

I am a Salafee

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

I am a Salafee¹

أنا سلفي

Why the ascription of Salafeeyah? Is it a call to Hizbeeyah²?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)³ was asked:

‘Why the ascription of Salafeeyah? Is it a call to Hizbeeyah, or a sect, or Madhhab⁴, or is it a new group in Islaam?’

He (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) answered:

‘Indeed the word *‘as-Salaf*’ is well known in the Arabic language, and in the Sharee’ah , and what is important to us here is the research from the Sharee’ah’ point of view. It has been authentically reported from the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)⁵ that he said to Sayyidah⁶ Fatima (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا)⁷ during the illness from which he died:

فاتقي الله واصبري، ونعم السلف أنا لك

‘Fear Allaah and be patient, for indeed I am a blessed Salaf (Predecessor) for you.’⁸

The scholars used this word *‘as-Salaf*’ a lot, and it has been used so much more than can be enumerated, it is sufficient for us to use one example, and that is what we need to fight against *Bida’*:

كل خير في اتباع من سلف** وكل شر في ابتداء من خلف

Every good is in the following of the Salaf * and every evil is in the innovations of the Khalaf⁹

However, there are those who claim to have knowledge who reject this ascription, claiming that it does not have any foundation, so they say: it is not allowed for a Muslim to say I am a Salafee. It’s as

¹ From ‘al-Asaalah’ Magazine No. 9 p. 86-87, & an-Nabthaa al-Waafi fee wajoob al-Intessab ila Salafeeyah p.26-29

² Bigoted partisanship and blind attachment to personalities

³ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

⁴ School of Islaamic Jurisprudence

⁵ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

⁶ سيده (Sayyidah) Lady

⁷ (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا) (rad iyallaahu `anhaa) May Allaah be pleased with her

⁸ Collected in Saheeh Muslim

⁹ The transliteration of which is: ‘Kullu khairin fee ittiba’ man Salaf * wa Kullu Sharrin fee Ibtida’ man Khallaf’

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if they say: it is not allowed for a Muslim to say: I follow the Salaf as-Saalih of what they are upon from 'Aqeedah, worship and manners!

There is no doubt that this type of rejection – if this is what they mean – necessitates being free from the correct Islaam which our Salaf as-Saalih were upon, and at the head of them is the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) as is indicated in the Mutawaatir¹⁰ hadeeth which is in Bukhaaree, Muslim and in other books, from the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم):

خير الناس قرني، ثم الذين يلونهم ، ثم الذين يلونهم

'The best people are my generation then those who will come after them and then those after them.'

Therefore it is not allowed for the Muslim to free himself from the ascription to the Salaf as-Saalih, whereas if a Muslim freed himself from any other ascription, then it would not be possible for anyone from the people of knowledge to ascribe them to *Kufr* (disbelief) or *Fasooq* (openly sinning).

And this person who rejects this ascription, don't you see that he himself ascribes to a Madhhab from the Madhahib (plural: Madhhab)?! Whether this Madhhab was connected to 'Aqeedah or with Fiqh?

So he is either an Ash'aree or a Matroodee, or either he is from the Ahl-ul-Hadeeth, or Hanafee, or Shaafi'ee, or Maalikee, or Hanbalee from those who enter into the title of Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal Jammah. Even though he who ascribes to the Ash'aree Madhhab or to the four Madhahib then he ascribes to people who are without doubt not infallible, even though there from those scholars who are correct, I wish he had only rejected the likes of these ascriptions to individuals not infallible.

As for the one who ascribes to the Salaf as-Saalih, then he ascribes to that which is in general infallible, and indeed the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) mentioned that from the signs of the *Firqat an-Najeeha* (the saved sect) that they adhere to that which the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was upon and what the Companions (رضي الله عنهم)¹¹ were upon, so who ever adhered to it is with certainty upon guidance from his Lord.

Without doubt the clear, manifest, distinguished, evident evidence of this title is to say: I am a Muslim upon the Book and the Sunnah and upon the methodology of our Salaf as-Saalih, and that is to summarise it by saying:

أنا سلفي

I am a Salafee.'

¹⁰ al-mutawaatir: المَتَوَاتِر A hadeeth which is narrated by such a large number of people that it is impossible that they have invented a lie.

¹¹ (رضي الله عنهم) (rad iyallahu 'anhum) May Allaah be pleased with them