



Those Who Come in the Guise of *Sunnah*

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“DO NOT BE FOOLED BY HIM LOWERING HIS HEAD, for he is an evil person.” This saying comes from the Imām of *Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jama‘ah*, Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ), concerning the innovator Ḥārith al-Muḥāsibī. When a man began to praise al-Muḥāsibī for his outward display of humility, Imām Aḥmad clarified that while this man may have been shrouded in modesty, beneath it, he was a *Jahmite* corrupting the creed of all those around him. This teaches us to be mindful of those who come in the guise of *Sunnah*, yet in reality they harbor hatred and rancor for the *Da‘wah* and its callers. Mindful, as our *Shaykh* Rabi’ b. Hādi al-Madkhalī (حفظه الله) has reiterated over the years, that these individuals are more lying, more deceitful than those upon clear innovation. This point has also been elucidated by Imām Ibn Baz (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) in his explanation of *Kitāb al-Tawḥīd* by *Shaykh al-Islām* Muḥammad b. Abdul-Wahhāb (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ). In the chapter concerning the prohibition of slaughtering [animals] for Allāh in a place where they are sacrificed for other than Him, the author cites the verse: “**And do not stand therein—ever**” [*al-Tawbah* 9:108]. Here, in the Prophet’s *Sīrah*, we learn of those who hid their evil intent under what appeared to be upright, pious acts. *Shaykh* Ibn Bāz states:

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This verse was revealed concerning *Masjid al-Dirār*, built by the hypocrites as a place to support the people of disbelief, to be a stronghold for them to come together to fight the Prophet. However, they hid this [true intent] and professed to build the *masjid* as a place of shelter for the poor and weak during the cold winter nights. And they invited the Messenger of Allāh to come and pray in the *masjid* before he went to Tabuk; however, he delayed this until his return. Upon his arrival, before entering *al-Madinah*, Allāh revealed verses exposing [the hypocrites] wicked aims, and the Prophet dispatched a group to demolish it.*

Examining this incident, we learn of the machinations of those feign righteousness, but in secret plot to waylay the people of *Sunnah* at every turn. May Allāh expose their schemes and designs and repel their harm. Indeed Allāh is Generous to His worshippers.



* *Sharḥ Kitāb al-Tawḥīd* (p. 49), *Dar al-Furqan*, 1431 H./2010