
Serving from your right hand side

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Article taken and slightly adapted from: followingthesunnah.wordpress.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Taken from 'Silsilah Ahadeeth As-Saheehah'¹

No. 1771 – From Anas bin Maalik (رضي الله عنه)² that the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)³ was brought some milk that was blended with water and on his right was a Bedouin and on his left was Aboo Bakr (رضي الله عنه), so he drank from it then he gave it to the Bedouin and said:

'On the right on the right.'

And in another narration: **'those on the right, those on the right, you should give it on the right hand side.'**⁴

Shaykh Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)⁵ said:

'In this hadeeth, the one who was serving the drinks began with the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) because the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was the one who requested a drink. Therefore, it is not correct to use this hadeeth as an evidence to prove that the Sunnah is to essentially begin with the eldest of the people as is widespread nowadays.

How can this be the case when the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) himself did not do this, on the contrary the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) gave the drink to the Bedouin who was on his right hand side and not to Aboo Bakr (رضي الله عنه) who was on his left hand side, then the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) explained by saying: **'On the right hand side then the next one after him.'**

¹ Taken from Silsilah Ahadeeth as-Saheehah by Shaykh al-Albaanee (No.1771)

² (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him

³ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

⁴ Collected by Bukhaaree, Muslim, Abu Daawood

⁵ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him