



Bismillaah Al-Hamdulillaah wa salatu wa salaamu 'ala rasulullaah
Amma ba'd

The Importance of Understanding The Deen, by Shaikh Yahya al-Hajooree (hafidhahullah); Understanding The Deen Versus Not Understanding The Deen

All Praise is for Allaah, Lord of all creation, Master of the Day of Judgement, the Possessor of Mercy, and The One Who brings that mercy to others. We praise Allaah as He should be praised. And we thank Allaah as He should be thanked. As comes in the narration: **O Allaah. You are so Glorious that our praises are not able to reach the level of describing you. And we are not able to praise You as You are able to praise Yourself.** And we seek the help of Allaah Tabarak wa Ta'aala.

And we praise Allaah Tabarak wa Ta'aala for allowing us to come to a society such as this, where we do not expect to find people upon the Sunnah, where we do not expect to find people with this type of purity, and their faces beaming with light, and their outward appearance of righteousness. This is a blessing from Allaah Tabarak wa Ta'aala. And indeed, due to the blessing of Allaah Tabarak wa Ta'aala, we were able to come here and meet our brothers whom we truly love for the pleasure of Allaah, and due to His blessing, we were able to sit with them, talk with them, benefit from them and give them some of our benefits, and we were able to solve some of their problems and clear up some of their differences. All this is a blessing that Allaah Tabarak wa Ta'aala has blessed me to do, and all this was a blessing to see Ahlus-Sunnah in a place such as this.

My beloved brothers, we should know that everyone, every Muslim male, woman, child, should have an understanding of - without there being any difference of opinion in this issue - that Allaah did not create the creation except for a great reason, except for a great purpose. He did not create the creation without any wisdom behind it. He did not create the creation without any purpose. Allaah spoke of the great reason for which He created the creation in His saying:

And I (Allaah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone). I seek not any provision from them (i.e. provision for themselves or for My creatures) nor do I ask that they should feed Me (i.e. feed themselves or My creatures). (Adh-Dhariyat, ayat 56-57)

So this is the great purpose for which Allaah Tabarak wa Ta'aala has brought all - this whole existence - into structure for. All that we know, and all that we don't know. All that we see, and all that we don't see. The purpose of this existence is to worship Allaah

Tabarak wa Ta'aala.

We should understand, since this is the case, that mankind has been ordered to do this in Suratul Baqarah: **O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allaah), Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become Al-Muttaqoon. Who has made the earth a resting place for you, and the sky as a canopy, and sent down water (rain) from the sky and brought forth therewith fruits as a provision for you. Then do not set up rivals unto Allaah (in worship) while you know (that He Alone has the right to be worshipped).** (Al-Baqarah, ayat 21-22)

And we should know that everyone in existence comes to Allaah as a slave, whether they want to or not, whether they are pleased with it or not, whether they choose to do so or not, because Allaah Tabarak wa Ta'aala is The Creator, and everything and everyone besides Him is creation [except the Qur`an]. And therefore, everything besides Allaah is a slave to Allaah.

Allaah says in Surat Maryam: **There is none in the heavens and the earth but comes unto the Most Beneficent (Allaah) as a slave. Verily, He knows each one of them, and has counted them a full counting.** (Maryam, ayat 93-94)

So everyone must understand this situation that we come as slaves into this existence. There are those who accept this willingly, so they worship Allaah tabarak wa Ta'aala based upon that. And then there are those - though in reality of their existence, they are slaves of Allaah - they refuse to physically implement it in their lives.

If we understand this point that everyone and everything in existence is a slave of Allaah tabarak wa Ta'aala, so therefore Allaah created us for a great purpose. And knowing this purpose helps us to develop an understanding of our situation and our circumstances in relationship to this world. And that we must know how to worship Allaah tabarak wa Ta'aala, and we must know the method of how to worship Allaah tabarak wa Ta'aala, and we must know its legislation.

The one who does not know this misses a lot of great benefits, and many harms can come to him. I will mention to you those verses from Qur`an that indicate the fact that the individual who has some mistakes in his beliefs ('Aqeedah), or doesn't understand the purpose of his existence, or doubts the purpose of existence, or does not do it properly that they may have made a mistake that does not bring them success.

Allaah says: **Have you not seen those who were told to hold back their hands (from fighting) and establish As-Salaat, and give Zakaat, but when the fighting was ordained for them, behold! A section of them fear men as they fear Allaah or even more. They say: "Our Lord! Why have you ordained for us fighting? Would that you had granted us respite for a short period?" Say: "Short is the enjoyment of this world. The Hereafter is (far) better for him who fears Allaah, and you shall not be dealt with unjustly even equal to the Fatila (a scaly thread in the long slit of a datestone).**

"Wheresoever you may be, death will overtake you even if you are in fortresses built up strong and high!" And if some good reaches them, they say, "This is from Allaah," but if some evil befalls them, they say, "This is from you (O Muhammad)." Say: "All things are from Allaah," so what is wrong with these people that they fail to understand any word? (An-Nisa 4:78)

In this ayah, it shows that these people have an absence of knowledge, an ignorance of why they were created, for when the worship was prescribed on them, they questioned and didn't want to fulfill it. Then they fell into shirk; the first [matter of] shirk they fell into is that when Allaah told them to fight, they feared the people as much as they feared Allaah or even more. So they committed shirk regarding ***Khashya*** (fear of Allaah, tabarak wa Ta'aala). The second [transgression of] shirk they fell into was regarding Qadr (Pre-Decree).

They said what was good that happened to them Allaah created it and what was bad that "*Allaah had not created it. There was another creator for that.*" So Allaah tabarak wa Ta'aala said that all of it is from Allaah. That Allaah decrees everything. And whatever happens to you, happens to you from what your own hands have sent forth. It doesn't mean you created your actions. It means you commit sins which brought about the difficulty that you are going through.

By understanding - having fiqh of - the Deen, we'll know the rights of Allaah, Tabarak wa ta'aala, upon us, and what Allaah [commands] us. When a person has fiqh of the Deen, then he understands the rights of his brothers and sisters upon him. When a person has fiqh of his Deen, he also understands the rights of his mother and father upon him, and his neighbors and relatives, those who are near to him and those who are far from him, and the rights of his self. All this comes about with him having fiqh of his Deen.

So therefore, Allaah, tabarak wa ta'aala, in this regard has placed in the Qur`an verses that explain in detail how you should worship Allaah tabarak wa ta'aala. In this regard, Allaah mentioned several verses.

Allaah said: **Say: "He has power to send torment on you from above or from under your feet, or to cover you with confusion in party strife, and make you to taste the violence of one another." See how variously We explain the Ayaat (proofs, evidences, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.), so that they may understand.** (Al-An'aam, ayah 65)

Allaah wants for us ease. He wants for us to know this Deen. He wants us to understand how we can be connected to Him. How can we worship Him? How we can pray to Him, how we can fear Him, how we can hope in Him, how we can depend upon Him, how we can trust in Him. He wants us to know all of that, and for this He sent this beautiful Qur`an.

Also, it is from the wisdom of Allaah that He never sent a Messenger except that the message could be understood. And this is because Allaah is more merciful to us than we are to ourselves. And Allaah is more merciful to us than we are to the creatures. And Allaah is more merciful to us than our mothers are to us, more than the mother is to the child.

Allaah teaches us how to conduct ourselves with our brothers and our fathers and our mothers, and our sisters, our relatives, and even how to conduct ourselves regarding animals. Allaah explained this totally. Allaah is so merciful that - as comes in an authentic hadeeth - the companions were with the Messenger of Allaah, and they witnessed a woman who was in panic over not seeing her baby, and then after she found him, she held him close to her and she breast-fed him.

And the Messenger said, "Do you think she would throw [her baby] into the fire. The companions said, "No, if she has the power not to throw it (in the fire)." The Prophet then said: **Allaah is more merciful to His slaves than this lady to her son.** [Bukharee]

So out of His mercy, Allaah wants us to understand the Deen. So therefore, Allaah does not send punishment upon a people until He has first established the evidence. So this is why Allaah sends a Prophet with the language of his people, so they understand the message of Allaah, and they don't have any excuse.

Look at the example of Moosa ('alaihi salaam).

Moosa, who had a speech impediment, when he started to give da'wah - calling to Allaah - he made du'aa to Allaah:

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"O my Lord! Open for me my chest (grant me self-confidence, contentment, and boldness).

And ease my task for me.

And make loose the knot (the defect) from my tongue, (i.e. remove the incorrectness from my speech).

That they understand my speech (Ta-Ha, ayat 25-28)

This shows, my brothers, the importance of Fiqh - having the correct understanding of the Deen. If the slave of Allaah has fiqh, then he has been blessed with a great blessing. To have understanding of what Allaah commands him. Understand what his purpose of existence is, and how he or she is to fulfill the responsibility, and carries it out immediately.

And this is why Allaah tabarak wa Ta'aala, many times in the Qur`an, strongly criticized those who are negligent and unaware of this. Those who spend their whole life not thinking about Allaah tabarak wa ta'aala, those who spend their time not praying to Allaah, not worshipping Allaah tabarak wa ta'aala.

Allaah prepared a place in the hellfire to fill the hellfire up with those who disobey Allaah, and are negligent regarding Allaah tabarak wa ta'aala.

Allaah said (what means): **They have hearts wherewith they understand not, they have eyes wherewith they see not, and they have ears wherewith they hear not (the truth). They are like cattle, nay even more astray; those! They are the heedless ones.** (Al-A'raf, ayah 179)

So Allaah...with those who don't know the purpose of their existence, don't have an understanding of how to worship Allaah, that they have hearts physically, but their hearts are not alive because they chose to use their hearts for other than understanding The One Who created the hearts. They have eyes, but they can't see, because they chose to use the eyesight in matters that Allaah made haram. They have ears, but they can't hear because they chose to use it in a manner that Allaah forbade. So when we understand

what Allaah commands us with - when we have fiqh in Deen - we will be about fulfilling the requirements of Allaah upon every part of our body, our heart, our tongue, and our eyesight and our hearing.

Fiqh in Deen, or understanding Deen, is one of the most beautiful things that a person can possess. Knowing the purpose that the Lord has brought the existence for, and knowing how to fulfill the rights that the Lord has commanded them to fulfill is something wonderful for the slave of Allaah. And it is a great blessing from Allaah upon the slave.

Another matter that should be understood is that when you have some knowledge of the Deen of Allaah, and fear of Allaah, you understand that the Promise of Allaah is true. You understand that everything in creation is used to your benefit, if you are truly a slave of Allaah. That Allaah created the heavens and the earth to benefit you, and (intends) ease for you, if you are worshipping Him and you have knowledge of Him.

As Allaah says, your provision is in the heavens.

As Allaah says: **And in the heaven is your provision, and that which you are promised.** (Adh-Dharyat, ayah 22)

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What Allaah revealed is so true and accurate - the very fact of how we are able to speak. The believer has this type of belief. What Allaah says is true. What Allaah promises will be fulfilled - without any doubt, without any hesitation, without any second-guessing. Allaah's words are 100 percent true. And based upon this, it gives the Muslim courage. He becomes courageous. He has the type of courage that no one else walking on earth has.

Allaah says about this that He gives 20 believers the ability to overtake 200 kaafirs, and He gives the ability to 100 believers to overtake 1,000 kufaar, because these believers have an understanding of Allaah. The Tawheed of Allaah, the Power of Allaah, the Majesty of Allaah, the Names and Attributes of Allaah, the Ability of Allaah. So they are ready to face anything, because they know that Allaah is The Ruler, and Allaah is The Owner, and Allaah possesses everything.

Allaah says (what means): **O Prophet (Muhammad)! Urge the believers to fight. If there are twenty steadfast persons amongst you, they will overcome two hundred, and if there be a hundred steadfast persons they will overcome a thousand of those who disbelieve, because they (the disbelievers) are people who do not understand.** (Al-Anfal, ayah 65)

Whereas, those kufaar - those 200 kufaar - are scared and are shaking, and they are in fright, and in stress, because they don't know their Lord. And they don't know from what angle they're going to get attacked, because they don't know who to fear, and who to trust.

And Allaah says about the believers that 100 believers can overcome 1,000 fully-weaponed, fully-armed male kufaar, big as mountains or whatever. But 100 muslims who know their Lord, who fear their Lord, who obey their Lord, for they are the most courageous people on earth. They fear no one but Allaah.

With Fiqh in Deen, the Muslim begins to understand, and acquire certain characteristics. One of them...is that those believers are merciful between themselves and they are hard upon the disbelievers, and they fight in the Path of Allaah. They are merciful between themselves, because they have an understanding that Allaah ordered them to have mercy upon their brothers.

And they are hard upon the kufaar, because Allaah has commanded the Muslims to be hard upon the kufaar and the hypocrites. And to go for Jihaad when they have an understanding what this is, because Allaah has commanded that. This is what understanding Deen brings about.

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Another matter that comes into the mind of the believer is the first part of the ayah:

[Allaah said (what means): **Those who take disbelievers for Auliyah` (protectors or helpers or friends) instead of believers, do they seek honor, power and glory with them? Verily, then to Allaah belongs all honor, power and glory.** (An-Nisa, ayah 139)

And:

...But honor, power and glory belong to Allaah, His Messenger (Muhammad), and to the believers, but the hypocrites know not. (Al-Munafiqun, ayah 8)

Those who want power, those who want to establish themselves, those who want to be respected, those who want to be loved and be esteemed, they must follow what Allaah revealed, and what the Prophet (salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) and his companions (radiallaahu 'anhum) were upon.

Al-'Izza lillaah. The honor and power and glory is with Allaah. The Power is with Allaah! And the 'Izza is for the Messenger (salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam). And the 'Izaa is for the believer. Allaah has refused to give the disbeliever any honor. Allaah has refused to give the disbeliever any honor.

As comes in the hadeeth of 'Abdullaah ibn 'Amr - in the Musnad (of Imam Ahmad), and it is hasan - that the Prophet (salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) stated: **I have been sent with the sword before the establishment of the hour, and my provision has been placed under my spear, and the humiliation has been placed upon the one who goes against my way. And he who is similar to a people becomes one of them.**

Here in this hadeeth, the Prophet (salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said that honor is given to the Muslim. That the Muslim is honored, that Allaah loves the Muslim. That Allaah holds the Muslim in high esteem. He raises the Muslim to a higher level. That Allaah respects the Muslim, and it is a point in the principle of the creation of Allaah that He places humiliation and belittlement for anyone who goes against the Prophet Muhammad (salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam).

The Jaahil (ignoramus) is the one who gives honor to the one whom Allaah dishonors. The Jaahil (ignoramus) is the one who raises up the one whom Allaah has lowered. (Some) coming to America or Britian and say, 'well you know, the Christians are smart and they have good behavior, and their economics, and they are so nice.'

Don't you understand you miskeen (poor one) that this is just a sale or to get ...

from the dunya. That they have no sincerity in this matter. And that once the people realize that the person is a liar, they won't deal with him any more in business transactions. Another fact that you should know is that whatever a kaafir does, he does not do so for the pleasure of Allaah. And that IF he was to do it for the pleasure of Allaah, it still would not be accepted, and he would not be given anything in the hereafter.

As comes in the narration of Anas (radiiallaahu 'anhu) in the sahihain (Bukharee and Muslim) that the Prophet (salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam): **Whatever the kaafir does with sincerity, he will get rewarded in this life for it, and that's it.**

So the disbeliever is dishonored in front of Allaah, humiliated, debased, put down, low! Now, who is it who wants to raise someone that Allaah has put down!? The believer is the one who Allaah loves, the believer is the one who Allaah honors, and the believer is the one who is great in Allaah's sight.

So we must honor those who Allaah honors, and hate those who Allaah hates, and love those who Allaah loves. And put in position those who Allaah (commanded to be) put in position, and remove from position those whom Allaah (commanded to be) removed from these positions.

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It has to be based upon the legislation. We love for Allaah and hate for Allaah. We give for Allaah, we take for Allaah (we withhold for Allaah). This is the Deen of Allaah.

The one who has understanding will know this, and the one who doesn't have understanding will be treating the Muslim like the kufaar.

Allaah said (what means): **Shall We then treat the (submitting) Muslims like the Mujrimoon (criminals, polytheists and disbelievers, etc.)? What is the matter with you? How judge you?** (Al-Qalam, ayat 35-36)

Allaah has told you the honor is with Allaah and His Messenger (salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam). You think that honor is following someone who is disobedient to Allaah? You think that honor is following someone who disrespects Allaah? You think that honor is following someone who doesn't believe in Allaah?

You want to dress like him, you want to walk like him, you want to talk like him. Verily, this is not from the Deen of Allaah. The power is with Allaah, and with His Messenger (salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) and the believers.

There should be a group from every generation that goes and seeks knowledge, and returns to bring it to its people to warn them. Some (scholars) say this is *fard 'ayn* (obligatory on everyone) and some say this is *fard kifaayah* (a communal obligation). But it is understood that it is a must that people go seek knowledge so that those few who go seek knowledge can come back and inform the many who don't know.

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The corruption of the society at large and the world is because of the absence of knowledge and an absence of fiqh (understanding). So when people don't know their Lord, when they don't know their Creator, they don't know their Master, and they don't know His Legislation, they are worse than cattle and they are ignorant. And they cause corruption and pollution and problems upon the earth.

An example of this is Ya`jooj and Ma`jooj (Gog and Magog). They were so foolish - so [corrupt] to such a degree - that there were a people who requested Dhul Qarnain to build a wall between them and Ya`jooj and Ma`jooj (Gog and Magog), because of all the corruption they were causing.

Until, when he reached between two mountains, he found, before (near) them (those two mountains), a people who scarcely understood a word. They said: "O Dhul-Qarnain! Verily! Ya`jooj and Ma`jooj (Gog and Magog) are doing great mischief in the land. Shall we then pay you a tribute in order that you might erect a barrier between us and them?" He said: "That (wealth, authority and power) in which my Lord had established me is better (than your tribute). So help me with strength (of men); I will erect between you and them a barrier. (Al-Kahf, ayat 93-95)

The point of reference from the ayat is that they did not have an understanding. They were doing great mischief in the land; they were killing people... Another issue is that Ya`jooj and Ma`jooj (Gog and Magog) were so ignorant and foolish and (separated from) the scholars, or had no knowledge that they [will harm] 'Eesa (Jesus, 'alayhi salaam) and his followers to such a degree, as comes in a hadeeth in Saheeh Muslim narrated by Nawas bin Sam'an, that near the end of time Ya`jooj and Ma`jooj (Gog and Magog) will come down from the hills, just eating up everything...destroying everything in the path. So 'Eesa (Jesus, 'alayhi salaam) and his followers will go to the mountains to get away from them. Gog and Magog's smell will be so bad that people will flee from them.

So this corruption of the people who don't have knowledge regarding the Deen of Allaah (will reach such an extent) that they will harm 'Eesa ('alayhi salaam), they will harm the earth and they will mistreat and abuse the earth.

Yusuf said to Allaah: If you don't give me knowledge and understanding, O Allaah, and give me sincerity, I will do what they ask me to do. This is referring to the women who requested fornication with Yusuf. He turned away from them based upon evidence, based upon fiqh of the Deen, and sincerity.

Similarly with Prophet Shu'ayb ('alaihi salaam). Shu'ayb ('alaihi salaam) and his people were differing. And he was trying to give them understanding. **They said: "O Shu'aib! We do not understand much of what you say, and we see you a weak (man, it is said that he was a blind man) among us. Were it not for your family, we should certainly have stoned you and you are not powerful against us."** (Hud, ayah 91)

He said to them words like honey.

He said: "O my people! Is then my family of more weight with you than Allaah? And you have cast Him away behind your backs. Verily, my Lord is surrounding all that you do. And O my people! Act according to your ability and way, and I am acting (on my way). You will come to know who it is on whom descends the torment that will cover him with ignominy, and who is a liar! And watch you! Verily, I too am watching with you." (Hud, ayah 93)

This shows the example of those who have understanding versus those who don't have understanding. The ones who have fiqh - even if they are few in number - Allaah will make them honored and powerful and great and courageous. The ones who have no fiqh - even though they are many, like Gog and Magog - they will corrupt the earth, destroy society while even offending the Prophets of Allaah.

Lacking understanding and causing corruption upon the earth is from the characteristics of the hypocrites. They don't have any fiqh regarding the Deen. As a matter of fact, they don't understand that honor and power is for Allaah and His Messenger (salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) and for the believers. They [hypocrites] think that honor is achieved in other ways and manners.

The chief of the hypocrites 'Abdullaah ibn Salool, who would often say, 'When we get back to Madinah, the honorable amongst us would take out the dishonorable.'

Allaah revealed: **They (hypocrites) say: "If we return to Al-Madinah, indeed the more honorable (meaning 'Abdullaah bin Ubai bin Salool, the chief of hypocrites at Al-Madinah) will expel therefrom the weaker (he meant Allaah's Messenger, salallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam)." But honor, power and glory belong to Allaah, His Messenger (Muhammad, salallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam), and to the believers, but the hypocrites know not.** (Al-Munafiqun, ayah 8)...

Source: A Masjidullaah Tape **The Importance of Understanding The Deen, by Shaikh Yahya al-Hajooree**

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