

Student of knowledge pays great attention to isnaad of information he conveys

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

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to the student of knowledge being cautious when transmitting any information, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)<sup>1</sup> comments:

This is the most important of these manners – it is tathabbut (verification and proceeding carefully) with regards to the information which is being conveyed, and tathabbut of those rulings which emanate from you.

So when information is transmitted then firstly you must verify – is it (the information) authentic from the person you are transmitting from or not?

Then if it is authentic, do not pass a ruling until you have made certain about the ruling. For it may be that the information which you heard – and this sometimes occurs – is built upon a fundamental principle about which you are ignorant. So you pass a ruling that (such-and-such) is an error but the reality is that it is not an error.

So then what should be done in this situation?

The remedy is that you make contact with the person to whom the information is traced back to. And you say, “Such and such has been reported from you. Is it correct?” And then you discuss it with him.

For it may be that you find it something disagreeable and you have aversion to it from the first instance that you heard it – because you do not know the basis of this report.

And it is said: “if the basis (for something) is known then the amazement (at it) goes away.”

So firstly it is a must to make tathabbut, then after that to contact the one from whom it is transmitted and that you ask him, “Is that (report) correct or not?” Then you discuss it with him.

(Sharh hilyah taalib il 'ilm p52 of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ))

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