

Why did 'Alee burn the followers of Ibn Saba'?

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Shaykh 'Abdul-'Azeez bin 'Abdullah bin Baaz [may Allaah have mercy upon him]

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Questioner: "'Alee [(rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him] burned the followers of 'Abdullah ibn Saba'..."

Shaykh 'Abdul-'Azeez bin 'Abdullah bin Baaz [may Allaah have mercy upon him]: "That was wrong, and the companions criticised him for that. Ibn 'Abbaas [(rad iyallaahu 'anhumaa) May Allaah be pleased with them both] said: "I wish he had killed them with the sword."

This was Ijtihad¹ from him ('Alee [(rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him]) due to his severe anger² for the sake of Allaah. Thereupon he burned them.

Perhaps the affair was unknown to him; it didn't reach him. Perhaps the clear prohibition of that act didn't reach him. That is the best explanation with regards to this matter. That the prohibition didn't reach him ([[rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him])."

السائل: علي بن أبي طالب رضي الله عنه حرق السبئية

الجواب: هذا غلط. إنتقده الصحابة في هذا. قال بن عباس رضي الله عنهما أحب أن يكون قتلهم بالسيف. هذا إجتهد منه من شدة غضبه لله فأحرقهم. ولعل خفي عليه ما بلغه أو لعل ما بلغه النهي الثابت. هذا أحسن ما يحمل عليه. أنه رضي الله عنه ما بلغه النهي

¹ Juristic effort to infer expert legal rulings.

² Ibn Saba's followers declared 'Alee to be Allaah!