

Knowledge is not taken from everyone who has knowledge

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(Taken from: An open gathering in the Grand Masjid in Ta'if during the Ibn Baaz knowledge based lecture seminar. 1431 H.)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: May Allaah grant you good our Shaykh. There is a person who has established a principle that knowledge is taken from everyone who has knowledge; rather, if a person possesses knowledge, but he does not declare Jahm ibn Safwan to be an innovator, he said: Leave off the fact that he does not declare Jahm bin Safwan to be an innovator and still take knowledge from him. Is this statement correct?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: This is not correct. Knowledge is only taken from the people of knowledge, those who are upright upon it and known for it. As for the one who spreads innovation and takes it lightly, then knowledge is not taken from him; because he will have a negative effect upon those who sit with him and take knowledge from him, thus taking the affair of innovation lightly. And if the affair has reached the extent that Jahm ibn Safwan is not declared to be an innovator then who will be declared to be an innovator?! Jahm ibn Safwan has been declared to be a disbeliever because he said the Qur'aan is created, and he said Allaah does not speak. He obstinately rejected and denied an Attribute from the Attributes of Allaah. Thus he described Allaah with deficiency. And with Allaah refuge is sought. Allaah (سبحانه)² criticised the pagans for worshipping idols which do not speak.

أَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّهُ لَا يُكَلِّمُهُمْ

[Did they not see that it could neither speak to them?]³

Allaah (سبحانه) said about those who worshipped the calf:

أَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّهُ لَا يُكَلِّمُهُمْ

[Did they not see that it could neither speak to them?]⁴

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) The Exalted

³ سورة الأعراف - Soorah al-'A'raaf [7:148]

⁴ سورة الأعراف - Soorah al-'A'raaf [7:148]

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Ibraaheem (عليه الصلاة والسلام)⁵ said to his father:

يَا أَبَتِ لِمَ تَعْبُدُ مَا لَا يَسْمَعُ وَلَا يُبْصِرُ وَلَا يُغْنِي عَنْكَ شَيْئًا

["O my father, why do you worship that which does not hear and does not see and will not benefit you at all?"]⁶

Therefore this person who says Jahm in only an innovator or he is not an innovator, this person in reality is spreading innovation, and he takes the affair of innovation lightly.

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⁵ (عليه الصلاة والسلام) (alayhi as-Salaat wa Salaam) Upon him prayer and peace

⁶ سورة مريم - Soorah Maryam [19:42]