

Path of the Believers



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All praise is for Allah alone, the Lord of all that exists and may the peace and blessings be upon the last of the Prophets and Messengers, our Prophet Muhammad, upon his family and all his Companions. To proceed,

What is Sabeel?

It is a path which allows a person to reach its intended destination.

Who are the Believers?

Believers are the Companions(Sahaba) of the Prophet ﷺ, followers of the Companions(Taba'een), followers of the Tabaeen(atba-Tabaeen) and all those who follow them in perfection until the end of time.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

خَيْرُ النَّاسِ قَرْنِي، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ

The people of my generation are the best, then those who follow them, and then those who follow the latter.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari: 2652)

These three best generations are known as the Pious Predecessors (Salaf us Saliheen).

What is the Path of the Believers?

Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَمَنْ يُشَاقِقِ الرَّسُولَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ وَيَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ سَبِيلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ نُوَلِّهِ مَا تَوَلَّىٰ وَنُصَلِّهِ جَهَنَّمَ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا﴾

And whoever contradicts and opposes the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) after the right path has been shown clearly to him, and follows other than the believers' way. We shall keep him in the path he has chosen, and burn him in Hell - what an evil destination. (Surah An-Nisa: 115)

This verse proves that following the Path of the Believers (Sabeel Al Mumineen) is obligatory.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

وَتَفْتَرِقُ أُمَّتِي عَلَى ثَلَاثٍ وَسَبْعِينَ مِلَّةً، كُلُّهُمْ فِي النَّارِ، إِلَّا مِلَّةً وَاحِدَةً، قَالُوا: وَمَنْ هِيَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ؟ قَالَ: مَا أَنَا عَلَيْهِ وَأَصْحَابِي

And my Ummah will split into seventy-three sects. All of them are in the fire except one sect. They asked: And which is it, O Messenger of Allah ﷺ? He said: What I am upon and my Companions.

(Tirmidhi: 2641 | Allamah Albani classified it as Hasan)

Path of the Believers = Qur'an + Sunnah + Understanding of the Pious Predecessors

What is the path other than the Path of the Believers?

Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَمَنْ يُشَاقِقِ الرَّسُولَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ وَيَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ سَبِيلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ نُوَلِّهِ مَا تَوَلَّىٰ وَنُصَلِّهِ جَهَنَّمَ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا﴾

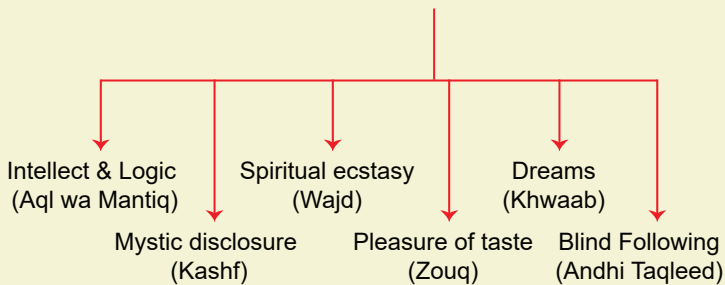
And whoever contradicts and opposes the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) after the right path has been shown clearly to him, and follows other than the believers' way. We shall keep him in the path he has chosen, and burn him in Hell - what an evil destination. (Surah An-Nisa: 115)

And Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ﴾

and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path (Surah Al-Anaam: 153)

Path other than the path of the believers = Qur'an + Hadith + Desires.



Why is it obligatory to follow the Path of the Believers?

1. It is the only way to success. (Proofs already been mentioned)
2. It is the correct and best way to understand the Qur'an and Sunnah.
3. It is the correct and easy path to unite the Muslim nation.

2. It is the correct and best way to understand the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Example - 1

Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿إِنَّ الْحُكْمَ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ﴾

The command (or the judgment) is for none but Allah.
(Surah Yusuf: 40)

And Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

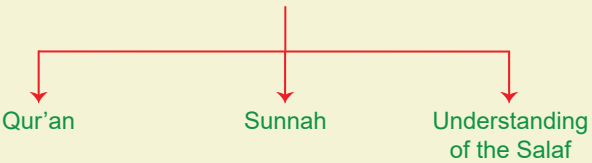
﴿وَمَنْ يَعِصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَتَعَدَّ حُدُودَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ نَارًا خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَلَهُ عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ﴾

And whosoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), and transgresses His limits, He will cast him into the Fire, to abide therein; and he shall have a disgraceful torment. (Surah An-Nisa: 14)

Some of the people of desires said:

In these verses there is a proof that the companions of the Prophet ﷺ disbelieved because they did not judge according to what Allah Almighty has revealed and every ruler is also a disbeliever who judges in the same way and it is obligatory to rebel against them and a Muslim who commits a major sin is also a disbeliever.

Answer



Qur'an:

Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ افْتَرَىٰ إِثْمًا عَظِيمًا﴾

Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship, but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He pleases, and whoever sets up partners with Allah in worship, he has indeed invented a tremendous sin.
(Surah An-Nisa: 48)

Sunnah:

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said that Allah Almighty will command the angels saying:

﴿أَذْهَبُوا، فَمَنْ وَجَدْتُمْ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ مِنْ إِيْمَانٍ فَأَخْرِجُوهُ، فَيُخْرِجُونَ مَنْ

عَرَفُوا- قَالَ أَبُو سَعِيدٍ: فَإِنْ لَمْ تُصَدِّقُونِي فَأَقْرَعُوا: {إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ
وَإِنْ تَكُ حَسَنَةً يُضَاعِفْهَا

Go and take out (of Hell) anyone in whose heart you find faith equal to the weight of an atom (or a smallest ant), and so they will take out all those whom they will recognize. Abu Sa'id said: If you do not believe me then read the Verse: 'Surely! Allah wrongs not even of the weight of an atom (or a smallest ant) but if there is any good (done) He doubles it.' (Sahih Bukhari: 7439)

Understanding of the pious predecessors:

What have the Pious Predecessors said about this matter? Imam Bukhari (رحمه الله) said: And they (meaning: those scholars whom imam Bukhari met many times) never used to declare Ahlul Qibla as disbelievers based on major sins. (Usool I'tiqaad Ahle Sunnah wal Jamaah, Volume 1, Page 136)

The Teacher of Imam Bukhari, Imam Ali bin Almadini (رحمه الله) says: It is not permissible for any person who believes in Allah and in the hereafter that he should spend a single night without an Imam (Ruler), whether he is good or bad, he is Ameer ul mumineen (Leader of the believers)... and if someone goes against and rebels against the ruler and dies in this state then he has died in the state of ignorance. (Usool I'tiqaad Ahle Sunnah wal Jamaa', Volume 1, Page 131)

This is the understanding of the pious predecessors and this is known as the path of the Believers

Example - 2

Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَهُوَ مَعَكُمْ أَيْنَ مَا كُنْتُمْ﴾

And He is with you (by His Knowledge) wherever you may be (Surah Al-Hadid: 04)

And Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ﴾

And We are nearer to him than his jugular vein (by Our Knowledge). (Surah Qaf: 16)

Some of the people of desires said:

From these verses it is proven that Allah is everywhere.

Answer

Qur'an

Sunnah

Understanding
of the Salaf

Qur'an:

Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَى﴾

The Most Beneficent (Allah) Istawa (rose over) the (Mighty) Throne (in a manner that suits His Majesty).

(Surah Taha: 05)

Sunnah:

Mu'awiya bin al-Hakam رضي الله عنه said:

وَكَانَتْ لِي جَارِيَةٌ تَرْعَى عَنِّي إِلَى قَبْلِ أُحُدٍ وَالْجَوَانِيَّةِ، فَاطْلَعْتُ ذَاتَ يَوْمٍ، فَإِذَا الذِّيبُ قَدْ ذَهَبَ بِشَاةٍ مِنْ عَنِّيهَا، وَأَنَا رَجُلٌ مِنْ بَنِي آدَمَ أَسْفُ كَمَا يَأْسِفُونَ، لَكَيْتِي صَكَّكُنْهَا صَكَّةً، فَأَتَيْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، فَعَظَمَ ذَلِكَ عَلَيَّ، قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَفَلَا أُعْتِقُهَا؟ قَالَ: ائْتِنِي بِهَا، فَأَتَيْتُهُ بِهَا، فَقَالَ لَهَا: أَيْنَ اللَّهُ؟ قَالَتْ: فِي السَّمَاءِ، قَالَ: مَنْ أَنَا؟ قَالَتْ: أَنْتَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ، قَالَ: أَعْتِقُهَا، فَأَتَيْتُهَا مُؤَمِّتَةً

I had a maid-servant who tended goats by the side of Uhud and Jawwaniya. One day I happened to pass that way and found that a wolf had carried a goat from her flock. I am after all a man from the posterity of Adam. I felt sorry as they (human beings) feel sorry. So I slapped her. I came to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) and felt (this act of mine) as something grievous. I said: Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), should I not grant her freedom? He (Prophet ﷺ) said: Bring her to me. So I brought her to him. He said to her: Where is Allah? She said: He is in the heaven. He said: Who am I? She said: You are the Messenger of Allah. He said: Grant her freedom, she is a believing woman. (Sahih Muslim: 537)

Understanding of the pious predecessors:

What have the Pious Predecessors said about this matter? Imam ibn abi Izz Al-hanafi said: The saying of the salaf regarding Allah rising above His Throne are many, and from the salaf, Sheikh ul-Islaam Abu Ismaeel Al-ansari said in his book Kitab ul Farooq that Imam Abu Hanifah (رحمه الله) said: Whoever denies that Allah is in the sky is a disbeliever.

(Sharh Aqeedah Tahawiyyah)

Imam Abdullah bin Mubarak (رحمه الله) said: Allah is above the throne, and whoever says that Allah is here as well (pointing towards the earth) then he is Jahmi
(Aqeedatus salaf wa ashabulhadith of Imam Abu Uthman as-sabooni)

Note: Jahmi are those who follow Jham bin Safwaan, and they are not from people of Sunnah.

Imam Malik (رحمه الله) said regarding the saying of Allah:

﴿الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَى﴾

Meaning of Istawa is known, characteristics of it are unknown, it is obligatory to believe upon it, and asking questions about it (i.e about its characteristics) is an innovation. (Sharh Aqeedah Tahawiyah)

This is the understanding of the pious predecessors and this is known as the path of the Believers

Example - 3

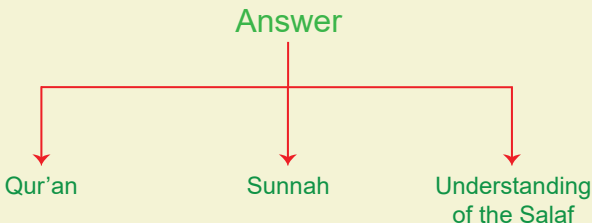
Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَقَالُوا لَا تَدْرِنَ آلِهَتَكُمْ وَلَا تَذَرُنَّ وَدًّا وَلَا سُوَاعًا وَلَا يَغُوثَ وَيَعُوقَ وَنَسْرًا﴾

And they have said: 'You shall not leave your gods, nor shall you leave Wadd, nor Suwa', nor Yaghuth, nor Ya'uq, nor Nasr (names of the idols) (Surah Nuh: 23)

Some of the people of desires said:

In this verse there is a proof that Shirk (associating partners with Allah) means worshiping idols. Invoking the prophets and saints, seeking help from them, giving charity for them and sacrificing for them is not Shirk.



Qur'an:

Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا﴾

Worship Allah and join none with Him in worship (An-Nisa: 36)

An Arabic Principle:

النكرة في سياق النفي تفيد العموم

If a common noun comes as indefinite negation, then this type of construction of the sentence gives the benefit of being a general statement. Meaning nothing should be associated.

Sunnah:

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said :

فَإِنَّ حَقَّ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ أَنْ يَعْبُدُوهُ وَلَا يُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا

Allah's right on His slaves is that they should worship Him alone and should not join partners in worship with Him.

(Sahih Bukhari: 2856)

Understanding of the pious predecessors:

What have the Pious Predecessors said about this matter? Syedna Abdullah bin Abbas (May Allah be pleased with both of them) said regarding Surah Nuh verse 23: Wadd, Suwa, Yaghuth, Ya'uq and Nasr are the names of pious people from the nation of Nooh (alayhis salaam), The people made their statues in their remembrance and long after their death, when knowledge decreased and ignorance spread, people started worshipping them.

This is the understanding of the pious predecessors and this is known as the path of the Believers

3. It is the correct and easy path to unite the Muslim nation

Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا﴾

And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allah (i.e. this Qur'an), and be not divided among yourselves

(Surah Aal-e-Imran: 103)

﴿فَإِنْ آمَنُوا بِمِثْلِ مَا آمَنْتُمْ بِهِ فَقَدْ اهْتَدَوْا وَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّمَا هُمْ فِي شِقَاقِ

﴿فَسَيَكْفِيكَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ﴾

So, if they believe in the like of that which you believe, then they are rightly guided (Surah Al-Baqarah: 137)

﴿وَمَنْ يُشَاقِقِ الرَّسُولَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ وَيَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ سَبِيلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ نُوَلِّهِ

﴿مَا تَوَلَّىٰ وَنُصَلِّهِ جَهَنَّمَ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا﴾

And whoever contradicts and opposes the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) after the right path has been shown clearly to him, and follows other than the believers' way. We shall keep him in the path he has chosen, and burn him in Hell - what an evil destination. (Surah An-Nisa: 115)

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said :
Indeed, whoever among you lives, he will see much difference. Beware of the newly invented matters, for indeed they are astray. Whoever among you sees that, then he must stick to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the rightly guided Khulafa, ' cling to it with the molar teeth.'

(Tirmidhi: 2676 | Allamah Al Albani classified it Saheeh)

And The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said
And my Ummah will split into seventy-three sects. All of them are in the Fire Except one sect. They said: And which is it, O Messenger of Allah? He said: What I am upon and my Companions are upon.

(Tirmidhi: 2641 | Allamah Al Albani classified it Hasan)

It is proven from these verses and ahaadith that disunity will occur in this nation, and being disunited is a sickness and every sickness has its fundamental reasons.

What is the main reason for being disunited and what is its cure?

1: What is the main reason for disunity?

Leaving the rope of Allah.

2: What is the rope of Allah? (Which Allah has mentioned in Surah Ale-Imran verse 103)

Rope of Allah is the revelation and revelation is Qur'an & Sunnah.

3: What does leaving the rope of Allah mean?

It means to leave Qur'an and Sunnah

4: What does it mean to leave the Qur'an & Sunnah?

It means to act against the Qur'an & Sunnah.

5: When does a person act against the Qur'an & Sunnah?

When the Qur'an & Sunnah is misunderstood.

6: When does a person misunderstand the Qur'an & Sunnah?

When one is far away from the correct understanding.

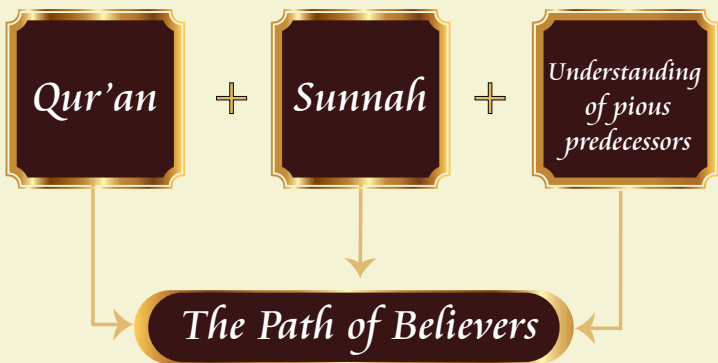
7: How does a person stay away from the correct understanding?

By leaving the path of the Pious Predecessors and introducing new paths to understand Qur'an & Sunnah, for which they do not have any proof. For example: Intellect, Logic, mystic disclosure, spiritual ecstasy, pleasure of taste, dream and blind following etc.

8: On what basis new paths are introduced?

On the basis of self-desires.

What is the only way to unite the nation & understand the Qur'an and Sunnah?



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