

Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab and not making *takfeer* because of the excuse of ignorance

By Shaykh Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab

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Taken from *Manhaj Al-Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdil-Wahhaab Fee Mas'alatit-takfeer* (The methodology of Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab in the issue of *takfeer*)¹ Pp. 105-107 of Ahmad Bin Jazzaa' Bin Muhammad Ar-Radaymaan .²

In the Name of Allah, The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy -

¹ Translators note: Dar Assunnah, Riyaadh, 1st Edition, 1428/2007

² Translators note: This excellent book has been introduced by the noble Sheikh, Saaleh Bin Fawzaan Al-Fawzaan (may Allah preserve him), who says:

'All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds and may the peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and all his companions.

To proceed:

So indeed, the Imaam, the Sheikh, Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab, may Allah have mercy on him, is considered as being from the major revivers of this religion, especially in the belief of Tawheed which is the foundation of the religion. And there has already been written about this Imaam and his call many works, and from the latest and most important of them is the book: 'The methodology of Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab in the issue of takfeer' of the noble Sheikh, Ahmed Bin Jazzaa' Bin Muhammad Ar-Radaymaan.

So, it is a book which is excellent in its subject, he clarifies in it the falseness of what this Imaam has been accused of from making takfeer of the Muslims. And he, may Allah have mercy on him, did not make takfeer except the one Allah and His Messenger made takfeer of, from amongst those who worship (the one) other than Allah and call upon him in times of hardship and distress from the grave worshippers. And the book - and to Allah belongs the praise - is abundant in the refutation of this false doubt and it is worthy of being spread and given attention.

May Allah give everyone success in attaining beneficial knowledge and righteous action.

*Written by Saaleh Bin Fawzaan Al-Fawzaan
Member of the committee of major scholars
On 4/4/1427 Hijrah.*

The Methodology of Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab in the issue of making an excuse due to ignorance:

Many from amongst the people have become engrossed in the issue of making an excuse due to ignorance. So, from the people, there is the one who does not make an excuse due to ignorance in any respect. And from them, is the one who does make ignorance an excuse in any respect.

And that which is authentic, is that the issue of making an excuse due to ignorance is surrounded by two issues:

The first issue: The type of the issue of ignorance: Is it from the fundamental principles which are known from the religion by necessity or not? And are the proofs for the issue wide spread and clear in meaning?

The second issue: The type of ignorant person: Is he new to Islam, or did he grow up in the desert, and is he negligent in the seeking of knowledge or not? And also (that which needs to be considered) are the mental faculties of the person in terms of intelligence and stupidity, the time period, the place and the surrounding conditions.

And in order to verify the methodology of Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab in this issue, it is imperative to examine what he wrote about this issue.

...His clear wordings about making an excuse due to ignorance -

1. He, may Allah have mercy on him said:

*"And if we didn't make takfeer of the one who worshipped the idol which is on the grave of 'Abdul-Qadir and the idol which is on the grave of Ahmad Al-Badawee and the likes of them, because of their ignorance and the absence of the one who warns them (against this), then how can we make takfeer of the one who doesn't make Shirk with Allah, (simply because) if he didn't emigrate to us or make takfeer or fight (alongside us)?"*³

2. And he, may Allah have mercy on him, said:

*"And as for what the enemies have mentioned about me that I make takfeer based upon conjecture or friendship, or that I make takfeer of the ignorant one upon whom the proof hasn't been established, then this is a great slander."*⁴

3. And he also said:

³ *Muallafaat Ash-Sheikh Al-Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab* [The works of the Sheikh, the Imaam, Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab], Part 3, *fataawa* and issues, page 11.

⁴ *Muallafaat Ash-Sheikh Al-Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab* [The works of the Sheikh, the Imaam, Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab], Part 5, personal letters, page 25.

"And rather, we make takfeer of the one who makes Shirk with Allah in His divinity (Ilaaheeyah), after we have clarified for him the proof of the falseness of Shirk." ⁵

4. And he also said:

"However, we make takfeer upon the one who agrees with the religion of Allah and His Messenger and then opposes it and prevents the people from it. And likewise, whosoever worshipped the idols after he knew that they were the religion of the polytheists and he beautifies it for the people, then this is the one I make takfeer of. And every scholar upon the face of the earth makes takfeer of these (people), except a stubborn man or an ignorant one. And Allah knows best."

5. And he also said:

"And as for takfeer, then I make takfeer upon the one who knew the religion of the Messenger and then after he knew it, he abused it, prohibited the people from it and opposed the one who practised it. This is the one I make takfeer of. And the majority of the Ummah, and the praise is due to Allah, are not like that." ⁶

6. And he, may Allah have mercy on him, said, clarifying that the ones he made takfeer of were not ignorant of *Tawheed*, otherwise there would be an excuse for them:

"...And we say secondly: If they (the ones who have had takfeer pronounced on them) have agreed for more than twenty years, night and day, in secret and openly, that the Tawheed which this man (i.e. Ibn 'Abdul-Wahhaab) manifests is the religion of Allah and His Messenger-yet the people do not obey us - and that, that which he condemns is Shirk, and he is truthful in his condemnation..." ⁷

7. And he, may Allah have mercy on him, said:

"Whomsoever has the proof established upon him and he is suited to knowing it, takfeer is made upon him for worshipping the graves. And as for the one who inclines towards the earth and follows his desire, then I do not know what his condition is." ⁸

8. And he also said:

⁵ Ibid, page 60.

⁶ Ibid, page 38.

⁷ Ibid, page 38.

⁸ *Muallafaat Ash-Sheikh Al-Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab* [The works of the Sheikh, the Imaam, Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab], Part 3, *fataawa* and issues, page 37

"...Indeed, disobeying the Messenger with respect to Shirk and the worship of the idols after the arrival of knowledge, is clear disbelief of the natural disposition and the (branches of Islamic) knowledge which are necessary (to know)." ⁹

9. So, these wordings which I have mentioned, and other than them which have come with their meaning and I have not mentioned them, show that the Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab did not make *takfeer* upon the individual except after the establishment of proof. As for the one upon whom the proof had not been established, then he is excused with him due to ignorance.

⁹ *Muallafaat Ash-Sheikh Al-Imaam Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab* [The works of the Sheikh, the Imaam, Muhammad Bin 'Abdul-Wahhaab], Part 1, 'Aqeedah, *Mufeed-ul-Mustafeed*, page 307