

**The People of Ḥadīth Were Propagators and Defenders of  
the Creed and Methodology of Ahl Al-Sunnah**

Al-‘Allāmah Rabī‘ al-Madkhalī

Imām Aḥmad stood in the face of *fitnah* in his era, he remained firm and he endured harm and beating and humiliation to an extent not known except by Allāh (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى), but the good ending was for him, and victory was for the *Sunnah* of the Messenger of Allāh (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). So he is unquestionably the Imām of *Ahl al-Sunnah* and the Imām of those after him. And everyone who diverts from the path of this Imām, as is reported by Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymīyah (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ), ‘That ‘Abd al-Qadir was asked: will there ever be a *Walī* (close ally) of Allāh upon other than the way of Aḥmad? He said: There was never such and will never be such.’ So he is the Imām of *Ahl al-Sunnah*, and from his contemporaries were: ‘Alī Ibn al-Madīnī, Yaḥya Ibn Ma‘īn, Abū Bakr Ibn Abū Shaybah, Zuhayr Ibn Ḥarb and their likes from the scholars of al-Bukhārī and Muslim.

Then others came who carried this banner after them: al-Bukhārī, Abū Ḥātim, Abū Zur‘ah, Imām Muslim, Abū Dāwūd, al-Tirmidhī, al-Nasā‘ī, Ibn Mājah, and those Imāms of Islām who lived in their era. All of these Imāms were *Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jamā‘ah* in *Da‘wah*, recording the *Sunnah*, and refuting the misguided sects as will come. Then their students followed them such as Ibn Khuzaymah and those who lived in his era, and ‘Uthmān Ibn Sa‘īd al-Dārimī and their likes; they carried the banner of the *Sunnah*, protected it and defended it (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ). Then after them al-Dāruquṭnī came and those who lived in his era, then after them came al-Khaṭīb and those who lived in his era. Then after them came ‘Abd al-Ghanī al-Maqdisī, Ibn Qudāmah, and Ḍiyā‘ al-Maqdisī. Then after them came Ibn Taymīyah and his students and peers such as al-Mizzī, Ibn al-Qayyim, al-Dhahabī, Ibn Kathīr and Ibn Rajab. Then there was an interval of time that elapsed, then came the true *Mujadid* (reviver) who revived Islām in respects of religion and establishing a state, Imām Muḥammad Ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhāb may Allāh be pleased with him and may Allāh reward him and his students with good and those who traversed his way.

These individuals O brothers in short and in summary are the *Firqah al-Nājiyah* (Saved Sect), the *Tā‘ifah al-Manṣūrah* (the Aided Group), *Ahl al-Ḥadīth* and the *Ghurabā‘* (the Strangers). Say what you wish regarding them from the praise and tribute they deserve, and what the Book of Allāh proves. And their chiefs in this arena are the companions of the Messenger of Allāh (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)...”<sup>1</sup>

Translated by Anwar Wright

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to *al-Firqah al-Nājiyah Uṣūluhā wa ‘Aqā'iduhā* (p. 23-24) of al-‘Allāmah Rabī‘ al-Madkhalī.