

The Arab Race

“If the Arabs are humiliated, Islaam is also humiliated”

grading of hadeeth: *mawdhoo'* (fabricated)

source: *silsilat ul-ahaadeeth idh-dha'eefa* – the series of weak narrations – hadeeth no. 163

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) ¹ comments:

“The glory of Islaam is not connected with Arabs only; rather Allaah may give it glory by other than them from the believers, as that happened during the time of the Ottoman Empire especially in its beginning. So Allaah had given glory to Islaam through them until its authority spread to the middle of Europe. Then, when they started to abandon the Sharee’ah (Islamic Legislation) and incline toward the European laws – taking that which is lower in exchange for that which is better – their authority diminished from those countries and others until it had disappeared from their (own) countries as well! Hence, only something little remained there of the manifestations that could indicate their Islaam! So by that, all of the Muslims were humiliated after their glory, and the disbelievers entered most of their countries and concentrated on humiliating them. And even if these (countries) were apparently freed from (the disbelievers’) colonisation, they colonise them in secret under the screen of many projects such as the economy and the like! Therefore, it is established that Islaam is given glory and humiliated by the glory and humiliation of its people whether they are Arabs or non-Arabs, and **‘there is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab except by taqwaa.’**² So O Allaah! Give glory to the Muslims and inspire them to return to Your Book and the Sunnah of Your Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)³ until You give glory to Islaam by them.

However, that does not negate the Arab race being better than the race of the rest of the nations; rather, this is what I believe in and consider as part of religion – even though I am Albanian but indeed I am Muslim, all praises and thanks are to Allaah – because the precedence of the Arab race that I have mentioned is that which *ahl us-sunnah wal jamaa’ah*⁴ are upon, and which a group of mentioned narrations about this matter indicates, such as (the Prophet’s) (صلى الله عليه وسلم) statement: **‘...Indeed Allaah chose Bane Kinaanah from the offspring of Ismaa’eel, and chose Qur’aysh from Bane Kinaanah, and chose Bane Haashim from Quraysh, and chose me from Bane Haashim.’**⁵

But this should not cause the Arab to boast of his race – because it is from the affairs of jaahiliyyah⁶ which our Prophet Muhammad the Arab (صلى الله عليه وسلم) had abolished, as clarified earlier – just as we should not be ignorant of the reason why the Arabs deserve precedence, which is what they were distinguished with in regard to their understanding, language, morals and works, and that qualified them to be the carriers of the Islaamic da’wah to the other nations. So indeed if the Arab knows this and follows it, it will enable him to be – like his predecessors – a righteous member in carrying the Islaamic da’wah. As for if he gives that up, then he doesn’t have any excellence at all; rather, the non-Arab who possesses the Islaamic morals is better than him no doubt, since true excellence is only following the ‘Emaan (faith) and knowledge with which Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was sent. So

¹ (rahimahullaah) (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) May Allaah have mercy on him

² piety and fear of Allaah

³ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

⁴ those who adhere to that which the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and his Companions were upon with regard to ‘Aqeedah (belief), manhaj (methodology) and all other matters of the religion

⁵ Saheeh at-Tirmidhee no.3606

⁶ the pre-Islamic days of ignorance

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whoever is stronger in it, he is better. And excellence is only by defined names in the Book and the Sunnah, such as Islaam, 'Eemaan, birr (righteousness), taqwaa, knowledge, righteous deeds, ihsaan⁷ and the like, and (it is) not by a person merely being an Arab or non-Arab, as Shaykh ul-Islaam ibn Taymeeyah (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said, and this is what (the Prophet) (صلى الله عليه وسلم) pointed out with his saying: **'Whoever's deeds slow him down, his lineage will not make him go faster.'**⁸ Muslim narrated it. And this is why the Arab poet said: 'Even if our descent is noble, there will never be a day when we will rely on it. So we build as our forefathers used to build, and we do as they used to do.'

In summary: indeed the precedence of the Arabs is only due to virtues that were realised amongst them, but if (these virtues) disappear because of their negligence of their Islaam, their excellence will also disappear, and whoever from the non-Arabs adheres to (these virtues) will be better than them; **'there is no superiority of the Arab over the non-Arab except by taqwaa.'** Therefore, the going astray of the one who calls to Arabism becomes clear, (who calls to it) while he does not possess any of its excellent characteristics at all; rather, he is a European inwardly and outwardly!"

asaheeha translations

⁷ worshipping Allaah as if you see Him; Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.4777

⁸ Saheeh Muslim no.2699