And His statement:

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ﴾

**And whoever desires other than Islām as religion - never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers.** [Sūrah Āl-Īmrān 85]

Thus, the religion is complete according to the text of this noble verse, and the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ has delivered the clear and explicit message. ”