‘al-I'tidaal Fee Sayyid Qutb’ Q&A with Shaykh Al-Albani

The following is an extract from a question and answer session with Shaykh al-Albani. It was recorded on a tape by Abi Lailatal Athari and it is commonly sold under the title, ‘al-I'tidaal Fee Sayyid Qutb’.

The date of the recording is 1st of Rabi' al Awwal 1414H – 9th December 1993.[1]

TRANSCRIPT:

Questioner: (Alleges that Sayyid Qutb pronounced everyone a ‘Kafir’ – disbeliever)

Al-Albani: ‘We do not know this about him. Rather he has composed words during his stay in prison which are akin to inspiration.

Questioner: Sayyid Qutb claimed that the Ummah lives in a state of Jahiliyyahh which is worse than the first state of Jahiliyyahh. He has also claimed that the Masajids are akin to the temples of Jahiliyyahh and that Islam does not apply to such societies. I heard this myself, Shaykh.

Al-Albani: Have you been to Egypt?

Questioner: No, I have not.

Al-Albani: He is an Egyptian. He is describing what he has seen in the likes of mosques in Egypt such as Sayyida Zaynab, Sayyid Badawi, etc.
Questioner: Are all mosques in Egypt like that?

Al-Albani: No. I do not say all mosques are like that and neither does Sayyid Qutb. Rather, he is giving a general statement.

Questioner: Did you comment that ‘Ma’alim fil-Tareeq’ (Milestones) is about Tawheed (monotheism) written in a modern way?

Albani: I say that there is a chapter in this book which is of great benefit, called ‘La ilaha illallah minhaj hayah’. That is what I am saying and as I have said before, Sayyid Qutb is not a scholar but rather he has written some words which I believe are like light from light **ilham** (inspiration)[2] including the chapter ‘Way of Life’. A large number of Salafees have not adopted what the chapter ‘Way of Life’ discusses. ‘Milestones’ has many interesting points and discussions.

Footnotes:

[1] Silsilatul Hudaa wan-Noor (784/1).


END OF TRANSCRIPT

Some groups have alleged that this recording took place prior to Shaykh al-Albani’s discovery of the ‘evil’ of Sayyid Qutb. There is no evidence to suggest that Shaykh alAlbani retracted these comments and it must also be borne in mind that at the time of this recording it had been nearly 30 years since the Martyrdom of Sayyid Qutb.

Shaykh Albani uses the word **ilham**, which in Arabic means ‘inspiration for certain chosen individuals.’ This word is often used by scholars to describe an act or deed which is guided by Allah Almighty. For example scholars uses the same word when describing how the mother of Prophet Musa was inspired to put her infant child into a basket of reeds and floated him on the river Nile to save him from Pharoah’s men.
Fatwah (legal verdict) regarding Sayyid Qutb

by Shaykh Ibn Jibreen

**Question:** Some youth call Shaykh Sayyid Qutb a heretic and prohibit the reading of his books, and they say a similar statement regarding Imam Hasan al-Banna, as they also say regarding some of the scholars that they are Khawarij. Their argument is that [they do this] in order to 'expose the errors [of these men] to the people,' even though [these youth] are until now [only] students [of knowledge]. I hope for a response so that doubt may be removed from us and others, [and] so that this [phenomenon] will not spread.

**Response:** All praise belongs to Allah alone. To proceed: It is impermissible to [unjustly] call the Muslims heretics or wicked as is evidenced by the statement of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم “Whoever says to his brother 'O enemy of Allah,' and he is not such but that it returns back to him.”

While in [another] hadith “Whoever calls a Muslim an infidel it returns back to one of them.’

While in another hadith: "A man passed by another while he was doing a sin and he said to him, 'By Allah, Allah will not forgive you.' So [Allah] said: 'Who is he who can pass judgment on my behalf that I will not forgive so and so? I have forgiven him and have nullified your deeds.'

With this I say, Sayyid Qutb and Imam Hasan al-Banna are among the scholars of the Muslims and among the people of Da'wa. Allah has brought benefit by them and through them He has guided many people. They both have efforts [for Islam] which should not be denied. For this reason Shaykh Abdul-Aziz ibn Baz interceded on behalf of Sayyid Qutb when the order for his execution was given. [Ibn Baz] was gentle in his intercession, but President Gamal [Abdel Nasser] did not accept [Ibn Baz's] intercession, may Allah send upon him [i.e. Abdel Nasser] what he deserves. When both men [i.e Imam Hasan al-Banna & Sayyid Qutb] were killed, each was referred to as a Shaheed (Martyr), as each was killed unjustly. This is borne witness to by those close [to them] as well as by the general public - as it was widely spread in the papers and books without anyone ever objecting.
Moreover, the scholars have received their books [with acceptance]. No one has attacked them for more than the [last] twenty years. If some [heresy proceeded] from them, then [these mistakes] are similar to an-Nawawi, as-Suyuti, Ibn al-Jawzi, Ibn 'Atiyah, al-Khatabi, al-Qastalani and the likes of many of them. I have read what... Rabee al-Madkhali has written in his refutation of Sayyid Qutb and I found that he has placed statements where they do not exist. For this reason Shaykh Bakr Abu Zaid, may Allah preserve him, refuted him. Likewise, [al-Madkhali's] unjust attacks of Shaykh ‘Abdur-Rahman ['Abdul-Khaaliq] and his [twisting 'Abdur-Rahman 'Abdul-Khaaliq’s words] in order to find errors which would make ['Abdur-Rahman 'Abdul-Khaaliq appear] misguided, even though [al-Madkhali] befriended him for a lengthy period of time and he never found any such errors [in the past].

And the eye of pleasure sees every fault insignificant,

But the eye of hatred always finds fault.

Dictated by
Abdullah ibn Abdur-Rahman ibn Jibreen
26/2/1417 AH

Office of the Presidency of Islamic Research and Legal Verdicts

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