



A Reminder Concerning the Attribution of Words and Works

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THOSE who post on social media, websites, or blogs should be wary of stealing, or, *borrowing*, the words or works of others and relating them as if they are the authors. Instead, they should properly cite these words and attribute them to their original sources. This was the way of the scholars of old. Al-Suyūṭī (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) attributes this to the teachings of al-Ḥāfiẓ b. Ḥajr (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ):

Ibn Ḥajr taught his students that if they quoted a *ḥadīth* or an *athar* that he related to them, they should say: “It was reported by so and so, or collected by so and so; [related] by way of our *Shaykh* Ibn Ḥajr.” All of this in order to fulfill [scholarly] trust and to avoid treachery.*

And these teachings remain, until we find the *Muḥaddith* of this era, Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ), censuring those who took from his commentaries and rulings on narrations without proper attribution, labeling them thieves and plagiarists; a people who take their fill from the plates of others. May Allāh bless us with sincerity in our actions and forgive us what we do out of forgetfulness or in error.



* See *al-Fāriq bayn al-Muṣannif wa al-Sāriq* (The Difference between the Author and the Plagiarist) p. 41, by al-Suyūṭī