

History is a great weapon against the liars

❖ Sufyan at-Thawri may Allah have mercy upon him said:

لَمَّا اسْتَعْمَلَ الرُّوَاةَ الكَذِبَ اسْتَعْمَلْنَا لَهُمُ التَّارِيخَ!

“When the narrators utilized lying, we used history against them.”

أخرجه ابنُ عدي في «الكامل» (169/1)

❖ Hasān ibn Yazid may Allah have mercy upon him said:

لَمْ نَسْتَعْنِ عَلَى الكَذَابِيْنَ بِمِثْلِ التَّارِيخِ! نَقُولُ لِلشَّيْخِ: سَنَةَ كَمْ وُلِدْتَ؟ فَإِذَا أَقْرَ بِمَوْلِدِهِ عَرَفْنَا صِدْقَهُ مِنْ كَذِبِهِ!

We don't use anything against the liars comparable to history! We say to the Shaykh: When were you born? Thus when his birth date is affirmed we know his truthfulness from his lies.

الجامع لأخلاق الراوي وآداب السامع» للخطيب البغدادي (131/1)

❖ Ibn al-Salah may Allah have mercy upon him said:

وَرَوَيْنَا عَنِ الحَاكِمِ أَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ قَالَ: لَمَّا قَدِمَ عَلَيْنَا أَبُو جَعْفَرٍ مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ حَاتِمِ الكَشِّيِّ، وَحَدَّثَ عَنِ عَبْدِ بْنِ حُمَيْدٍ، سَأَلْتُهُ عَنْ مَوْلِدِهِ، فَذَكَرَ أَنَّهُ وُلِدَ سَنَةَ سِتِّينَ وَمِائَتَيْنِ، فَقُلْتُ لِأَصْحَابِنَا: سَمِعَ هَذَا الشَّيْخُ مِنْ عَبْدِ بْنِ حُمَيْدٍ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهِ بِثَلَاثَ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً

We narrated from Al Hakim Abi Abdullah he said: When Abu Jafar Muhammad ibn Hatim Al Kashi came to us and narrated from Abd ibn Humaid I asked him concerning his birth date. He mentioned he was born during the year 260. So I said to our companions: “This Shaykh narrated from Abd ibn Humaid 13 years after he died!

علوم الحديث (ص:381) دار الفكر

Allah the Exalted said:

يَا أَهْلَ الكِتَابِ لِمَ تُحَاجُّونَ فِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمَا أُنزِلَتِ التَّوْرَةُ وَالْإِنْجِيلُ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِهِ ۗ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ ﴿٦٥﴾

O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Why do you dispute about Ibrahim, while the Torah and the Injeel were not revealed till after him? Have you then no sense?
(Soorah 'Āli `Imrān 3:65)

Shaykh As Si'di may Allah have mercy upon him:

وفيها أيضا حَتُّ على علم التاريخ، وأنه طريقٌ لردِّ كثيرٍ من الأقوالِ الباطلةِ، والدعاوى التي تخالفُ ما عَلِمَ من التاريخ

This verse also contains an encouragement to learn the knowledge of history. For indeed history refutes many false statements and claims which contradict what is known from history.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee