

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

That is the Inheritance of Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)

By Abū al-Ḥasan Mālik Ādam al-Akhḍar

We await the 2014 “Back to Basics” seminar hosted by our beloved brothers and sisters of *Masjid al-Sunnah al-Nabawiyyah* in Germantown—may Allāh (سُبْحَانَكَ وَبِحَمْدِكَ) preserve them and reward them tremendously for their efforts—with great expectation. A gathering in one the houses of Allāh to celebrate His Praises and relate the narrations of His Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). It is upon these gatherings, in these blessed houses, that the angels descend, where *Raḥmah* (mercy) and tranquility, as described by the Messenger of Allāh (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), also descend. Gatherings of those who have traveled the land seeking provisions for the hereafter. This is an ancient tradition. Traveling in the path of knowledge is a *Sunnah* dating back to the very Companions of Allāh's Messenger, inherited by the *Tabi'in* and then those who followed them in righteousness. It was reported that the leader of the people of Ḥadīth Shu'bah b. Ḥajjāj (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) heard a narration from his teacher Abū Ishāq al-Sabī'ī regarding *Ishbāgh al-Wuḍu*. His desire to trace the chain took him from Kūfa, first to Makkah, then to al-Madīnah and finally to Baṣrah. When he reached Baṣrah, he asked the narrator of the Ḥadīth, Ziyād b. Mikhrāq, concerning its origins. Ziyād stated: “Shahr ibn Hawshab related it to me on the authority of Abū Riḥānah from 'Uqbah b. 'Āmir on the Messenger of Allāh.” When he mentioned Shahr b. Hawshab, Shu'bah said: “Shahr has ruined it. Had this Ḥadīth been authentic on the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), it would have been more beloved to me than my wealth and family and all mankind.” Here we see Shu'bah crossing the earth in search of *one* Ḥadīth from Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). What love for the *Sunnah*. What a noble methodology to inherit.

With that said, whether attending from near or far, we remind one another of the importance of sitting attentively in these lessons and drawing close to the teacher. This is what we witness in the well-known Ḥadīth of Jibrīl (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام), where he sat directly before the Messenger, placing his knees against the Prophet's knees and putting his palms on his thighs. So what of those who not only sit at a distance from the lecturer, but instead gather on a curb or corner outside of these blessed circles, while the Prophet's (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) inheritance is being disseminated in the *masjid*? Once Abū Hurayrah (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) came upon a people in the marketplace and said: “You are here while the inheritance of the Messenger of Allāh (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is being divided up in the *masjid*. So the people left off their transactions and hastened to the *masjid*. [When they arrived] they only found circles of knowledge. They returned to Abū Hurayrah (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) and said: “We went [to the *masjid*], but we only found the people sitting in circles learning. He responded: “That is the inheritance of the Messenger of Allāh (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).” So we do not trade what is

superior for what is inferior. Thus, we choose the gatherings of *Qur'ān* and *Sunnah* in the company of the lofty angels and seekers of knowledge over the gatherings outside. We choose the best of speech, the Speech of Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى), in the *masājid* over the oft-times vain speech of the gatherings in the street. Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) states:

﴿ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا ۗ ﴾ (٧٢)

“And [they are those] who do not testify to falsehood, and when they pass by evil play or evil talk, they pass by it with dignity.” [al-Furqān 25:72]

So let us pass by all vain speech with dignity and strive to take our portion of the Prophet's (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) inheritance in the houses of Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى).

