

Many who despise Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab have never read his books

Questioner: May Allah treat you well O noble Shaykh. Is the one who reviles the Dawah of the Imam, reviver, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab; considered to be an innovator even if he has good intentions?

Shaykh Fawzan: If he had good intentions he would not speak evil of the Dawah of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab. This is an evil intention. What is the cause of his resentment for the Shaykh? If he came across mistakes from the Shaykh then let him clarify this to us. Explain to us the mistakes of the Shaykh. All praises belong to Allah, his books are present. His writings are present. Bring forth the mistakes from any of his books or any of his treatises. May Allah have mercy upon him. Rather his books are filled with proofs and evidences, knowledge, and advice; such that if you read them you will find light within your heart. You will find within your heart love for good and love for inviting to the path of Allah the Exalted.

But this is not unexpected; the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم was vilified. His enemies said about him, what they said. They said he was a magician, they said he was insane, etc.; as Allah has mentioned in the Quran. They said he was a poet, coached¹, and insane.

They accused the Prophets who came before him of desiring to rule over the people. They said this about Musa and Harun عليهم السلام.

قَالُوا أَجِئْتَنَا لِنَلْفِتْنَا عَمَّا وَجَدْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا وَتَكُونَ لَكُمَا الْكِبْرِيَاءُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٧٨﴾

They said: "Have you come to us to turn us away from that (faith) we found our fathers following, - and that you two may have greatness in the land? We are not going to believe you two!" (Yūnus 10:78)

They said about Nuh عليه السلام:

مَا هَذَا إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَتَفَضَّلَ عَلَيْكُمْ ﴿٢٤﴾

He is no more than a human being like you; he seeks to make himself superior to you.
(Soorah Al-Mu'minūn 23:24)

¹ Translator's note: And indeed We know that they (polytheists) say: "It is only a human being who teaches him (Muhammad)." The tongue of the man they refer to is foreign, while this (the Quran) is a clear Arabic tongue.
(Soorah An-Naḥl 16:103)

Meaning he wants to elevate himself above you. They slandered Nuh عليه السلام by accusing him of wanting to elevate himself above the people. Therefore this is never unexpected. When they slandered Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab, then the Prophets were slandered with these same accusations.

But we return to the statements of the Shaykh and his writings, and look at them. If they contain mistakes then we will clarify these mistakes and explain it to the people. But if his books – and this is the reality, all praises belong to Allah – are all unadulterated, and good, extracted from the Book of Allah, the Sunnah of the Messenger and the guidance of the pious predecessors, then the Muslims has no recourse except to acknowledge the truth, and yield to the truth so he does not go astray or have his insight blinded. This is because if the truth is clarified to someone yet he does not accept it; then he will be tested with deviation. He will be tested with deviation.

وَنُقَلِّبُ أَفْئِدَتَهُمْ وَأَبْصَارَهُمْ كَمَا لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ أَوْلَٰى مَرَّةً وَنَذَرُهُمْ فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ ﴿١١٠﴾

And We shall turn their hearts and their eyes away (from guidance), as they refused to believe therein for the first time, and We shall leave them in their trespass to wander blindly. (Soorah Al-'An`ām 6:110)

فَلَمَّا زَاغُوا أَزَاغَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ ﴿٥﴾

And when they deviated, Allah caused their hearts to deviate. And Allah does not guide the defiantly disobedient people. (Soorah Aş-Şaf 61:5)

Therefore it is incumbent upon the Muslim to accept the truth before he is tested with falsehood, blindness of insight and deviation. And with Allah refuge is sought.

Don't follow your desires or accept the speech of the people. If you hear someone say something evil about Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab do not accept it until you return to the books of the Shaykh. Return to the books, statements and treatises of the Shaykh. Compare what they say about him to his books and treatises, so you can see these are lies against him and falsehood. As for accepting what the people say without returning to the books of the Shaykh then this is following the desires. And with Allah refuge is sought.

الشيخ صالح الفوزان: الذي يطعن في دعوة الإمام محمد بن عبد الوهاب