

Many People Are Exposed During Times Of *Fitnah*
Imām Abū Bakr Muḥammad Ibn Al-Ḥusain al-Ājurri (d. 360H)
Commentary by al-‘Allāmah Rabī Ibn Hādī al-Madkhalī

قَالَ مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْحُسَيْنِ : قد ذكرت هذا الباب في « كتاب الفتن » في أحاديث كثيرة . وقد ذكرت هاهنا طرفاً منها ، ليكون المؤمن العاقل يحتاط لدينه ، فإن الفتن على وجوه كثيرة ، وقد مضى منها فتن عظيمة ، نجا منها أقوام ، وهلك فيها أقوام باتباعهم الهوى ، وإيثارهم للدنيا ، فمن أراد الله به خيراً فتح له باب الدعاء ، والتجأ إلى مولاه الكريم ، وخاف على دينه ، وحفظ لسانه ، وعرف زمانه ، ولزم المحجة الواضحة السواد الأعظم ، ولم يتلون في دينه ، وعبد ربه تعالى ، فترك الخوض في الفتنة ، فإن الفتنة يفتضح عندها خلق كثير ، ألم تسمع إلى قول النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم ، وهو محذر أمته الفتن ؟ قَالَ : « يصبح الرجل مؤمناً ، ويمسي كافراً ، ويمسي مؤمناً ، ويصبح كافراً »^(٥).

Imām Abū Bakr Muḥammad Ibn Al-Ḥusain al-Ājurri (d. 360H) stated in his book *al-Sharīah* (1/167):

“I have mentioned this chapter in ‘the Book of *Fitnah*,’ among numerous aḥādīth. Here, I have only mentioned a selection of them, so that the discerning believer can safeguard his religion. For indeed there are many different manifestations of *Fitnah*¹ (trials and tribulations).² Great tribulations have already past. A group of people were saved from these trials and a group of individuals were destroyed by them, because they followed their desires and gave preference to the life of this world.

Whosever Allāh wants good for he opens for him the door of supplication³; and this person turns to his Most Generous Protector, fears for his religion, safeguards his

¹ Ibn al-Qayyim said, “*Fitnah* is of two types: *Fitnah* of doubts, and this is the graver of the two types of *Fitnah*, and the *Fitnah* of lusts. It is possible that both affect the servant or it is possible that they affect him independently.” *Iḡāthah Al-Lahfān* (2/165)

² Shaykh Rabī mentions in his commentary upon this book (1/190-198) that mixing with the people of innovation is a trial in itself. Allāh willing – this will be highlighted in another article, as many people past and present have been exposed due to accompanying the people of innovation. May Allāh grant us and you success in this life and the next.

³ The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said,

تَعَوَّذُوا بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الْفِتَنِ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَّنَ قَالُوا: نَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الْفِتَنِ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَّنَ

tongue, knows the time that he is living in and clings to the straight path, the main body. He does not change in his religion; he worships his Lord (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى) and abandons disputing concerning the *Fitnah*. For indeed many people are exposed by these trials and tribulations.¹ Have you not heard the statement of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) when he was warning his nation about these trials and tribulations?

يُصْبِحُ الرَّجُلُ مُؤْمِنًا وَيُمْسِي كَافِرًا

“A man will awake in the morning as a believer and sleep as a disbeliever”²

Commentary of al-‘Allāmah Rabī Ibn Hādī al-Madkhalī from *Al-Dharī‘ah Ilā Bayān Maqāṣid Al-Sharī‘ah* (1/201):

“The author alluded to the fact that many *Fitan* have occurred, and that many people have been exposed by them. Similarly, many people have been destroyed by them. The like of Abū Muslim al-Khurasānī³ and the *Fitnah* of Ibn Rāwundī⁴. Many trials and tribulations transpired, from them the *Fitnah* of the Khawārij and Rāfiḍah. Killing, deviation and misguidance occurred, meaning it was either fighting, political strife or *Fitan* pertaining to matters of creed and methodology, or the like. Many people were destroyed in this turmoil, and those whom Allāh protected and held firmly to the true methodology – and all praise belongs to Allāh – were saved. Many, many people were saved due to the clarity of their methodology and their implementation of it, as the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) promised:

“Seek refuge with Allāh from the *Fitan* (trials and tribulations), those apparent and those hidden.” We said, “We seek refuge with Allāh from the *Fitan* (trials and tribulations), those apparent and those hidden.” Collected by Muslim (no. 2867)

¹ For example, the recent *Fitnah* in Egypt exposed many of the false claimants to Salafīyah. All praise belongs to Allāh, for verily the position of the Salafī scholars was in accordance to what is found in the Book and the Sunnah, and documented in the books of the Salaf, whilst the charlatans like the innovator ‘Abd al-Raḥmān ‘Abd al-Khāliq were commending people for fighting the army and partaking in the bloodshed. May Allāh allow us to die upon the Qur’ān and the Sunnah.

² Collected by Muslim (no. 118).

³ His name is ‘Abd Al-Raḥmān Ibn Muslim (d. 137H). An Amīr. He was involved in the formation of the Abbasid dynasty. Imām al-Dhahabī said concerning him (*Siyar ‘Alām Al-Nubalā*, 6/51), “Abū Muslim was a great shedder of blood whose killing surpassed that of al-Ḥajāj.”

He also said (*Siyar ‘Alām Al-Nubalā*, 6/53), “Abū Muslim was a great calamity for the Arabs of Khurasān. For verily he annihilated them with the blade of the sword.”

⁴ The heretic; the enemy of the religion. Abū al-Ḥasan, Aḥmad Ibn Yaḥyá Ibn Ishāq al-Riwandī. He is the author of a number of works disparaging the religion. He used to associate with the Rāfiḍah and the heretics, and if he was criticized for this he would say, “I only desire to know their statements.” (*Siyar ‘Alām Al-Nubalā*, 14/59)

لَا تَزَالُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي ظَاهِرِينَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ، لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَذَلَهُمْ، حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ وَعْدُ اللَّهِ

“There will never cease to be a group of my nation manifest upon the truth. They will not be harmed by those who forsake them nor by those who oppose them until Allāh’s promise comes.”

The Shaykh continued on p. 202:

“The author repeated the hadith, “A man will awake in the morning as a believer and sleep as a disbeliever.” And he said that people will be exposed. Yes! A man is upon the truth and you see him afterwards and he is a disbeliever or a misguided innovator. This is nothing but exposure. He used to claim good, he used to claim knowledge and he used to claim that he was upon the truth; and then unexpectedly he falls into disbelief, either major disbelief or minor disbelief. This is humiliation – and Allāh’s refuge is sought. How many people are exposed and uncovered through *Fitnah*? These trials and tribulations strip them [bare] and reveal their false claims, and exposes their true realities. This occurs and will continue to occur.”

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26/10/2013 corresponding to the 21st of Dhu al-Ḥijjah 1434

Philadelphia