

# Sticking to The Understanding of the Companions

(\*) - Al-Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal [d.241h], may Allah have mercy on him, said, "From the fundamental principles of sticking to the sunnah of the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace upon him, is sticking to [and understanding] the sunnah however the Companions <sup>1</sup> of the of the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace upon him, stuck to [and understood] the sunnah..." End of al-Imam Ahmad's [d.241h] speech.

(\*) - As-Shaykh, Dr. Rabee' bin Hadi al-Madkhali <sup>2</sup>, may Allah protect him, said in his explanation of this statement of Imam Ahmad [d.241], "The understanding of the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, is the standard by which people who are seeking the truth weigh their affairs. All of what the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace upon him, and his Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, adhered to was, [and is], nothing except guidance and good counsel.

The Companions of the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace upon him, stuck firmly to the book of Allah and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace upon him. They stuck firmly to the Messenger of Allah's sunnah, in the affairs of belief, in the affairs of worship, and in the affairs of dealing with one another. So Imam Ahmad [d.241.h], may Allah have mercy on him, has enlightened us to this monumental, vast principle (i.e. sticking to the understanding of the companions) that nothing, especially belief, in the religion of Islam is excluded from." <sup>3</sup>

>>>

---

<sup>1</sup> A Companion is someone who met the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace be upon him, as a believer, and died while being in a state of belief. See Ibn Hajar's [d.852] Nuzhatu an-Nathr pg. 149, Dar ibn al-Jawzee, 1427.

<sup>2</sup> As-Shaykh, Dr. Rabee' bin Hadi Madkhali is from the elder scholars of Makkah. He is known to his peers such as as-Shaykh Dr. Salih al-fawzaan and as-Shaykh Salih Luhaydaan, and was known by the likes of as-Shaykh Bin Baaz for efforts in aiding Islam and teaching the sunnah. He is also known for his patience, courage and his direct approach in confronting that which he sees to be falsehood. May Allah, The Most High, extend his life and protect him from evil.

<sup>3</sup> Taken from as-Shaykh Rabee's Explanation of Usool us-Sunnah, pp. 7-8, Dar al-Imam Ahmad, 1429.

# Sticking to The Understanding of the Companions

## **\*\* A Few Additional Statements from the Scholars Pertaining to The Companions \*\***

(\*) - As-Shaykh Muhammad Naasir ad-Deen al-Albani [d.1420], may Allah have mercy on him, mentions that, "We make sure that the chains of narrations [pertaining to the statements and actions] of the Companions are authentic, just as we make sure the chains of narration for the [statements, actions and approvals] of the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace upon him, are authentic." <sup>1</sup>

Zakariyyah al-Pakistaani <sup>2</sup> mentions that, "Since Islamic legislation could be built upon the statements and/or actions of the Companions, it is a condition that we make sure what is being reported on them is saheeh (authentic) <sup>3</sup>."

(\*) - As-Shaykh, Dr. Muhammad 'Umar Bazmool <sup>4</sup>, may Allah protect him says, "The correct position is that leaving off the opinions of the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, [even if they have differed], is not permissible.

It has been related, in meaning, that Al-Imam Ahmad [d.241], [al-Imam] as-Shaafi'ee [d.204h], [al-Imam] Malik [d.179] and [al-Imam] Abu Haneefah [d.150h], may Allah have mercy on them, have all said that, 'If the Companions differ over an issue, we make it a point to stay with-in the boundaries of their statements.

>>>

---

<sup>1</sup> Taken from Usool al-Fiqh upon the way of Ahlul Hadeeth, Zakariyyah al-Pakistaani, pg. 129, Dar ibn al-Jawzee, 1428.

<sup>2</sup> Son in Law of as-Shaykh, Dr. Wasi-Allah Abbaas, may Allah grant him good health. As-Shaykh Dr. Wasi-Allah is a chair holder at the Holy Mosque in Makkah where he teaches Saheeh al-Bukharee. He is also a professor of hadeeth at Umm al-Quraa University. Our Shaykh Wasi-Allah, may Allah preserve him, is from the most humblest of people. He is always willing to give us some of his valuable time. Along with giving us his time, he constantly responds to our questions with much care and concern, always allowing us an opportunity to interject and gain a better understanding of his words. May Allah keep him safe from all evils.

<sup>3</sup> Taken from Usool al-fiqh the way of Ahlul Hadeeth, Zakariyyah al-Pakistaani, pg.129, Dar ibn al-Jawzee, 1428.

<sup>4</sup> As-Shaykh, Dr. Muhammad 'Umar Bazmool is a well known and respected scholar and professor at the University of Umm al-Quraa in Makkah. From the characteristics that make him special is his ability to present academic material in a very clear and organized manner. I ask Allah continue to benefit the Muslim nation in general, and the students of knowledge specifically by way of him.

# Sticking to The Understanding of the Companions

Our job is to analyze their statements and try to see which one of them (i.e. their statements) is closer to the truth as it relates to the proofs. And if we are not able to come to a conclusion, we [are left] to choose one of their statements. None of us have ever said that their differing is an opportunity to invent a new statement different from the statements of theirs (i.e. the Companions).”<sup>1</sup>

(\*) - Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Tamiyyah [d.728h] said, “We know that the Companions, their followers, and the followers of their followers studied the Qur’an [thoroughly]. We know that they are the most knowledgeable in its explanations and its meanings. We also know that they are the most knowledgeable when it comes to whatever the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace upon him, was sent with. So whoever opposed or [opposes them] in explaining the Qur’an, has [and will] make mistakes in providing both proofs and angles of proof.” End of Shaykh al-Islam’s words.<sup>2</sup>

I ask Allah, the Most High, to make us from those who give the utmost importance to the understanding of Companions, just as I ask him make us from those who love all of them dearly.

And Allah knows best.

Compiled and Translated by:

Jameel Finch al-Makki

Al-Mullaqqi’a, Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Shawwal 20th, 1430h / October 8th, 2009

All Rights Reserved by: Embody Islam Publications and Translations<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Taken from Dr. Muhammad ‘Umar Bazmool’s Explanation of Usool at-Tafseer, pg. 190-191, Dar al-Imam Ahmad, 1427.

<sup>2</sup> Taken from Usool at-Tafseer, by: Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Tamiyyah.

<sup>3</sup> No part of this translation may be reprinted, reproduced, or utilized in any form without the permission of the translator, Jameel Finch al-Makki.

# Sticking to The Understanding of the Companions