

AN ADVICE TO THE MUSLIMS OF CARDIFF: BEWARE OF 'OMAR BAKRI, HIS CULT AND THEIR LESSONS AT CHANNEL VIEW

The Importance of Advice

Nooh (may peace and blessings be upon him) said to his people, as Allaah informs us in His Book:

"I convey unto you the Messages of my Lord and give you sincere advice. And I know from Allāh what you know not." (al-A'raaf: 62)

The Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "The Religion is Naseehah (sincerity and sincere advice)." He said, "To whom?" He said, "To Allaah, His Book, His Messenger, and to the leaders of the Muslims and the general people."¹

Noble brothers and sisters, we would like to bring to your attention the fact that in the last few months a handful of youth well known for their lack of knowledge by most in South Wales have been inviting supporters of 'Omar Bakri Muhammad to deliver Islamic lectures. Alhamdu lillaah, most of us are familiar with the antics and false doctrine propagated by this group.

However, there are a few in Cardiff who may be unfamiliar with this group especially as they try to camouflage their identity by constantly renaming themselves.² Those who are organising these events are even deliberately omitting the names of the speakers

¹ Reported by Muslim (no. 55).

² They try to conceal the true nature of their organisation with names that they believe will give them credibility like: 1. Al-Muhajiroun (The Emigrants). 2. The Saved Sect. 3. Al-Ghurabaa (The Strangers). 4. Ahl us Sunnah wal Jamaa'ah (The People of Sunnah and the Community). 5. Salafis (Adherents to way of the Three praiseworthy Generations). However, there is a famous principle that they have overlooked: names alone do not change the reality. If you call wine water it does not make it permissible to drink; and these names do not change the fact that this group is misguided and astray.

from some fliers as they are aware that the Muslims will flee from any seminar involving individuals like this.

If they have nothing to hide, then they would be frank and clear with their audience and inform them of the full names and credentials of those whom they are inviting to supposedly teach the religion.

The Imam, Muhammed Ibn Sireen (d. 110)³, a famous student of the Prophet's companions, said: "This knowledge is religion, so look thoroughly at whomever you take your religion from."⁴

Unfortunately, it is impossible for us to implement this wonderful advice as they conceal their true identities.

THIS CULT BLINDLY FOLLOWS 'OMAR BAKRI AND CLAIMS THAT HE IS A SCHOLAR.

For those who have not heard of this man before then his name is 'Omar Bakri Muhammed Fustuk. He was one of the figureheads of *Hizb ut-Tabreeer* in the 90's before he formed a splinter group known as al-Muhajiroun. Where did Bakri study Islam? The author of the book *Hizb at-Tahreer*, exposing the deceit of Bakri, said: "Omar Bakri claimed in his book *Essential Fiqh*⁵ that he graduated from multiple universities the main ones being Umm al-Quraa in Makkah and Madinah University..."

"It is not as if his past is unknown, whilst he was residing in Saudi Arabia he never sought knowledge from any of its universities, rather he worked for a company called Eastern Electric."⁶

'Omar Bakri was challenged in 1997 in the book entitled *Hizb ut-Tabreeer* to produce his certificates from Madinah and Umm al-Quraa if he is truthful; and till this day he has not been able. He now claims that he has studied at other places but makes no mention of Umm al-Quraa and Madinah. How can anyone rely upon a person that lies like this let alone take him seriously especially when 'there was no trait more despicable to the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) than lying'⁷

³ He narrated from 'Aishah, the mother of the believers, Ibn 'Umar, Ibn 'Abbas, Abu Hurayrah and many others (may Allaah be pleased with all of them). *Tahdheeb at-Tadheeb* (3/585).

⁴ Introduction to Saheeh Muslim.

⁵ Bakri made this claim in his book *Essential Fiqh*, printed in 1996 by the Islamic Book Company, London.

⁶ Refer to the book *Hizb at-Tahreer* (p. 63-66) by Abdur Rahman ad-Dimishqiyyah.

⁷ Sahih (authentic). See Saheehah (no. 2052)

Where are 'Omar Bakri's recommendations from the scholars? Where are his Ijaazaat (credentials to teach and give fatwa)?

This religion has established guidelines to allow us to recognise true scholars. The Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said:

"Indeed the Scholars are the inheritors of the Prophets, and indeed the Prophets do not leave behind them the *deenaar* nor the *dirham* (wealth) as inheritance. They leave behind only knowledge. So whosoever acquires it, acquires a huge fortune."⁸

The Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) taught and educated his noble companions and entrusted them with this inheritance, the companions taught and educated their successors and the successors educated and taught the following generation. So this is a chain that is unbroken which serves to protect the Muslims from liars and impostors who attempt to deceive the masses into believing that they are a scholar and a mufti whereas this is not the case.

Imam Malik said: **"I did not issue a verdict (fatwa) until seventy of the people of knowledge bore witness that I was worthy to do so." He said: "A person should not believe that they are worthy of anything until they ask those more knowledgeable than themselves."⁹**

Which scholar advises us to take knowledge from this man?

The Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) foretold of a time when the ignorant will feign knowledge so we should not be surprised.

From Abu Hurayrah who said that Allaah's Messenger (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said:

"There will come upon the people years of deceit in which the liar will be believed, the truthful disbelieved, the treacherous will be trusted and the trustworthy held to be treacherous; and the despicable (ar-Ruwaybidah) will speak out. It was said: Who are the despicable ones? He said: The lowly, ignoble man

⁸ Sahih. Reported by Abu Dawud (no. 3641) and others.

⁹ Reported by Al-Khateeb, in *al-Faqeeh wal-Mutafaqqih* (1041-1042)

who speaks out about the public affairs."¹⁰

'Omar Bakri and his cult fit this description, as they normally are the first candidates chosen by the media when they want to demonize Islam and the Muslims. These people represent Islam no more than the BNP represents white Britain, so why are they given so much attention? The answer is because they will always utter some falsehood which more than likely will give Muslims a bad name.

The Imaam, Muhammed Ibn Sireen (d. 110) said: "They would not ask about the isnad (chain of narration). However, when the fitnah (confusion and tribulations) appeared, they said: Name for us your men. So the narrations of the Ahl us Sunnah (people upon the Sunnah) would be accepted, while those of the Ahl al-Bid 'ah (people upon Innovation) would be rejected."¹¹

'OMAR BAKRI HAS YET TO REPENT PUBLICLY FOR HIS DENIAL OF THE PUNISHMENT OF THE GRAVE:

The errors of 'Omar Bakri are too numerous to be elaborated upon in this small leaflet. If the reader wants examples where this self-proclaimed scholar makes basic mistakes when reciting the Quran, blatantly invents ahadeeth, issues bizarre rulings and totally contradicts some of the fundamental beliefs of Islam then refer to the book *Hizb ut Tahreer*.

It suffices us here to point out one of his many gross deviations which itself proves that this man is not a reliable source in matters of the religion. Bakri openly promoted and taught for years the corrupt belief: We trust in the punishment of the grave but we do not believe in it. This is recorded on video so Bakri or his followers cannot deny this.¹² The smallest student of knowledge knows that Ahl us Sunnah have unanimously agreed that it is obligatory to believe in the punishment of the grave as established by the texts of the Quraan and the Sunnah. The scholars of the past even documented this issue in their books to allow the commoner to differentiate between Ahl us Sunnah and the deviant sects who denied this.

We are still waiting for Bakri to publicly recant from this and his other deviations whether in writing or on tape and it is not sufficient for him to do this in private or whisper it in the ears of his followers.

Imam Ibn al-Qayyim said:

"It is a part of the repentance of the one who used to invite (the people) to innovation to clarify that what he called them to was (in reality) falsehood and innovation."¹³

Ibn al-Qayyim went on to quote the following verse as a proof:

"Verily, those who conceal the clear proofs, evidences and the guidance, which We have sent down, after We have made it clear for the people in the Book, they are the ones cursed by Allaah and cursed by the cursers. Except those who repent and do righteous deeds, and openly declare (the truth which they concealed). These, I will accept their repentance. And I am the One Who accepts repentance, the Most Merciful." (al-Baqarah: 159-160)

ANJEM CHOUDRY THE SELF APPOINTED JUDGE OF THE SHAREE'AH COURT:

By Allaah, we fear for Anjem in light of the hadeeth where the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said:

"There are three types of judges. Two of them are in the hellfire and one in paradise. The man who issues a ruling whilst being ignorant is in the hellfire; the man who knows the truth but issues a verdict in opposition to it is in the hellfire; and the man who knows the truth and issues a verdict in accordance to it is in paradise."¹⁴

Ibn al-Qayyim said:

"Whoever gives a fatwa and is not qualified to do so is a sinful liar...Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah would severely criticize this type of people (those who issue fataawa without knowledge). On one occasion I heard him say: 'One of these individuals said to me, 'Have you been appointed as an overseer for the issuing of verdicts?' So I responded: 'Bakers and cooks have supervisors, and there is no overseer for fatwa!'"¹⁵

Before a person can be considered a judge, like any important role or responsibility, certain criteria have to be met. Imam ash-Shawkaani mentioned the prerequisites that have to be fulfilled before someone can issue verdicts:

Firstly: They have to be familiar with the texts of the Book and the Sunnah. Secondly: They have to be aware of issues where there is a scholarly consensus. Thirdly: They have to know the Arabic language to allow them to explain the Book and the Sunnah. Fourthly: They have to be well versed in the fundamental principles of fiqh. Fifthly: They have to be familiar with those texts that are abrogating and those that are abrogated.¹⁶

Anjem does not fulfil any of the above.

We advise our beloved brothers and sisters to continue in their quest for knowledge but to be careful where they take it from, as the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said:

"From the signs of the hour is that people will seek knowledge from the Asaaghir (those who are ignorant and astray)."

Therefore, if we are ever invited to an Islamic lecture or talk we should ask: who is the speaker and with which Shaykh has he studied? None of us would dare to visit an under-qualified doctor and we all agree that our religion is more precious than our health.

If you are confused, then supplicate to Allaah with the invocation that the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) would say during the night prayer:

"O Allah, Lord of Jibreel, Mika'eel, Israfeel, Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, Knower of the unseen and what is apparent, You will judge among your slaves about that which they differ. Guide me to the truth in matters of difference, with Your Permission; You guide whomever You will, to the straight path."¹⁷

Coming Next Insha Allaah: The deviations of al-Muhajiroun (may Allaah guide them to the truth).

Written by your brothers at Masjid Nur, Butetown. 21/3/09

¹⁰ Hasan (Sound). Reported by Ahmed (no. 7899) and others.

¹¹ Introduction to Saheeh Muslim.

¹² The book *Hizb at-Tahreer* provides numerous references where Bakri voiced this falsehood.

¹³ Uddat as-Saabireen (p. 108).

¹⁴ Sahih. Reported by Abu Dawud (no. 3573) and others.

¹⁵ P'lamm al-Muwaqqi'een (4/218).

¹⁶ Irshaad al-Fuhool (2/1027-1034).

¹⁷ Reported by Muslim (no. 770).