

The difference between a Salafee and a Madhhabee

Author: Amaturrahmaan

Article taken and slightly adapted from: alalbaany.com

[su.aalaat 186-7 / alalbaany.com]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: “Some people claim that Salafees weaken ahaadeeth that are authentic according to the Four Imaams or some of them, and authenticate whatever suits their manhaj that opposes madhhabism. What is your opinion?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹:

“I say: This is a false claim; and like it’s said: ‘If you do not have any clear proofs for claims, the claimers are people who ascribe to false lineages’ (i.e. these claims are false/rejected). The difference between Salafees and Madhhabees is that Salafees don’t show bigotry towards a particular Imaam of the Muslims – not in fiqh or hadeeth or anything else – but rather they follow the advice of the Imaams themselves who forbid blind-following them and said to their followers: take from where we took. So we try to take from where they took. For example, they took from the Companions, and the Companions took from Allaah’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)², but they did not restrict themselves to a specific Companion. Sometimes they took from Aboo Bakr, sometimes from `Umar, and so on.

So as they followed this way with the best of the people (i.e. the Companions) after Allaah’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), we also do as they did. We take from their madhhabs the things that agree with the Book and the authentic Sunnah, and we don’t show bigotry towards any of them. So sometimes we agree with all of them, sometimes we oppose all of them, because in this second situation we follow what other Imaams were upon, and so on.

So the claim that we oppose the Imaams or some of them in order to support our own madhhab is false. We do not have a particular madhhab; our madhhab is to go with the truth wherever it is, and this is what they commanded us to do.”

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him