

Ten points of advice for the newly practicing

– Shaykh ‘Alee al Haddaadee

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

As Salaamu ‘Alaykum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatahu, to proceed:

Congratulations on being granted the great success of repenting to Allaah and returning to Him, for indeed this is truly a great blessing, a great gift that few are given, and a lot are prohibited from. I ask Allaah that He allows all of us return to Him in repentance and dependence.

My noble brother, the well known contemporary term ‘Iltizaam’ [adherence to/ practice of the Sunnah] is not known from the Book of Allaah, the Sunnah, or the statements of the Salaf. This is why instead of using it, I will use the legislated term [i.e. guidance] which is more suitable as well as having a better meaning.

Indeed being guided to uprightness with its understanding today – that a person who was deficient in the rights of his Lord, a person who was neglectful of a lot of obligations, one who used to practice a lot of evil and sinning; such as shaving his beard, allowing his garments to drop lower than his ankles, smoking, listening to music, forsaking the prayer in congregation and maybe even forsaking prayers altogether or just some prayers. So when he ‘Ilatazam’ – adheres/practices, he shortens his garments, grows his beard, prays in congregation and prays the Sunnah prayers and accompanies those who are on this same path.

There is no doubt that being granted success to follow the prophetic guidance in clothing and conduct and preserving the prayer are from the greatest of blessings from our Lord to His servant, however;

There are some affairs of tremendous importance that a lot of people are heedless of, this is why I will take this opportunity to draw your attention to them, so that your uprightness is upon what your Lord loves and is pleased with.

1. Uprightness must be upon what Allaah ordered His servants as He the Elevated said:

[So be upright as you were ordered]

Based upon this, you must have knowledge of what Allaah and His Messenger – (صلى الله عليه وسلم)¹ – ordered you with so that you may be steadfast upon that. This means that you must study your religion and gain knowledge its rulings: “Whoever Allaah wants good for, He would grant him knowledge and understanding of His religion.”

2. The greatest affair that Allaah has obligated upon you is monotheism, that you single him out with all forms of worship, such as Du‘aa, Isti‘aadha, Istighaathah, Rajaa, Tawakkul,

¹ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

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Dhabh, Nadhr and other forms of worship whether they are physical or spiritual, whether they are actions or speech.

Monotheism has a lot of branches, so it is imperative that you give it a lot of attention by learning and understanding it. One of the best books authored concerning Monotheism is Kitaab at Tawheed by Shaykhul Islaam Muhammad ibn ‘Abdul Wahhaab, (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)².

The greatest thing that Allaah has prohibited you from, is associating partners with Him, by presenting some worship to other than Him. Whoever presents worship to other than Allaah, whether it be a king, messenger or others lesser than them, this person would be removed from the fold of Islaam, and whoever meets his Lord in such a state would have met Him with the greatest of sins that would never be forgiven, and from Allaah alone do we seek refuge.

[Indeed Allaah does not forgive that partners are be set up with Him (in worship), but He forgives other than that (anything else) to whom He wills.]³

3. Know that Shirk continues to be wide spread in Muslim countries due to the lack of caution against it, and the great numbers of callers towards it, and those who spread it, and with Allaah is assistance sought.
4. Remember that this Ummah will split into seventy three sects, all in the Hell fire except one, as was authentically reported from the Prophet – (صلى الله عليه وسلم) -. So be keen on being with the saved sect, and know that all sects claim to be the saved one, and all of them use verses from the Qur’aan as evidence for their group. But the true saved sect is the one that adheres to the Qur’aan, the Sunnah and the methodology of the Sahaabah (رضي الله عنهم)⁴. This is because the Prophet – (صلى الله عليه وسلم) – described the saved sect as **“those who are upon what I and my companions are upon.”** So this is the gauge that would clear up the anguish of confusion and uncertainty for you with regards to the different opposing views.
5. You will hear some practicing youth criticising the rulers, busying themselves with their faults and turning people against them, especially the Saudi rulers – may Allaah grant them success. Know that this is evil, and leads to detrimental consequences. There are a lot of statements from the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), the sayings of the Sahaabah, the righteous predecessors and Rabaanee scholars about this; amongst them, the noble Shaykh ‘Abdul ‘Azeez ibn baaz and Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al ‘Uthaymeen and many others.
6. You will hear some practicing youth criticising the major scholars, claiming that they are:
 - scholars of the rulers,
 - or scholars who remain silent concerning the truth to appease others,
 - or scholars who do not speak and stand firm by the truth,
 - or scholars who do not speak about major contemporary affairs that are important to the Ummah...and other such descriptions that repel people from them.

Know that this is from the greatest of evil; the scholars are not to be mentioned except with goodness. Criticising them only serves to repel people from them and the knowledge that they possess, and a lot of evil would take place as a result. The Ummah cannot do without the scholars concerning knowledge of their religion, if the scholars are disliked, then the ignorant would lead and cause great mischief.

² (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

³ Soorah an-Nisaa [4:48]

⁴ (رضي الله عنهم) (rad iyallahu ‘anhum) May Allaah be pleased with them

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7. [Deliberately omitted until feedback is received from the Shaykh - (حفظه الله)⁵.]
8. You will find a lot of audio tapes out there; some about storytelling, others with Nasheed that are called ‘Islaamic Nasheed’, other audios that speak about interpreting dreams. You will find video files with ‘Islaamic plays’ and ‘Islaamic films/movies’. All of this is not from the guidance of the Salaf as Saalih; rather they rebuked and criticised this severely. They permitted the listening of poems that are free of prohibitions – which are plentiful (i.e. permissible poems). Amongst the prohibitions is that they do not have a tune like that of songs.
9. There are many ‘Da’wah groups/organizations’ out there, amongst them are Soofee groups that propagate ignorance amongst the Muslims. They would take an ignorant person and tour the globe with him for days, weeks or months calling to Allaah as they claim, while this person knows nothing of the religion.

You will find other incendiary political groups that are the inheritors of the Khawaarij and their followers. They cultivate the youth secretly; in private gatherings in the countryside and other places. Each group has a leader and cultivator who teaches them and gives them commands and prohibitions. He rewards those who obey him and punishes those who disobey. These groups isolate their members from their families and from their society, especially while they are young, during their adolescent years, so that they may mould them and direct them in whichever way they want. Beware of these groups and be upright upon your religion, be obedient to your parents and family, establish your prayers, worship your Lord, seek knowledge, be obedient to your rulers in good. Beware of every shady gathering that is shrouded in secrecy, and outings that are not accepted by common sense.

10. I advise you to give your attention to the major scholars of this Ummah, such as;

The Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia,
Al ‘Allaamah ‘Abdullaah al Ghudayaan,
Al ‘Allaamah Saaleh al Luhaydaan,
Al ‘Allaamah Saaleh ibn Fawzaan al Fawzaan
and their likes from the scholars of Ahlus Sunnah.

Beware of ideological tapes that are propagated by a lot of those who are known as ‘the Du’aat of revival’, those who increasingly delve into political and ideological affairs with the claim of ‘Fiqh al Waaqee’. There is barely any knowledge in them while they consist of a great deal of harm.

In conclusion:

I ask Allaah to grant both me and you success and steadfastness, guidance to the path of truth and correctness, just as I ask Him to grant the rulers of the Muslims success in achieving what He loves and is pleased with, that He grants ‘izz to Islaam and the Muslims, and to abase polytheism and polytheists, that He grants victory to the Sunnah and raises its light, and that He quenches innovation, its people and the callers to it, indeed He hears all and responds to all.

Was Salaamu ‘Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatahu.

⁵ (حفظه الله) (hafidhahullaah) may Allaah preserve him