

On Whether Boycotting the Innovator is Considered a Foundation of the Sunnah or Not

Shaykh Rabīʿ bin Hādī was asked: “What is your saying regarding the one who says boycotting the innovator should not be made a foundation (aṣl) [of the Sunnah]?” He answered, “By Allāh, that which I know is that it is from the foundations (uṣūl) of Ahl al-Sunnah, that they hate and boycott [the innovator]. Many of the people of knowledge have claimed consensus on this matter.”¹

The Shaykh also said, “The positions of Ahl al-Sunnah towards Ahl al-Bidaʿ are as clear as the sun... the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) warned from sitting with Ahl al-Bidaʿ and the people of evil in general. The Salaf also warned from that. Those who oppose these warnings will become infected with deviation. The one who rejects the directions of the Noble Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) in warning from sitting with the people of evil, as occurs in the ḥadīth, *‘The example of the good companion and the evil companion is like that of the musk-seller and the blacksmith. The musk-seller will either gift you [some perfume] or you will buy from him or you will find a pleasant smell from him. The blacksmith will either burn your clothes or you will find a repugnant smell from him.’*²

So why do they not take the advice of the Messenger (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام). If the one who mixes with them is not afflicted 100 percent or 90 percent, he will still not be safe from their evil... so the one who mixes with them, accompanies them and gives them loyalty, he will be affected

¹ Majmuʿ Kutub wa Rasāʾil wa Fatāwā (14/308).

² Related by al-Bukhārī (no. 5214), Muslim (2628).

by their ways and means, he will be affected by their ideas and will be put to trial with making compromises and flattery until his heart dies. Overwhelmingly, he will eventually deviate and go with them.”³

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³ Majmu‘ Kutub wa Rasā’il wa Fatāwā (14/373-375).