

## The student of knowledge knows his limits

Translated by Abu Abdirrahmaan Nasser ibn Najam

Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al ‘Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to the student of knowledge not giving an impression that he has more knowledge than he actually has, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al ‘Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)<sup>1</sup> comments on the statement of ‘Umar ibn al Khattaab (رضي الله عنه)<sup>2</sup>:

“Whoever adorns himself with that which he does not possess, then Allaah will disgrace him.”

Allaahu Akbar! This is the reality – when a person gives himself the adornment of being “a student of knowledge” and he begins to hit two mountains against each other<sup>3</sup> and (when) everyone comes to him asking him about issues of knowledge, he rolls up his sleeves and says, “I am the person to (answer) this; this is halaal<sup>4</sup>, and this is waajib<sup>5</sup>, and this is fard kifaayah<sup>6</sup> and this is fard ‘ayn<sup>7</sup>; this is conditional upon such-and-such, this does not have any preconditions”; and he begins to speak in detail and speak in general terms.

However a lesser student of knowledge comes to him and says “Tell us about such-and-such”; so then Allaah exposes him<sup>8</sup> and makes it clear that he is not a scholar.

And likewise the person who gives himself the adornment of worship, making apparent to the people that he is a person given to much worship – then it is a must that Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, will expose him. It is inevitable that he will be uncovered.

May Allaah protect us and you from ar riyaa<sup>9</sup>. – aameen.

(Sharh hilyah taalib il ‘ilm p35 of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al ‘Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ))

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<sup>1</sup> (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

<sup>2</sup> (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

<sup>3</sup> i.e. enter into discussing matters of importance when it is unbefitting for him to do so

<sup>4</sup> Permissible according to the Sharee’ah

<sup>5</sup> Obligatory according to the Sharee’ah

<sup>6</sup> A communal obligation according to the Sharee’ah

<sup>7</sup> An obligation on the individual according to the Sharee’ah

<sup>8</sup> By rendering the “senior” student of knowledge incapable of answering the question asked of him

<sup>9</sup> Doing acts of worship for showing off to the people