

Students of knowledge with Online Fatwa Hotlines

Shaykh Abdullah Al Bukhari حفظه الله

Summary Translation

Question: May Allah treat you well. This question is via the website. You spoke about those who give religious verdicts, those who are astray and lead others astray. So is it okay for a student of knowledge to use social media to invite the people to contact him so he can give them religious verdicts?

Shaykh Abdullah Al Bukhari: A student of knowledge writes a message saying “Seek Fatwas from me”; like this?!

May Allah bless you. Disease is of two categories: Physical sickness and spiritual sickness.

Physical sickness is like heart disease, a fractured hand, or an injury to the eye. These are physical and require treatment and the treatment could be prolonged. It may require surgery, and sometimes it may require surgical removal.

The second type of sickness is spiritual disease, plots and ambitions within the soul. There is no medicine for these diseases except after imploring and beseeching Allah the Exalted, and striving against the soul to rid it of these sicknesses and deadly diseases; such as envy, rancor, hatred, trickery, cunning, arrogance, self-amazement and the like. The sicknesses, plots and ambitions which the people are tested with, and thus they corrupt his heart. And with Allah refuge is sought. We ask Allah for safety and security.

Included among these diseases – may Allah bless you – is what appears in the question. This is love of prominence; love of prominence and the person steering the people to him. This is sickness and from the underlying diseases of the heart and plots of the soul. It’s obligatory upon the person to rid his soul of this sickness. May Allah cure him! **The person who does this is sick! We supplicate to Allah on his behalf that he is given a speedy recovery.** But it is obligatory upon him to strive hard to rid himself of this disease and this calamity.

The second issue: This action from him is in contrast to the guidance of the Salaf and the path of the scholars who are trustworthy advisors. He can’t say (as a proof for his action) “There are numbers listed for the head of the General Directorate of Scientific Research and Issuing Fatwas.” These individuals have been put in place by the Muslim ruler. They did not set these numbers up for themselves nor did they request that the

people contact them to seek Fatwa from them. They did not do this; this was done by the ruler, so he organized this. He said “these are the numbers of the people who give religious verdicts or the committee for Fatwa”. They (the scholars themselves) did not do it. They did not do it. Thus he can’t use this action as a proof. Everyone is in need of presenting their proof, while they themselves are not a proof.

- ❖ Did the Imams of the Salaf, the righteous Imams and the Imams of the religion do this?! Did Ahmad say to the people “Come and seek Fatwa from me”! Did Malik say to the people “Come seek Fatwa from me, I’m Malik”?! I’m Shafi’i! I’m Al Awzai! I’m Al Bukhari! I Muslim! I’m Abu Dawud! Im Ibn Taymiyyah! I’m ibn Abdul Wahab! I’m Abdul Aziz ibn Baz come and seek Fatwa from me?!

Did this happen? May Allah bless you, this is not the methodology of the scholars nor their path. This is a disease! We ask Allah to cure him.

Whoever does this; do not contact him and do not seek Fatwa from him. Fatwa is not sought from the likes of this person until he treats himself; because this person is seeking fame, and prominence. He is afflicted with the disease of self-amazement. Ibn Abdul Barr may Allah have mercy upon him said: “Self-amazement destroys good qualities – all of them”. In the biography of a narrator whose name I have forgotten at the moment; Al Hafidh Al-Daraqutni may Allah have mercy upon him said about him (Ahmad ibn Kaamil Al Bagdadi) “Self-amazement destroyed him, self-amazement destroyed him¹.” We ask Allah for safety and security.

This is not correct, may Allah bless you. It is not correct for the student of knowledge who ascribes to knowledge to do the like of this. This action of his is not correct, this action of his is not correct. We ask Allah to grant us and him safety and security in this life and the next.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

¹ Translator’s note: Shaykh Abdullah Al Bukhari forgot the name of the intended narrator here but he mentions this statement in a lecture entitled “The 5th meeting from the meeting of the Salafis in Madeenah”. And likewise it has been previously narrated by Imam Ad Dhahabi may Allah have mercy upon him in (سير أعلام النبلاء).