

Do Not Promote Him Until His State Becomes Clear

Q. Is using caution in not promoting those whom it is noticed of them dubious positions and statements, up until his affair becomes clear, is this action considered correct or not?

A. It is not permissible to have suspicious thoughts of *Ahlus Sunnah wa al Jamā'ah* who firmly cling to it and have allegiance to its people, sit with them, and stay far away from the people of desires and innovations. However, it is permissible to have suspicious thoughts of those who come with reasons that warrant this. Such as the one who becomes angry if the people of innovation are mentioned and when they are spoken against and warned from in general. Or you hear him defending them, whether it be their groups or individuals, or there are other evidential matters which concludes that the person is watering down (*mumayyi'*) of the methodology of *Ahl al Sunnah*. So, do not promote him and do not direct anyone to take knowledge from him until it becomes clear to you his goodness, then you can direct the students of knowledge to take knowledge from him. Or it becomes clear to you his allegiance to the people of innovation, even by just promoting them and not rebuking them, then you must be cautious of him and warn from him. And it is true what the poet said:

ومهما تكن عند امرئ من خليقة وإن خالها تخفى على الناس تعلم

“And whatever characteristic a person has – Even if he thinks it will remain hidden from the people, it will become known.”

So the likes of this person and those similar to him, you – O caller – explain to him his error in a crystal clear way, and mention to him the evidences which by them the error becomes distinct from what is correct. Then look to which sect he aligns with and to which group he finds affection with, and with whom he comes and goes with. And know: He who conceals from *Ahl al Sunnah* his innovation, his acquaintances will not be hidden from them.

al Ajwibah al Athariyyah 'An al Masā'il al Manhajiyyah pages 96-97

al 'Allāmah ash Shaykh Zayd ibn Muḥammad al Madkhalī (رحمَهُ اللهُ)

Translated by Anwar Wright