

Narrations of the Salaf (A series of quotes from our Salaf)

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Narrations of the Salaf Part 1

Adhering to the Sunnah and Reviving it, warning against Bida' and its People

1- From Ubay bin Ka'ab –*RadhiAllaahu anhu-* (d. around 30 A.H.) who said:

'Upon you is to hold onto the correct path and the Sunnah, since indeed there is none from the slaves of Allaah who is upon the correct path and the Sunnah, and when he remembers Allaah Ta'ala whereby his eyes shed tears due to the fear of Allaah, then the Hell-fire will never touch him.'

[From 'Zuhud' by Abu Dawood/199]

2- Abdullah bin Mas'ood – *RadhiAllaahu anhu*- (d. around 33 A.H.) said:

'Limiting oneself to the Sunnah is better than striving in Bida' (innovations).'

[From 'Zuhud' by Ahmad/198]

3- Also by Abdullah bin Mas'ood *–RadhiAllaahu anhu-* (d. around 33 A.H.) that he said:

'Follow and do not innovate because it is sufficient for you, and every Bida' is misguidance.'

From Muhammad bin Muslim ibn Shihab Zuhri (d. 124 A.H.) that he said:

'Adhering to the Sunnah is success.'

[From 'Sharh Usool I'tiqaad Ahl-us-Sunnah' al –Laalkaee 2/56]

4- From Hasan al-Basri (d.110 A.H.) who said:

'Statements cannot be correct except with actions; Statements and actions cannot be correct except with an intention; and statements, actions and an intention cannot be correct except according to the Sunnah.'

[From 'Sharh Usool I'tiqaad Ahl-us-Sunnah' al –Laalkaee 2/57]

5- From AbdurRahmaan bin 'Amr al-Aawza'i (d.156 A.H.) that he said:

'We follow with the Sunnah, where ever it goes.'

[From 'Sharh Usool I'tiqaad Ahl-us-Sunnah' al –Laalkaee 2/64]

6- From Awn bin Abdullaah (d. around 110 A.H.) who said:

'Whoever dies upon Islaam and the Sunnah, then he has the glad tidings of all that is good.'

[From 'Sharh Usool I'tiqaad Ahl-us-Sunnah' al –Laalkaee 2/67]

7- From Ibn Yahya who said:

'There is no Path leading to Paradise except the path of those who follow the 'Athaar (narrations).'

[From 'Sharh Usool I'tiqaad Ahl-us-Sunnah' al –Laalkaee 2/88]

8- From Mujahid (d. around 110 A.H.) who said:

'The best worship is having a good opinion which means following the Sunnah.'

[From 'Hileeyat Al-Awaaliyah' 3/293]

9- From Wahab bin Munabih (d. around 110 A.H.) that he would say:

'*Tooba* (a tree in Paradise) is for the one who looks at his own shortcomings rather than the shortcomings of others. *Tooba* is for the one who humbles himself for Allaah without degrading himself. May Allaah have Mercy on the people of humility and servitude. He gives charity for the wealth gathered in a *Halaal* way and sits with the people of knowledge and gentleness and wisdom, and the Sunnah is sufficient for him and does not transgress to *Bida*'.'

[From 'Hileyat Al-Awaaliyah' 4/67]

10- From Fudayl bin 'Ayaad (d. around 180 A.H.) who said:

'Follow the paths of guidance and the few who follow it, and it will not harm you. Beware of the paths of misguidance and do not be deceived by the large number of those destroyed.'

[From 'al-'Itissam' 62]

11- From Muhammad Ibn Sireen (d. 110 A.H.) who said:

'As long as a person is with the 'Athaar then he is on the Siraat (correct path).'

[From 'ash-Sharh wal-Ibaanah'161]

12- From Muhammad bin Muslim ibn Shihab Zuhri (d. 124 A.H.) who said:

'Our scholars in the past would say: 'Indeed adhering to the Sunnah is success.'

[From 'Hileyat Al-Awaaliyah']

13- From al-Fudayl bin 'Ayaad (d. around 180 A.H.) that he would say:

'Follow a good life: Islaam and the Sunnah.'

[From 'ash-Sharh wal-Ibaanah' 174]

14- From Muhammad bin AbdurRahmaan Ibn Abi Dhib (d. 157 A.H.) that he read a Hadeeth and it was said to him: 'Do you take this opinion?' So he hit the man's chest and screamed. And he said: 'I narrate to you from the Messenger of Allaah, - sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam- and you say that should I accept this? Yes I take this, and that is obligatory for me, and upon everyone who hears it. Indeed Allaah chose Muhammad -sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam- from the people and guided them by him, and upon his hands, so it is upon the creation to follow him, the obedient ones or the disobedient ones, there is no exit for the Muslim from this.'

[From: 'Siyaar 'Alaam an-Nubala' 7/142]

15- From ar-Rabeeya' bin Sulayman (d. 270 A.H.) who said: 'A man asked ash-Shaafi'ee about a Hadeeth of the Prophet *-sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam-*, then the man said to him: 'And what is your opinion?'

Imam ash- Shaafi'ee trembled, shuddered and said:

'Which sky will shade me and which earth will carry me if I narrate a Hadeeth from the Messenger of Allaah -sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam- and say an opinion other than that of the Hadeeth.' And he said: 'If you find a Sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah -sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam- then follow it and do not turn to the saying of anyone.'

[From 'Hileyat Al-Awaaliyah' 9/107]

16- From Abu Uthmaan al-Hayree (d. 298 A.H.) that he said:

'Whoever commands the Sunnah upon himself in statements and actions then he speaks with wisdom. And whoever commands al *Hawaa* (following of desires) upon himself then he speaks with Bida'.

Allaah Ta'ala said:

<<If they obey you then they will be guided.>>'

[From: 'Siyaar 'Alaam an-Nubala' 14/64]

17- From Ayoob as-Sahktiaani (d. 131 A.H.) who said:

'Indeed from the happiest of the youth and non-Arabs is whom Allaah guides to a scholar from the people of the Sunnah.'

[From 'Sharh Usool I'tiqaad Ahl-us-Sunnah' al –Laalkaee 2/60]

18- From Ibraheem bin Ishaq bin Ibraheem al-Harbi (d. 285 A.H.) who said:

'It is necessary for a man if he hears anything of the manners of the Prophet - sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam- that he holds onto it.'

[From 'al-Jamia akhlaaq ar-Rawee' 1/142]

19- From al-Hasan (d.110 A.H.) who said:

'Acting upon a little of the Sunnah is better than acting upon a lot of Bida'.'

[From 'Shu'ab al-Eemaan' 7/952]

20- From Sa'eed bin al-Musayib (d. 93 A.H.) who said that he saw a man doing a lot of *Ruku* and *Sujood* [praying a lot of optional prayers] after the *Fajr* prayer, so he prohibited him from it. So the man said: 'O Abu Muhammad, will Allaah punish me for the prayer?'

He answered: 'No, but for opposing the Sunnah.'

[From 'at-Tamheed' 20/104]

21- From AbdurRahman bin Mahdi (d. 198 A.H.) that a group of the Ahl-ul-Bida' were mentioned in front of him and their striving in worship, so he said:

'Allaah will not accept except that which is upon the Deen and the Sunnah, then he recited: << But the Monasticism which they invented for themselves, We did not prescribe for them>> [Hadeed: 27] So Allaah did not accept that from them and he reprimanded them about it.'

[From 'Hileyat Al-Awaaliyah' 9/8]

22- From Jafar bin Ahmed bin Sinan (d. 307 A.H.) who said: 'I heard my father saying:

'There is not a *Mubtadi*' except that he hates the companions of Hadeeth. And if a man innovates a *Bida*' then the sweetness of the Hadeeth is torn out from his heart.'

[From: 'Siyaar 'Alaam an-Nubala' 12/245]

23- From Sufyaan ibn Sa'eed ath-Thawri (d. 161 A.H.) who said:

'Bida' is more beloved to Iblees (Shaytaan) than sinning. One repents from sinning, and one does not repent from Bida'.'

[From 'Sharh Usool I'tiqaad Ahl-us-Sunnah' al –Laalkaee 132]

Narrations of the Salaf part 2

Following the authentic Hadeeth and to leave every statement that opposes it

1. From Yahya bin Saeed al-Qattaan (d. 198 A.H.) who said:

'Do not look at the Hadeeth, but look at the *Isnaad* to see if the *Isnaad* is *saheeh*, otherwise do not be deceived by the Hadeeth if the *Isnaad* is not authentic.'

[From: 'Siyaar 'Alaam an-Nubala' 9/188]

2. From Umar bin AbdulAzeez (d. around 100 A.H.) that he wrote to some people:

'No one can have an opinion against the Sunnah which was established by the Messenger of Allaah *-sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*.'

[From 'Jamia Bayyan al-Ilm' 1/781]

3. From Malik ibn Anas (d. 179 A.H.) who said:

'Every ones statement can be taken or left except for the inmate of this grave - sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam.'

[From: 'Siyaar 'Alaam an-Nubala' 8/93]

4. From Uthmaan who said:

'A man came to Maalik and asked him about an issue. So Maalik said to him: 'The Messenger of *-sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam-* said such and such'. The man said to him 'Do you hold that view?' Imam Malik said:

<< And let those who oppose the Messenger's commandment (i.e. his *Sunnah*) (among the sects) beware, lest some *Fitnah* befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them.>> [Noor: 63]'

[From 'Hileyat Al-Awaaliyah' 6/326]

5. From Maalik ibn Anas (d. 179 A.H.) who said:

'The Messenger of Allaah -*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*- established *Sunnan*, following them is following the Book of Allaah, and it is completion of obedience to Allaah, and strength upon the *Deen* of Allaah. It is not permissible for anyone to change it, nor to look into that which opposes the Sunnah. Whosoever seeks guidance by it, then he is guided.'

[From: 'Siyaar 'Alaam an-Nubala' 8/98]

6. From Yahya bin Yahya at-Tameemi (d. 226 A.H.) who said:

'I heard Abu Yusuf saying: Everything that I have given a verdict about, then indeed I take it back except for that which is in agreement with the Book and the Sunnah.'

[From: 'Siyaar 'Alaam an-Nubala' 8/537]

7. From ar-Rabia' who said: 'I heard Shaafi'ee saying:

'If you find in my book that which opposes the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah - sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam, then take the Sunnah and leave that which I said.'

[From: 'Siyaar 'Alaam an-Nubala' 10/34]

8. From Maalik ibn Anas (d. 179 A.H.) who said:

'Indeed I am a human, I can make mistakes, and I can be correct, so look into my opinion, everything that is in agreement with the Book and the Sunnah, then take it, and everything that does not agree with the Book and the Sunnah then leave it.'

[From 'Jamia' Bayyan al-Ilm' 1/775]

9. From Sufyan who said:

'Learn a lot of Ahadeeth, indeed they are weapons.'

[From 'Hileyat Al-Awaaliyah' 6/362]

10. Abul Hasan Shabwayhi said:

'Whoever wants knowledge about the grave then he should adhere to the *Athaar*, and whoever wants knowledge of bread then he should adhere to opinions.

[From 'Tadreeb ar-Rawee' 2/565]

Narrations of the Salaf part 3

Following the Companions

1 - From Hudhayfah bin al-Yamaan (d. 36 A.H.) – Radhi Allaahu anhu- who said:

'Follow our paths, because verily if you follow us then indeed you have truly advanced a lot. And if you oppose us then indeed you have become extremely misguided.'

[From 'al-Bida' by Ibn Wadha/44]

2 - From Jafar bin 'Amr (d. 207 A.H.) who said:

'We were a group from the children of the Companions of the Prophet -sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam-, we said: Verily our fathers have indeed preceded us with Hijrah and companionship of the Prophet -sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam-, so let us strive in worship in the hope that we will reach their excellence. We came across Tameem ad-Daari (the Companion) as an old man, who could not stand nor sit due to the length of his prayer.'

[From 'Zuhud' by Ahmad /249]

3 – From Salih bin Kaysaan (d. 140 A.H.) who said:

'I met up with Zuhri and we would seek knowledge(together), then we said: We should write the *Sunnan*, we should write that which came from the Prophet - *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*-, then we should write that which came from his Companions as indeed it is the Sunnah. So I said: It is not the Sunnah and we should not write it.

He continues: So Zuhri wrote it, but I did not write it, so he was successful whereas I became lost.'

[From 'Jamia Bayyan al-Ilm' 2/1176]

4 – From Muhammad Ibn Sireen (d. 110 A.H.) who was asked about combining the Umrah into the Hajj, so he said:

'Umar bin Khattab and Uthman bin 'Affaan disliked it, and if it was knowledge then they are more knowledgeable than me, and if it was their opinion then their opinion is better.'

[From 'Jamia Bayyan al-Ilm' 1/773]

5- From Sa'eed bin al-Musayib (d. 93 A.H.)that he was asked about something so he who said:

'The Companions of the Messenger of Allaah -sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam- differed regarding this and I can have no opinion to place along with theirs.'

[From 'Jamia Bayyan al-Ilm' 1/770]

6 – From Mujahid (d. around 105 A.H.)who said:

'The Scholars are the Companions of Muhammad -sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam.'

[From 'Jamia Bayyan al-Ilm' 1/770]

7 – From AbdurRahmaan bin 'Amr al-Aawza'i (d.156 A.H.) who said:

'Knowledge is that which came from the Companions of Muhammad -*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*-, and that which did not come from even one of them, then it is not knowledge.'

[From 'Jamia Bayyan al-Ilm' 1/769]

8 – From Ibrahim an-Nakha'i (d. 96 A.H.) who said:

'If it had reached me concerning them, i.e. the Companions, that they did not exceed in the *Wudu* more than a finger nail, then I would not exceed it.'

[ash-Sharh wal-Ibaanah /161]

Narrations of the Salaf Part 4

The Concern of the Salaf for Athaar

1- Sufyaan ibn Sa'eed ath-Thawri (d. 161 A.H.) -*Rahimullaah*- said:

'Indeed the Deen is with the Athaar¹, indeed the Deen is with the Athaar, indeed the Deen is with the Athaar.'

[Athar saheeh: collected by Ibn AbdulBarr in 'Jama' Bayaan al-Ilm wa Fadleeyhi' no. 1458, al-Bayhaqi in 'al-Madkhal ila as-Sunnan']

2 – From Muhammad Ibn Sireen (d. 110 A.H.) who said:

'As long as a person is with the 'Athaar then he is on the Siraat (correct path).'

[Saheeh; Collected by Darmi no.142, & by al-Laalikaee in 'Sharh Itiqaad Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jamma' (109, 110) & 'ash-Sharh wal-Ibaanah' 161]

3 – Abdullaah bin Mubarak *-Rahimullaah-* said:

'If you are afflicted by al-Qadaa', then stick to the Athaar.'

[Mukhtasir Shama'il Muhammadeeyah no.351]

4 - Ash-Sha'abni -*Rahimullaah*- said:

'Indeed the people before you were destroyed, when there became many paths and they deviated away from the path and left the Athaar, and spoke about the Deen with their opinion so they became misguided and they misguided others.'

[Collected by Ibn AbdulBarr in 'Jama' Bayaan al-Ilm wa Fadleeyhi' no. 2/2026]

5 – Sufyaan ibn Sa'eed ath-Thawri (d. 161 A.H.)-*Rahimullaah*- said:

'If you cannot scratch your head except due to an Athar then do so.'

[Collected in 'al-Jama' al-Akhlaaq ar-Rawee wa Adab as-Saama' p.142]

1

¹ Narrations from the Prophet -sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam- or narrations from the Companions -Radi Allaahu anhum.

² Al-Qadaa' is the perfectly precise execution and accomplishment of all things predestined to occur exactly in accordance with Allaah's previous knowledge, Writing and Will.

6 – Malik bin Anas (d. 179 A.H.) *-Rahimullaah-* said:

'There is not a people amongst whom the Athaar become diminished except that following desires increases. And if the scholars diminish then futility appears amongst the people.'

[Collected by al-Khateeb in 'al-Faqeeh al-Muttafaqih' 1/383/390 with an authentic chain]

7 – Shurayh (d. 78 A.H.) - Rahimullaah - said:

'Indeed the Sunnah precedes your analogy (Qiyaas), so follow and do not innovate, indeed you will not become misguided as long as you adhere to the Athaar.'

[Isnaad Saheeh: Collected by Abu Na'eem in 'al-Hileeyah' (8/165)]

8 – From Salmah bin Shabeeb that he said he heard Ahmad bin Hanbal - *Rahimullaah*- (d. 241 A.H.) saying:

'The opinion of al-Awaza'ee, the opinion of Malik, the opinion of Sufyaan are all opinions, however the hujjah (proof) is in the Athaar.'

[Collected by Ibn AbdulBarr in 'Jamia Bayaan al-Ilm wa Fadleeyhi' 2/2107]

9 – al-Hafidh ad-Dhahabi (d.748) - Rahimullaah - said:

'Indeed the scholars of the people of Athaar and Fiqh are distinguished in knowledge with precision, distinction and understanding.'

[Seerah 'Alaam 10/547]

10 – Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah (d.728) - Rahimullaah-said:

'Then from the way of the Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jamma': is following the Athaar (narrations) of the Messenger of Allaah *–sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam-* inwardly and outwardly, and following the path of the foremost of the Muslims from the Muhajiroon and Ansaar, and following the Waseeyah (bequest) of the Messenger of Allaah *–sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam-* whereby he said: 'so you must adhere to my Sunnah and to the Sunnah of the rightly-guided Khulafah – cling to them with your molar teeth. Beware of newly invented matters, for every invented matter is an innovation and every innovation is a going astray.'

['Sharh Aqeedah al-Wasiteeyah' p. 255]

11 – Imam Barbahari said:

'Adhere to the Aathaar (narrations) and the Ahl-ul-Athar (people of narrations) sit with them and from them knowledge is acquired.'

[Sharh as-Sunnah al-Barbahari p.111]

Narrations of the Salaf Part 5

Following the Aathaar

1 – Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah (d.728) *-Rahimullaah-* said:

'What is known by necessity for the one who reflects upon the Book and the Sunnah and what the Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jammah agree upon from all the different sects: is that the best of the generations from this Ummah in its actions, statements, beliefs and in all other good virtues are: 'the first generation then those who came after them, then those after them', as is established from the Prophet *–sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam-* from many different narrations. And that the first three generations are better than those who came after them in every single virtue: in knowledge, action, Eemaan, intellect, Deen and clarity, worship and that they are foremost in clarifying every problem, and this is not rejected except by the one who is obstinate to that which is known from the Deen of Islaam by necessity, and Allaah has misguided him away from knowledge.'

[Fatawa 4/157]

2 – Muhammad bin al-Hussain said: 'It reached me that some of the companions of Abu Alee al-Jawzajani asked him: 'What is the path of Allaah?'

He said:

'The most correct way, most prospers and most distant from doubt is following the Book and the Sunnah, in statements, actions, in belief and intention because Allaah Ta'ala said:

<< If you obey him, you shall be on the right guidance >> [Noor: 54]

He was asked: 'What is the path to following the Sunnah?'

He answered:

'Keeping away from Bida' and following that which the first generations were gathered upon, from the scholars of Islaam and its people, and also keeping away from the gatherings of the people of Philosophy, rhetoric and their people. Adhering to the path of following, and the example, and that is what the Prophet –*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*- ordered with the saying of Allaah:

<< Then, We have inspired you: 'Follow the religion of Ibrahim *Hanifa* (Islaamic Monotheism - to worship none but Allaah) and he was not of the *Mushrikoon* .>> [Nahl: 123]'

[al-Isteeqamah' by Shaykh ul-Islaam p.102]

3 – al-Awaaz'aaee said:

'Knowledge is that what came from the Companions of the Messenger of Allaah – *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*- and that which did not come from them is not knowledge.'

[Jamia' Bayan wal Ilm 1/1067]

4 – Imam Abu Muthaffar Samaani *-Rahimullaah*- said in his book 'al-Inteesar li Ahl-ul-hadeeth' p.79:

'That the Prophet –*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*- said when he was asked about the 'Firqaat an-Najjeeya' (the saved sect): 'What I am upon and my Companions.' Meaning, whoever is upon what the Messenger –*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*- was upon and his Companions. Therefore, it is necessary to know what the Messenger of Allaah –*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*- and his Companions were upon, and there is no way of knowing it except by transmission of narrations, so it is obligatory to return to that.'

['al-Inteesar li Ahl-ul-hadeeth' p.79]

5 – al-Hussain bin Muhammad at-Tayybee *-Rahimullaah-* said:

'Indeed if you say: what is your proof that you are upon the correct path, since every single sect claims that they are upon it rather than others?

I say: This claim and affirmation [of being on the correct path] cannot be done by using deficient suspicion and allegations; rather it occurs by transmitting from brilliant scholars of these skills. And the scholars of the people of hadeeth who gathered the authentic hadeeth concerning the matters of the Messenger of Allaah – *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*-, his circumstances, his actions, and in all his dealings. Likewise the circumstances of the Companions from the Muhajiroon and Ansaar and those who followed them in goodness.

From those collections of hadeeth were the collections of the Imam Muhammad bin Isma'eel al-Bukhari, Muslim bin Hajjaj and others from the well-known trustworthy ones about whom the east and the west are agreed upon the authenticity of what they brought in their books from the matters of the Prophet –*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*-and his Companions.

Then there are those who took it to extract its meanings, and solve its issues. Like the Imam Abu Sulayman al-Khattabi and the Imam, reviver of the Sunnah Abu Muhammad al-Bagawi, and the Imam Muhideen an-Nawwawi – may Allaah reward them on behalf of the Muslims with goodness – and thankful that they made their efforts for the Deen. Then after the transmission of the narration one looks to see who adheres to their guidance, and follows their footsteps, and is rightly guided upon their paths in the principles and branches of the Deen, and Allaah knows best with what is correct.

[Explanation of 'Mishkat al-Masabih']

6 – Imam AbdurRahman as-Sa'adi said:

'Indeed it is necessary upon the slave of Allaah to adhere to and follow to what the Messenger –*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*- came with. It is not allowed to oppose the Messenger –*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*.

Indeed the text of the Messenger –*sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*- is like the text of Allaah, there is no concession for anyone nor any excuse to leave it, and it is not allowed to give precedence to anyone's statement above his statement.'

[Taken from: 'Tayseer al-Kareem ar-Rahman Fee Tafseer Kalam al-Manaan']

All Praise belongs to Allaah, may His peace and blessings be upon our final Prophet Muhammad, his family, his companions and all those who follow his guidance.