

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Believers are One Structure: Reflections on the “Sickness and Cure” Conference

THE 2014 “SICKNESS AND CURE” CONFERENCE in Parsippany, NJ, organized by our brothers of *al-Furqan*, was truly a monumental event. One was overjoyed to witness the multitude of believers who had come from all over the US and beyond to participate in such a blessed gathering. Believers who’d traveled from cities as far north as Boston, and Toronto across the Canadian border; from as far south as Palm Beach, FL, and the Caribbean beyond it; from the Midwest to the Deep South: *Salafis* of every age, shade and background. And although separated by land and sea, it was the methodology of the Companions that gathered them there, shortening the longest mile between them. They arrived by every means of transportation for the purpose of benefitting from tele-links with the *Mashayikh*, talks from the students of knowledge, and sittings with their brethren from the people of *Sunnah*. The lobby was all handshakes, shedding sins like the leaves of a tree, all smiles and salutations.

Each day of the conference was filled with beneficial lectures delivered by the likes of our brothers Abū Khadijah of the Salafi Publications, Ḥasan al-Sumali, Anwar Wright, Abū Muḥammad al-Maghribī, Kāshif Khan, and a host of others from the esteemed callers to the *Salafī* methodology in the West—may Allāh (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) preserve them all. This, too, delighted the heart, witnessing their continued cooperation, which is pleasing to Allāh (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) and in accordance with years of advice and instruction given to them by our noble scholars, the likes of *Shaykh* Rabi’ ibn Hādī, *Shaykh* ‘Ubayd al-Jābirī, *Shaykh* Muḥammad ibn Hādī, *Shaykh* ‘Abdullah al-Bukhārī, et al. May Allāh (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) preserve each and every one of them. And we say continued cooperation, as this is not new for our brothers; it is rooted in over a decade of mutual advice and consultation. Perhaps, that is why this event so reminded us of Maṣjid Rahmah’s 2004 “Stop the Discord” conference, which we participated in with our beloved brother Abū Uways—may Allāh (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) shower him with His Mercy. Over a decade has passed since that historic event, and the work has continued, the ranks have increased. This is not due to any strength of ours, as we best know our limitations and weaknesses; rather, whatever we have achieved of good, it is only by the Might and Power of Allāh (عَزَّوَجَلَّ). May He continue to join the hearts of the callers and the students of knowledge upon the Rope of Allāh (عَزَّوَجَلَّ), the way of *al-Salaf al-Ṣāliḥ*.

And with that, there is no question that the tele-links with our beloved *Mashayikh* were the highlight of the weekend. *Shaykh* Muḥammad Bazmūl of *Makkah* lectured on the effects

of *Tawhīd* on the individual and society; Shaykh Khālid al-Thufayrī of Kuwait on the importance of adherence to the *Sunnah* and the abandonment of innovation and its people; our Shaykh al-‘*Allāmah* ‘Ubayd al-Jābirī gave his sons and daughters in the West a tremendous reminder from the statement of the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ): “The believer to another believer is like a [solid] structure...” The *Shaykh* reminded the listeners that the people of *Sunnah* must be united in their word. He informed us that it is our duty to advise one another for the Sake of Allāh; that if the *Sunnī* falls into error, we do not accept said error; rather, it is obligatory to refute it. However, we preserve the honor of the *Sunnī*. Yet, if the person of innovation falls into error, the mistake is refuted, *and* we do *not* preserve his honor. Our *Shaykh* went on to teach us that we must work with all due diligence to strengthen the ranks of *Ahl-Sunnah*, and from that, dealing with the fitnah-mongers among us. The noble *Shaykh* mentioned that these rabble-rousers, who ascribe to the *Sunnah*, are to be advised to fear Allāh (ﷻ), and fear the meeting with Him. If they desist from their destructive behavior, all praise is for Allāh (ﷻ). However, if they persist, warn from them so as to prevent their harm from plaguing the people and severing their ties. He also mentioned that when the *Salafis* are forced to warn against these troublemakers, it is not a cause of division, as uniting and separating is based upon principles, not personalities. May Allāh (ﷻ) preserve our *Shaykh* and allow us to implement such needed advice.

In conclusion, we thank our *Mashayikh* for those reminders and advices, the organizers, interpreters, speakers, and attendees. We pray that all who were present at the conference benefited from that which they witnessed and heard; that they return to their respective towns and cities and give those glad tidings to those who were absent. We also pray that those reminders and advices continue to strengthen us and make us one solid structure, unmoved by the quaking and shaking of all who oppose.

Written by one in need of his Lord’s Pardon,

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