

ALANAZRAT ~ SERIES

# The Preamble to Faith

*A descriptive translation of the Urdu work: Tamhid e Iman*



IMAM AHMED RIDA KHAN AL-BARAYLAWI رَحْمَةُ اللهِ

رضا  
PRESS

# The Preamble to Faith

*Tamhîd e Īmān ba Āyāt e Qur'ān*



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*A Descriptive Translation of Tamhid e Īmān*

**IMAM AHMED RIDA KHAN AL-BARAYLAWI** رحمۃ اللہ علیہ  
(1272-1340 AH / 1856-1921 CE)

*Translated by*  
**ABU HASAN**

RIDAWI  
  
PRESS



## The Preamble to Faith, A Descriptive Translation of Tamhid e Īmān

Original Urdu Work by  
Alahazrat Imam Ahmed Rida Khan Al-Baraylawi

Translation and Footnotes  
Abu Hasan



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The Image of Masjid Qubā in Madinah on the cover by Ahmed Raza.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*alḥamdulillāhi rabbi'l ālāmīn; wa'ṣ ṣalātu wa's salāmu alā sayyidi'l anbiyā'y wa'l mursalīn  
allāhumma hidāyatu'l ḥaqqi wa'ṣ ṣawāb*

## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

All praise be to Allāh ﷻ the Lord of all the worlds. Blessings and peace upon our master Muḥammad ﷺ the prince of all the worlds; and the leader of all prophets and messengers; he who was sent with guidance and as a guide to the world. O Allāh! We ask Thee to guide us towards truth and upon the right path.

The majority of Muslims in India belonged to traditional Sunni faith until dissenting groups began to appear in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century [the 12<sup>th</sup> century after Hijrah]. Ironically, the grandsire of most splinter groups thereafter, Ismāyīl Dihlawī,<sup>1</sup> was the grandson of a prominent Sunni scholar – Shāh Aḥmed Dihlawī, famously known as Shāh Waliyullāh al-Dihlawī.

Shāh Ismāyīl's books like *Taqwiyatu'l Īmān*, *Ṣirāt e Mustaqīm* and pamphlets like *Ek Rozi* introduced ideas imported from ancient<sup>2</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> Shāh Ismāyīl Dihlawī [1193-1246 AH/1779-1831 CE] was the son of Shāh Abd al-Ghaniy Dihlawī [d.1203 AH/1788 CE], son of Shāh Waliyullāh Dihlawī, son of Shāh Abd ar-Rahīm Dihlawī; and the nephew of the famous muḥaddith Abd al-Āziz Dihlawī [d.1238 AH/1823 CE].

<sup>2</sup> Like the Mūtaẓilī heresy that falsehood is included in Divine Power.

modern<sup>3</sup> heresies unknown to commonfolk and thus ignited the fire of sectarianism in the subcontinent. Scholars, including his own cousins, Shāh Makhşūsullāh Dihlawī and Shāh Mūsā Dihlawī refuted him. Indeed, many of those who staunchly opposed him, like Faḍl al-Ḥaqq Khayrābādī, were students of his illustrious uncle Shāh Ābd al-Āzīz al-Dihlawī.

After Ismāyīl died in 1831, it seemed as if the tribulation had subsided; but unfortunately, it was rekindled and defended by his followers and admirers from the founders of the Deoband school. Ūlamā expressed their displeasure, but Deobandi elders were committed to defend Ismāyīl. The disease of irreverence spread and amplified; major scholars of the Deoband school wrote things and preached doctrines that no Muslim would utter, or even wish to hear. Sunni scholars reproached them and refuted this new sect – but they ignored all remonstrations and pleas to revert.<sup>4</sup>

Eventually, Alahazrat Imām Aḥmed Riḍā Khān<sup>5</sup> also issued the ruling of kufr<sup>6</sup> upon four senior scholars of Deoband and asked them to repent from these blasphemous statements. Deobandi scholars pretend as if this activity was on account of Alahazrat's misunderstanding or rancour or because of some trivial reason that had made him oppose them. On his visit to the blessed sanctuaries in 1905, he presented this ruling<sup>7</sup> to

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<sup>3</sup> Of mixed Wahābī-Khārijī extremism of branding Muslims as polytheists; and of anthropomorphism; Ismāyīl wrote that it is a heresy to believe that God is without a direction or that He is transcendent from space.

<sup>4</sup> Mawlānā Ābd as-Samiy Rampuri, a confrere of Qasim Nānautawī and Rashīd Gangohī [as they shared the same teacher and shaykh,] complained to Raḥmatullah Kīrwānī and Hājī Imdādullah Muhājir Makki and requested them to advise their disciples, as he narrates in the preface of *Anwār e Sāfiāh* and is also evident from endorsements of this book. The spiritual guide of Nānautawī and Gangohī, Hājī Imdādullāh wrote a short booklet *Fayṣlah e Haft Mas'alah* to end this discord. Gangohī did not heed it [as is evident from his *fatāwā*] and Khalīl Aḥmed [at the behest of Gangohī] wrote a refutation of *Anwār* titled *Barāhīn e Qāṭiāh* employing harsh and impudent language; unfortunately, the cure proved to be worse than the malady.

<sup>5</sup> See the biography of the Imām after appendices.

<sup>6</sup> Rashīd Gangohī was ruled an apostate by other scholars, even before Alahazrat did, for the fatwā of 'occurrence of falsehood' in the Divine Speech of Allāh or in Urdu: *wuqū' e kizb*. See Appendix C for more details.

<sup>7</sup> Extracted from *Al-Mustanad al-Mutamad Bināyi Najātu'l Abad*, a commentary on Shaykh Faḍl ar-Rasūl al-Badāyūnī's *Al-Mūtaqad al-Muntaqad*.

scholars in Makkah and Madinah for endorsement. Major scholars attested to the ruling of kufr as mentioned by Alahazrat and praised him for the clarity of his fatwā and commended his action. These attestations were published along with the fatwā in the form of *Husām al-Haramayn*.<sup>8</sup>

After Alahazrat's return from Haramayn and the publication of *Husām al-Haramayn*, Deobandis responded in many ways: character assassination of Alahazrat,<sup>9</sup> accusations of lies and slander,<sup>10</sup> while some others tried to dismiss the issue by trying to explain explicit insults in favorable light. One common response was: 'Deobandis are also scholars and pious men; and we should not criticize them'.

Deobandis allege that Alahazrat deceived the scholars of Haramayn by mistranslating and misrepresenting the passages in question. One of those accused, Khalīl Ahmed Ambhetwī Sahāranpūrī, wrote a book *Al-Muhannad* in which he denies (both on his own behalf and those scholars of his group) that they held such beliefs and even claimed that they never said or wrote any such thing. Mawlānā Sayyid Nayīmuddīn Murādābādī, teacher of many prominent authors and translators in the subcontinent, wrote *Daf al-Talbīsāt* refuting the delusions and exposing the lies of *Al-Muhannad*.

Another serious charge made by Deobandis in a bid to deflect criticism of their own scholars, is that Alahazrat rushed to label someone or anyone kāfir, if they differed from his viewpoint, and that he did not hesitate or deliberate in this matter. According to them, the takfīr of Deobandi elders was also a product of haste and lack of deliberation.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Sword of the Two Sanctuaries; *haramayn* or two *harams* : Makkah and Madinah.

<sup>9</sup> See Murtaza Hasan Chāndpūrī's books.

<sup>10</sup> See Husayn Ahmed Tāndwī's *Shihāb al-Thāqib*.

<sup>11</sup> Deobandis in our time do not even attempt to veil their lies; Muftī Taqī Usmani, in a reply to someone inquiring about 'the Barelwi group', says [See *Fatāwā al-Uthmānī*, Vol.1, Pg.101. published from Deoband, India; translation below by a Deobandi, Ismaeel Nakhuda]:

"Their imam, Shaykh Ahmad Rada Khan al-Barelwi circulated a fatwā of kufr against the 'ulama of Deoband and even said that he who does not consider them a kāfir is also a kāfir. This was because they (the 'ulama of Deoband) had criticized their beliefs and said: the knowledge of the unseen is a quality (sifah) of Allah Most High, no one is a partner with him in this."

It is incredible that a person who claims to believe in Judgement day – can slander and lie with such ease; particularly someone who is considered as a scholar. The fatwā of kufr was

Alahazrat wrote the book *Tamhid e Īmān ba Āyāt e Qur'ān* or *The Preamble to Faith in the Light of the Qur'ān*, to explain the basis of faith and priorities we should have as Muslims and to refute the propaganda that he was careless in takfīr.<sup>12</sup> He explains fundamental principles of faith, analyzes disparaging statements made by Deobandis and the implication of such statements. He describes the background and conditions which led to the ruling and mentions the extreme carefulness and restraint that he exercised in takfīr, countering accusations that he was 'quick to label anyone kāfir'. A similar argument was made by an American scholar, Nuh Keller, in an article published on his website.

Notes on the text and the translation:

1. Alahazrat employs a second-person narrative in what is meant to be a personal appeal to the reader.
2. Alahazrat does not mention the names of Gangohī, Ambhetwī or Thānawī, in the main text. One probable reason could be that names can evoke passion and thus cause the reader to become defensive; even the most sincere statement may then fail to move a prejudiced reader. In order to avoid this potential psychological barrier, he might have omitted the names and says Zayd, Āmr or 'that person' instead. However, in certain places, he mentions these names in footnotes.
3. The language and the style of the author, rhyming prose and compound sentence structure pose difficulties in translation. In many cases, compound sentences are broken down or slightly reordered; in one case, a clause is moved from the main text to the footnote.
4. Alahazrat's own footnotes are included and indicated accordingly.
5. Almost all references are copied from the original text; the translation is based on the text in *Fatāwā Ridāwiyyah*.<sup>13</sup>

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given on statements deemed as blasphemies – not because 'Deobandis criticized their beliefs'. And as for the issue of *ilm al-ghayb* and its description, this is the same false accusation made by Abu'l Ḥasan Nadawī in *Nuz'hatu'l Khawāṭir* and is repeated by Deobandis at every opportunity.

<sup>12</sup> However, *Tamhid* is not a refutation of *Al-Muhannad*, and it appears that Alahazrat was not even aware of this *Al-Muhannad*.

<sup>13</sup> Volume 30, published by Raza Foundation & Jami'ah Nizamiyyah-Razawiyyah, Lahore.

6. The original text does not have divisions and chapter names; these are inserted for quick reference and readability.

7. This translation is made directly from the original Urdu text.<sup>14</sup>

Many thanks are due to brothers for their suggestions and corrections during the review of the book; obviously, I am solely responsible for mistakes that still remain. Special thanks to Shaykh Monawwar Ateeq for providing the fatwā of Gangohī, which is translated and analyzed in Appendix C. Thanks to our esteemed brother Noori who prepared the bibliographical index in Appendix F. SunniStudent provided the scans of books included in Appendices.

*wa billāhi't tawfīq.*

**Abu Hasan**

*7<sup>th</sup> Ramadān 1432/7<sup>th</sup> August 2011*

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<sup>14</sup> English translations are available as soft copies or printed books; it is not known at the time of this writing whether any Arabic translation exists.

## INTRODUCTION

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلوة والسلام على سيد  
المرسلين خاتم النبيين سيدنا محمد وآله وأصحابه أجمعين بالتبجيل وحسبنا  
الله ونعم الوكيل

In the name of Allāh, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Praise be to Allāh, the Lord of the Worlds. Blessings and salutations, upon the liegelord of all messengers, the seal of prophets, our master Muḥammad ﷺ his progeny, and all his companions. Allāh ﷻ is sufficient for us and in Him we trust.

### A humble appeal to Muslim brethren:

My dear brothers! *As-salāmu ālaykum wa raḥmatu'llāhi wa barakātuh.* May Allāh ﷻ keep you, and for your sakes, this poor sinner, steadfast upon true faith and grant us the true love of His beloved, the last messenger Sayyidunā Muḥammad ﷺ and infuse his reverence and respect in our hearts; and that we be in that state until our last breath. Āmīn, O Lord of the Universe!

Your Lord Almighty ﷻ says:

O Messenger! Verily, We have sent you as a witness, and a harbinger and a warner. So that, [O people!] you may bear faith in Allāh and His messenger; and that you revere him and respect him, and that you sanctify your Lord in the morning and evening.<sup>15</sup>

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا  
وَنَذِيرًا ۖ لَتُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ  
وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُعَزِّرُوهُ وَتُوَقِّرُوهُ  
وَتُسَبِّحُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا ۖ

O Muslims! Notice that the reasons for which the religion was given, and the Qur'ān was revealed are three, as mentioned in the above verse:

**First**, that people bear faith in Allāh and His Messenger ﷺ

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<sup>15</sup> Sūrah Al-Fath, 48:8-9.

**Second**, that people revere and respect the Messenger ﷺ and

**Third**, that they worship Allāh ﷻ.

O Muslims! Notice the elegant order of these three important principles. Faith<sup>16</sup> is mentioned first and worship of the Lord Almighty is mentioned in the last; and in between these two, is the reverence and honor of His beloved Prophet ﷺ.

Because, without faith, reverence of the Prophet ﷺ is of no use. There are Christians who respect and honor the Prophet ﷺ and defend his honor by writing books and answering objections of scoundrels among infidels, and give lectures in this regard – but because they do not have faith, none of this is of any use [to them] as this is mere extraneous respect. If they really honored the Prophet ﷺ with their hearts, they would surely bear faith in [his message].

Even if one spends his entire life worshipping the Lord, but without the reverence of the Prophet ﷺ in the heart, such worship is of no use and all of this toil will be discarded. There are *jogis*<sup>17</sup> and monks<sup>18</sup> who have distanced themselves from the world and they worship and remember the Lord in their own ways and spend their entire lives doing this; there are also among them, who even learn and recite the phrase: ***lā ilāha illā Allāh***,<sup>19</sup> but until they respect Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ what is the use? None of this is accepted by Allāh ﷻ.

It is these kind of people that Allāh ﷻ has said:<sup>20</sup>

And they sent forth to us from their deeds, (but) we made them useless, like spent wool.

وَقَدِمْنَا إِلَىٰ مَا عَمِلُوا مِنْ عَمَلٍ  
فَجَعَلْنَاهُ هَبَاءً مَنْثُورًا

---

<sup>16</sup> *īmān*

<sup>17</sup> *Jogi*: Hindu hermits.

<sup>18</sup> *Rāhib*: Monk.

<sup>19</sup> The first part of the testimony of faith: "There is no God but Allāh ﷻ".

<sup>20</sup> Sūrah Al-Furqān, 25:23.

And about such people that He ﷻ says:<sup>21</sup>

They toil and do deeds; but yet, they shall go inside a roaring fire.

غَامِلَةٌ نَّاصِبَةٌ ﴿٢١﴾ تَصَلَّى نَارًا  
حَامِيَةً ﴿٢٢﴾

We seek Allāh's refuge!

O Muslims! Say, is it then, the love of Muḥammad Rasūl Allāh ﷺ the basis of faith, the basis of salvation, the basis for good deeds to be accepted, or not? Say: "Yes it is!" And indeed, it is so.

Your Lord, Almighty Allāh says:

O Prophet! Tell them: If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your family, the wealth that you have amassed, and the business that you fear will be ruined, and dwellings that delight you; if any of these are more beloved to you, than Allāh and His Messenger, or more precious than striving in the path of Allāh – then wait, until Allāh sends His wrath; verily, Allāh does not give way to the contumacious.<sup>22</sup>

قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ  
وَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ  
وَأَمْوَالٌ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ  
تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِينُ  
تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ  
وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرْتَصُّوهُ  
حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي  
الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

We learn from this verse, that if a person considers anybody, or wealth, or anything dearer than Allāh and His Messenger, then such a person is turned away from the door of Allāh ﷻ. And that Allāh ﷻ will not guide

<sup>21</sup> Sūrah Al-Ghāshiyah, 88:3-4.

<sup>22</sup> Sūrah Al-Tawbah, 9:24.

such a person towards Himself, and that such a person should await the wrath of Allāh ﷻ. We seek Allāh's refuge.

Your beloved Prophet ﷺ has said:<sup>23</sup>

None amongst you is a [true] believer,<sup>24</sup> unless I am most beloved to him; and dearer to him than his own father, his children and all the people in the world.<sup>25</sup>

This ḥadīth has been reported by Bukhārī and Muslim and is narrated by the companion Anas ibn Mālik al-Anṣarī رضى الله عنه. This clearly shows that if a person considers someone more honorable than RasūlAllāh ﷺ, then certainly he is not a Muslim. O Muslims! Is considering Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ more beloved than the entire world, the basis of faith and basis of salvation or not? Say it is; and indeed it is so.

All those who utter the *kalimah*,<sup>26</sup> will gladly agree to all that has been said so far; and they will say: 'Yes. The honor of Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ is prominent in our hearts; and yes, we love him more than we love our parents, our children and the entire world.' Brothers! May Allāh ﷻ make this to be true; but yet, listen to what your Lord says. Your Lord Almighty Allāh ﷻ says:<sup>27</sup>

Do people expect that they will be spared at merely saying 'We believe', and that they will not be tested?

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾

This verse is alerting Muslims that they will not be spared on merely uttering the testimony of faith or by claiming faith. Listen! Verily you shall be tested; and you will be considered a Muslim only if you pass the test.

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<sup>23</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Bukhārī 1:7 and Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 1:49.

<sup>24</sup> *mu'min*

<sup>25</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, 1:49.

<sup>26</sup> The testimony of faith: *lā ilāha illā Allāh Muḥammadu'r RasūlAllāh* ﷺ

<sup>27</sup> Sūrah Al-Ānkabūt, 29:2.

In any test, it is seen whether indeed, the thing (being claimed) is present or not, to justify that claim. We have seen earlier that the Qur'ān and Ḥadīth say that two things are necessary for faith to be real and present:

- Respect and reverence of Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ
- Love of Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ more than anything in this world.

The way to test this definitively is thus: Suppose those whom you respect; no matter how much you revere them, or have a close friendship with them, or have affectionate relations with them; like your father, your teacher, your guide,<sup>28</sup> your brother, your relatives, your companions; the scholar, the reader, the Muftī, the preacher – whosoever it may be; if you find them disrespectful towards Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ then you should have no love or respect for them.

Separate from them immediately, and cast them away like you would cast a fly fallen in a glass of milk. Dislike them and do not even look at their faces. Do not bother about their relationship or friendship; or their being scholars or shaykhs; or their piety or elderliness. All these qualities should be respected *for* the sake of Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ. When such a person is disrespectful to the master himself, then what is the value of this relationship?

Why should we be impressed by their clothes and turbans<sup>29</sup> – do the Jews not wear turbans? Why should we have a regard for their name, erudition, and outward superiority – do we not see erudite Christian priests and philosophers, who are masters of many sciences?

And if you do not heed this, and try to make excuses for the person who disrespects RasūlAllāh ﷺ and if you do not consider him the vilest and the most sinful; or at the least, you neglect this aspect and do not find dislike for a person disrespecting the person of the Prophet ﷺ – then be fair, and ask yourself, by Allāh! Did you pass the test? And how far did you stray away from the benchmark set by the Qur'ān and Ḥadīth for attaining faith?

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<sup>28</sup> Pir or Shaykh.

<sup>29</sup> In the Subcontinent, turbans used to be worn by prominent people – scholars and shaykhs among them.

O Muslims! Will those who respect and love Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ more than anything in the world, have consideration for such a person who utters disrespectful words about him? Even if such a person were his own teacher or father? Will they not detest such a person, even if he is a close friend or a brother, when he disrespects RasūlAllāh ﷺ who is dearer to him than the whole world? For the sake of Allāh, have pity on your own selves, and heed the saying of your Lord Almighty – and see, how He calls you toward His mercy.

Says He:

You shall not find those who have faith in Allāh and the Final Day (of Judgement) bearing love for those who oppose Allāh and His Messenger, even if they are their fathers, or sons, or brothers, or relatives; these are a people upon whose hearts, Allāh has inscribed faith and aided them with a Spirit; and will make them enter gardens in which streams flow underneath, and they shall abide in these gardens forever. Allāh is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Allāh. This is the group of Allāh. Hear: verily, it is only the party of Allāh that is successful.<sup>30</sup>

لَا تَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ  
الْآخِرِ يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ اللَّهَ  
وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ  
أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ أَوْ عَشِيرَتَهُمْ  
أُولَئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْإِيمَانَ  
وَأَيَّدَهُم بِرُوحٍ مِنْهُ وَيُدْخِلُهُمْ  
جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ  
خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ  
وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ أُولَئِكَ حِزْبُ اللَّهِ أَلَا  
إِنَّ حِزْبَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

<sup>30</sup> Sūrah Al-Mujādalah , 59:22.

It is clearly explained in this verse, that a Muslim will not befriend someone who disrespects Allāh or His Messenger ﷺ; conversely, one who befriends them is not a Muslim. And apart from the generic and absolute<sup>31</sup> nature of the command, there is a further clarification when 'fathers, sons, relatives,' are mentioned specifically, and that one cannot befriend or love such a blasphemer, even if it is a natural instinct to do so; or else, one does not remain a believer.

This commandment of the Lord Almighty was sufficient for a Muslim; but yet, He calls you towards His mercy and motivates you by stimulating your interest in His supreme and enchanting gifts.<sup>32</sup> That is, if you keep away from those who disrespect the Messenger ﷺ, look at what you gain:

1. Allāh shall inscribe faith upon your hearts; which is – InShāAllāh – a glad tidings of a beautiful end;<sup>33</sup> because that which is inscribed by Allāh cannot be erased.
2. Allāh shall aid you by the Holy Spirit, the Archangel Gibrīl ؑ.
3. He shall make you enter gardens of paradise, that abide forever and in which streams flow underneath.
4. You shall be called 'The Party of Allāh' and those who belong to Allāh.
5. You shall get everything you ask for, and a million times more than you can imagine.
6. That Allāh shall be pleased with you.
7. And He says: "I am pleased with you and you are pleased with Me." What other bounty can a slave aspire for, after his Lord is pleased with him? But still, He says out of Compassion and Grace: 'Allāh is pleased with them and they are pleased with Allāh'.

O Muslim! If a man has a billion lives, and he sacrifices all the lives for such bounties – it is still a bargain. Then, how difficult is it to get rid of Zayd

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<sup>31</sup> *ḍām, muṭlaq*

<sup>32</sup> In paradise.

<sup>33</sup> *ḥusn e khātimah*: to die as a Muslim.

and Ámr<sup>34</sup> and to sever all relations with them for the sake of these precious bounties promised by Allāh táālā?

It is the way of the Qur'ān that whenever bounties are mentioned for those who believe, the warning of punishment is also mentioned. So that people with low aspirations may heed and find their way, by fear of punishment. Now, listen to the warnings:

Your Lord Almighty says:

O believers! Do not take your fathers and brothers as friends, if they prefer disbelief instead of faith; and those amongst you who befriend them are among the transgressors.<sup>35</sup>

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا  
أَبَاءَكُمْ وَإِخْوَانَكُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ إِنِ  
اسْتَحَبُّوا الْكُفْرَ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ وَمَنْ  
يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنْكُمْ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ  
الظَّالِمُونَ ❁

and He says:

O believers! Do not take as friends, my enemies and your enemies...<sup>36</sup>

You conceal your affection for them, but I know whatever you hide and whatever you do openly. Whosoever amongst you does this has strayed from the right path.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا  
عَدُوِّي وَعَدُوَّكُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ  
تُسِرُّونَ إِلَيْهِمْ بِالْمُودَّةِ وَأَنَا أَعْلَمُ  
بِمَا أَخْفَيْتُمْ وَمَا أَعْلَنْتُمْ وَمَنْ  
يَفْعَلْهُ مِنْكُمْ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ سَوَاءَ  
السَّبِيلِ ❁

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<sup>34</sup> 'Zayd and Ámr' is similar to the English phrase 'Tom, Dick and Harry.'

<sup>35</sup> Sûrah Tawbah, 9:23.

<sup>36</sup> Sûrah Al-Mumtahinah, 60:1.

On the day of judgement, your relatives and your children will not benefit you and will be separated from you; and Allāh tāālā Sees all that you do.<sup>37</sup>

لَنْ تَنْفَعَكُمْ أَرْحَامُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ  
يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَفْصِلُ بَيْنَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ  
بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ \*

and He says:

And amongst you, he who befriends them is one of them; verily, Allāh tāālā does not give way to people who transgress.<sup>38</sup>

وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ إِنَّ  
اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ \*

In the first two verses, such people who have friendship with those who insult the Messenger ﷺ were only termed as transgressors and astray; and this third verse is decisive in its clarification: those who have friendship with such people are also from the same community; and infidels like them. And that he will be tied together with the same rope. And remember that lash: *'that you meet them secretly, and I know what you do in secret and open.'* And now, hear about those who insult the Messenger ﷺ and the rope with which they will be tied together:

There is a painful punishment for those who hurt the Messenger of Allāh<sup>39</sup>

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لَهُمْ  
عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ \*

And those who hurt Allāh and His Messenger ﷺ; Allāh's damnation upon them in this

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ  
لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَأَعَدَّ

<sup>37</sup> Sūrah Al-Mumtahinah, 60:2-3.

<sup>38</sup> Sūrah Al-Māyidah 5:51.

<sup>39</sup> Sūrah Al-Tawbah 9:61.

world and the hereafter and a humiliating punishment for them is readied.<sup>40</sup>

لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ ﴿٥٧﴾

None can hurt Allāh táālā as He is transcendent from being hurt; but He has described those who disrespect His beloved Messenger ﷺ as those who hurt Allāh. These verses mention seven whips<sup>41</sup> for a person who has affection towards those who disrespect RasūlAllāh ﷺ.

1. He is a transgressor.
2. He is a deviant.
3. He is a disbeliever, an infidel.
4. A painful torment awaits him.
5. He shall be humiliated in the hereafter.
6. He has hurt Allāh táālā, the Subduer.
7. And the damnation of Allāh táālā is upon him in both worlds.

We seek Allāh's refuge from such a misfortune.

O Muslims! O the followers of the Prince of men and jinns! Are the former seven on distancing immediately from insolent people better, or these latter seven?<sup>42</sup> The heart being firm on faith, the aid of Allāh táālā, entering paradise, being included in the Party of Allāh, wishes being granted, Allāh táālā being pleased and you being pleased with Allāh táālā. Are these seven better or the seven that betide a person maintaining relations with such people: transgressor, deviant, infidel, destined for hell, humiliated in the hereafter, one who hurts Allāh táālā, the damnation of Allāh táālā upon him in both worlds?

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<sup>40</sup> Sūrah Al-Ahzāb 33:57.

<sup>41</sup> Lashes of censure.

<sup>42</sup> That one is warned upon continuing friendship and maintaining relations with such impudent people.

Certainly not! Who can say that the latter seven are desirable? And who will say that the former seven can be abandoned? But dear brother, mere claims<sup>43</sup> will not suffice; you will be examined and you have just read the verse: "alif-lām-mīm; do people expect..."<sup>44</sup> Are you in a delusion that you will simply say it by your tongues and will be let off without being examined?

Yes, indeed! This is the hour of truth and the trial. Thus you are tested by Allāh táālā, the Subduer. And look, He is telling you that your relations will not avail you on the day of Judgement; (and says) How can you sever (your relation) with Me and establish with others? And He is warning you: 'I am not unaware, I am not uninformed; and I am Seeing your deeds. I Hear your speech; I Know of what is in your hearts.'

Do not be heedless and ruin your future (in the hereafter) for the sake of others. Do not be obstinate and oppose Allāh and His Messenger ﷺ. Be mindful, He is warning you of a painful torment – and there is no refuge from His Retribution. And He calls you towards His Mercy and there is no place to run except towards His Mercy. Remember that other sins are merely sins which deserve punishment, but one does not lose faith because of them; (one can come out of hell) by either being removed from it after being punished, by the Mercy of Allāh táālā; or even completely escape punishment by the intercession of His beloved Messenger ﷺ. But, the reverence of Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ and His esteem is the basis of faith. We have seen how the Qur'ān reproaches those who are lax<sup>45</sup> in this issue and that Allāh's damnation is upon them in both worlds. Remember that if one loses faith, there is no chance of redemption, there is no avenue for release from eternal punishment. And such people who are disrespectful<sup>46</sup> in this world, about whom you bear concern, will be suffering themselves and they will not come to save you on that day; and even if they come – what can they do? Is it sensible to allow oneself to be seized by the Wrath of Allāh táālā and the fire of hell for the sake of such people?

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<sup>43</sup> Claim that we love Allāh táālā and His Messenger ﷺ.

<sup>44</sup> Sūrah Al-Ānkabūt, 29:2.

<sup>45</sup> And does not keep away from those who insult the Messenger ﷺ.

<sup>46</sup> About respect to the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ.

## LESSER THAN THE DEVIL'S KNOWLEDGE

For the sake of Allāh! Close your eyes and bow your head for a moment and forget everyone else; envision yourself in the Presence of Allāh táālā, and recall the immense respect and veneration due to Sayyidunā Muḥammad ﷺ, the Messenger of Allāh; recall the lofty, exalted rank that Allāh táālā has bestowed upon him, and remember the fact, that the basis of your faith is in respecting him; with this in your heart and in all earnestness, say whether the following statement is insulting or not:

The expanse of Satan's knowledge is proven by documentary evidence,<sup>47</sup> [but] where is such absolute documentary evidence for the knowledge of the Pride<sup>48</sup> of the world?<sup>49</sup>

Does it not mean that the knowledge of the accursed Satan is greater than that of RasūlAllāh ﷺ? Does not the person who says this, disbelieve in the knowledge of RasūlAllāh ﷺ and believe in the knowledge of Satan? O Muslims! If one tells the same insolent person: 'O ye, whose knowledge is equal to Satan's knowledge,'<sup>50</sup> will he not find it offensive? Notice, that we did not even say that his knowledge was lesser than that of Satan's, we only said: 'equal to Satan's knowledge,' but still, will he not consider it as an insult? Suppose, to save face, he denies that it is insulting; then, go to a person in a high position or in authority – a king or a governor – and tell them;<sup>51</sup>

'O ye' whose knowledge is equal to Satan's knowledge'

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<sup>47</sup> *nass*: scriptural evidence; *nass-e-qat'i* meaning, absolutely established textual evidence, incontrovertible textual proof - usually the Qur'ān.

<sup>48</sup> *Fakhr-e-Ālam*: Pride of the world, referring to RasūlAllāh ﷺ.

<sup>49</sup> Khalīl Ahmed Ambhetwī-Saharanpuri, *Al-Barāhīn al-Qāṭi'ah*, 51.

<sup>50</sup> For example, try these phrases:

Khalīl Ambhetwī, whose knowledge is equal to Satan's knowledge;

Rashid Gangohī, whose knowledge is equal to Satan's knowledge;

Ūlamā of Deoband, whose knowledge is equal to Satan's knowledge.

<sup>51</sup> Such a person who considers Satan as a devil and evil; not atheists or Satan worshippers.

Is this not an insult? Then, is it not an insult when said about RasūlAllāh ﷺ and is it not kufr to insult RasūlAllāh ﷺ? Surely, it is; and indeed it is an insult. After claiming that the knowledge of Satan is proven by the *naṣṣ*, he says about those who believe in the extensiveness of the knowledge of RasūlAllāh ﷺ:<sup>52</sup>

...that [he]<sup>53</sup> refutes all documentary proofs [*nuṣūṣ*] and proves one polytheistic belief [*shirk*]

and says:<sup>54</sup>

if this<sup>55</sup> is not polytheism, then which part of faith is this?

Such a person who says the above, does he not consider the accursed Iblīs as a partner to Allāh? Certainly he does; because, if anything attributed to someone in the creation is considered as shirk, then it is shirk when attributed to anyone else – because Allāh táālā has no partner. If this concept when attributed to RasūlAllāh ﷺ is considered as shirk<sup>56</sup>– such that there is ‘no part of faith’ in it – then he certainly means that it is a specific attribute that is attested only for Allāh táālā. Because, that is why, one who attests this [knowledge] for the Prophet becomes a polytheist. In which case, this person clearly attests the same for Iblīs and thus considers him a partner with Allāh táālā. O Muslims! Is this not an insult to Allāh táālā and His Messenger ﷺ? Certainly it is [an insult]. It is obvious that it is an insult to Allāh táālā because one who says so, attributes a partner to Allāh – and that too, who? The accursed devil, Iblīs. And it is an insult to RasūlAllāh ﷺ because he elevates Iblīs to a rank where he shares the unique attribute of Allāh táālā and such that, if you attribute the same to RasūlAllāh ﷺ, you would become a polytheist! O Muslims! One who disrespects Allāh táālā and His Messenger ﷺ, is he not a *kāfir*? Indeed, he is a *kāfir*.

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<sup>52</sup> Khalīl Sahāranpūrī, *Barāhīn*, 51.

<sup>53</sup> One who believes in the extensive knowledge of RasūlAllāh ﷺ encompassing knowledge of the earth.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> That is: to believe in the expanse of knowledge of RasūlAllāh ﷺ.

<sup>56</sup> According to the statement of Khalīl Ahmed.

## KNOWLEDGE LIKE THAT OF QUADRUPEDS

And about another person who said:<sup>57</sup>

If this refers to a part of such knowledge of unseen,<sup>58</sup> then where is the exclusiveness of RasūlAllāh ﷺ in this? Such knowledge is [posessed by] Zayd and Āmr;<sup>59</sup> rather, children and madmen; rather, all animals and quadrupeds also possess [such knowledge].

Is this not a profanity hurled at Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ? Was the Prophet ﷺ given only as much knowledge of unseen as that of madmen and quadrupeds?

O Muslim! O the follower of Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ! I ask you for the sake of your religion and your faith: do you doubt in this being an explicit insult and a profanity? We seek the refuge of Allāh; has the reverence of Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ evaporated from your heart, that you do not consider this profanity as an insult? If you are still not moved by this, then go and say the same thing to your teachers, to your shaykhs; go and tell them:

O Ye! You have only as much knowledge as a pig. Your teacher had only as much knowledge as a dog. Your shaykh had knowledge only as much as a donkey.

Or if you wish to be brief, tell them:

O people, whose knowledge is as much as that of an owl,<sup>60</sup> a donkey, a dog or a pig.

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<sup>57</sup> Ashraf Ālī Thānawī, *Ḥifẓu'l Īmān*, 8.

<sup>58</sup> *bāz ulūm e ghaybiyyah*

<sup>59</sup> An idiom to say anyone; like it is said in English: 'Tom, Dick and Harry'.

<sup>60</sup> In the Subcontinent, the owl is a metaphor for being *stupid*, unlike in English where it is a metaphor for being *wise*.

Will they consider this as an insult of their own selves, their teachers, their shaykhs, or not? Certainly, they will feel insulted. And if they could, they may shower you with blows.

Then why is such a thing, which is insulting to them, not disrespectful to Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ? MáādhAllāh!<sup>61</sup> Is **his** honour lesser than that of their teachers and their shaykhs? Is this what you call Īmān and faith? Never, by Allāh. And then he said:<sup>62</sup>

Because, every person has the knowledge of something that is hidden from another; then, it becomes necessary to call every [such] person **knower of the unseen**.<sup>63</sup> And then, if Zayd<sup>64</sup> makes it binding upon himself, that he shall call everyone a **knower of unseen**, then why does he consider this as an exclusive attribute of prophethood?<sup>65</sup> Because, [such an attribute in which] there is no exclusivity for believers or even for humans;<sup>66</sup> then, how can this be an exclusive attribute of prophethood?<sup>67</sup>

And if one does not consider it binding, then it is necessary to explain the reason for differentiating between a prophet and a non-prophet.

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<sup>61</sup> **máādhAllāh**: We seek the refuge of Allāh!

<sup>62</sup> Thānawī, *Ḥifẓu'l Īmān*, 8.

<sup>63</sup> **ʿālimu'l ghayb**

<sup>64</sup> Zayd: a name used for illustration.

<sup>65</sup> **jumlā kamālāt e anbiyā'a**: Attributes that are considered as perfect, praiseworthy, distinguishing them from non-prophets.

<sup>66</sup> Thānawī has in the previous paragraph said it explicitly that even animals have such knowledge; so it is not exclusive to prophets, or even believers, or even humans. In other words: knowledge is not a trait that can be considered as exclusive for prophets.

<sup>67</sup> Ergo, prophets do not have knowledge of unseen. Thānawī has said earlier that madmen and animals have knowledge that is similar to that of the Prophet ﷺ. Any possible ambiguity is removed by the rhetorical question he himself asks: 'where is the exclusivity – **takhṣīṣ** – for the Prophet?'

Is it not an insult to the Prophet, when he does not differentiate between animals, madmen and the Prophet ﷺ? He has expressly rejected the Word of Allāh táālā.

Look, your Lord Almighty Allāh says:

O Messenger! Allāh táālā has taught you that which you knew not; and the bounty of Allāh upon you is immense and great.<sup>68</sup>

وَعَلَّمَكَ مَا لَمْ تَكُنْ تَعْلَمُ وَكَانَ  
فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكَ عَظِيمًا ❁

In this verse, Allāh táālā has mentioned the bestowal of the knowledge of unknown things, as an attribute of perfection for the Prophet ﷺ.

And He says:

Verily, he (Yáqūb) is a man of knowledge, as We gave him knowledge.<sup>69</sup>

وَإِنَّهُ لَذُو عِلْمٍ لِّمَا عَلَّمْنَاهُ

And He says:

And give him (Sayyidunā Ibrāhīm ؑ) glad tidings of a knowledgeable boy.<sup>70</sup>

وَنَبَشِّرُوهُ بِغُلَامٍ عَلِيمٍ

And He says:

And We gave him (Sayyiduna Khidr) a special kind of knowledge by Our Endowment.<sup>71</sup>

وَعَلَّمْنَاهُ مِنْ لَدُنَّا عِلْمًا

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<sup>68</sup> Sūrah Nisā'a, 4:113.

<sup>69</sup> Sūrah Yūsuf, 12:68.

<sup>70</sup> Sūrah Al-Dhāriyāt, 51:28.

These are some verses in which Allāh táālā has enumerated *knowledge* among attributes of perfection for His prophets ﷺ.

In the above passage, for the sake of argument, replace the name of Zayd with the name of Allāh táālā and replace the [phrase] **knowledge of unseen**, with the generic, **knowledge**.<sup>72</sup> And obviously that this generic attribute is true, even for animals.<sup>73</sup> When we do this replacement, notice how the speech of this insolent man,<sup>74</sup> contradicts the Speech of Allāh táālā. Then, according to this insolent person:<sup>75</sup>

If, the attribution of knowledge to his<sup>76</sup> person by **God**<sup>77</sup> is valid, then it is necessary to inquire – whether He refers to some parts of **knowledge** or all kinds of **knowledge**? If this refers to some kinds of **knowledge**, then where is the exclusivity for the Prophet ﷺ or other prophets? Such knowledge is possessed by Zayd, Ámr – rather all children and madmen – rather all animals and quadrupeds [possess such knowledge].

Because, every person has the **knowledge** of something or the other; then, it becomes necessary to call every [such] person as **knowledgeable**.<sup>78</sup> And then, if **God** makes it binding, that He shall call everyone as **knowledgeable**, then why does he consider

<sup>71</sup> Sūrah Al-Kahf, 18:65. Most tafsirs say that it is knowledge of the unseen.

<sup>72</sup> **muṭlaq ilm**: that is, instead of specifying 'knowledge of unseen,' let us just say: 'knowledge' which is generic. This should not be confused with the **muṭlaq ilm-e-ghayb** meaning 'absolute knowledge of the unseen' which is only the attribute of Allāh táālā.

<sup>73</sup> Because, even animals have some knowledge – no one disputes this. Thānawī's claim is that there is no exclusivity for the Prophet ﷺ on account of the attribute of knowledge.

<sup>74</sup> Ashraf Áli Thānawī in his *Hifzu'l Imān* as cited above.

<sup>75</sup> For the sake of illustrating the enormity of this claim, by replacing the words.

<sup>76</sup> Either our Prophet or all other prophets ﷺ.

<sup>77</sup> Notice the caution of Alahazrat, that in such sentences said for the sake of argument, he does not use the name of Allāh táālā, rather uses the descriptive: *Khudā* or God.

<sup>78</sup> **áālim**: knower or knowledgeable.

**knowledge** as an attribute of perfection of prophethood? Because, [such an attribute in which] there is no exclusivity for believers or even for humans;<sup>79</sup> then, how can this be an exclusive attribute of prophethood? And if one does not consider it binding, then it is necessary to explain the reason for differentiating between a prophet and a non-prophet.

And if he refers to all kinds of knowledge such that not even a single thing remains unknown, then the invalidity of such an idea is proven by numerous narrated<sup>80</sup> and rational proofs.<sup>81</sup>

Which proves that the previously stated verses are not valid<sup>82</sup> according to the above argument.

O Muslims! Did you notice that this insolent man has not only reviled Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ, but has also considered the Speech of his Lord, Almighty Allāh táālā to be invalid.<sup>83</sup>

O Muslims! A person whose audacity has fallen to such depths that he equates the knowledge of unseen of RasūlAllāh ﷺ with the knowledge of madmen and animals; would it be any surprise if he shuts his eyes from faith and humanity and say: 'what is the difference between a prophet and an animal?'<sup>84</sup> Would it be surprising if he rejects the Word of Allāh táālā, terms it as invalid, throws it behind and tramples over it – in fact, only a

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<sup>79</sup> As already claimed – even quadrupeds have knowledge, thus the negation of exclusivity.

<sup>80</sup> *dalīl e naqlī o áqlī se sābit hai.*

<sup>81</sup> These lines follow the inflammatory passage in the original *Hifzu'l Imān*. If one reads the whole passage, it is clear that Thānawī rejects '*part ilm al-ghayb*' and draws similarity of such '*part ilm al-ghayb*' of the Prophet ﷺ with that of animals and madmen; because he trails the discussion with the invalidity of '*kull ilm al-ghayb*.' So the parallels drawn are not accidental or an incidental outcome, but rather deliberate and intentional.

<sup>82</sup> Because Allāh táālā has enumerated knowledge – without qualification – as a praiseworthy and attribute of perfection for prophets.

<sup>83</sup> Because, the Lord says that knowledge is an attribute of perfection for prophets; but Thānawī says it is not.

<sup>84</sup> This is a rhetorical question, highlighting the context and implication of such speech.

person who does all of this will dare to utter a disrespectful epithet describing RasūlAllāh ﷺ.

But ask him, whether the same description can be used for his own self and for his teachers? Ask these insolent people whether they will allow us to attribute them with the very words that they have used in the description of RasūlAllāh ﷺ. Why are you people called as scholars, shaykhs, leaders, imāms, this, that, such and such<sup>85</sup> – why are they not called as animals?

For example, why are they not called as dogs and pigs? Why do your followers respect you, and on what account do they kiss your hands and feet? Why do they not do these things with animals – for example, why do they not show such respect to donkeys? What is the reason for this difference?

After all, certainly, even you do not possess complete knowledge; so, where is the exclusivity for you folk in your partial knowledge? Because, such knowledge is possessed by owls, donkeys, dogs and pigs – then it would become necessary to address them as scholars and shaykhs.

But if you will make it binding upon yourself that you will call all of them as scholars, then why are you considered as distinguished on account of your knowledge? In such a thing (as knowledge,) in which there is no exclusivity for believers – or even to humans; and an attribute (of knowledge) which donkeys, dogs and pigs all share; why is this your distinguishing attribute?<sup>86</sup> And if there is no such binding,<sup>87</sup> then by your own rule, it is necessary to explain the difference between you people and donkeys, dogs and pigs.

O Muslims! If you ask them in this manner, it will be lucid and clear that these people have explicitly reviled Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ and also rejected the verses of the Qur'ān.<sup>88</sup> O Muslims! Ask this particular insolent

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<sup>85</sup> *ālim, fāzil, mullā, chuniñ chunañ*

<sup>86</sup> *kamālāt*: distinguishing feature or trait. not the literal meaning of perfection.

<sup>87</sup> *iltizām*: that you will call everyone a scholar.

<sup>88</sup> When Thānawī says that knowledge is not a distinguishing attribute of prophets ﷺ it implies that he rejects the verses which say that it IS an attribute of distinction.

person and his followers whether this verse of the Qur'ān describes them or not; your Lord Almighty Allāh says:<sup>89</sup>

And We have spread out many Jinn and men for hellfire - they have hearts which do not recognize [the truth] and eyes that do not see [the right path] and ears that do not hear [truthful speech]; they are like cattle - or even worse in being astray; and such people are the heedless ones.

Have you not seen him - he, who has taken his desire as his god; wouldst you be his procurator? Do you think that many of them hear or understand? They are like cattle - but rather worse - and have deviated from the right path.<sup>90</sup>

وَلَقَدْ ذَرَأْنَا لِجَهَنَّمَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ  
وَالْإِنسِ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا  
وَلَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أَذَانٌ  
لَّا يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا أُولَٰئِكَ كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ  
هُمْ أَضَلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْغَافِلُونَ ﴿٨٩﴾

أَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَٰهَهُ هَوَاهُ أَفَأَنْتَ  
تَكُونُ عَلَيْهِ وَكِيلًا ﴿٩٠﴾ أَمْ تَحْسَبُ أَنَّ  
أَكْثَرَهُمْ يَسْمَعُونَ أَوْ يَعْقِلُونَ إِنْ هُمْ  
إِلَّا كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا ﴿٩١﴾

Ask these insolent people who have equated the knowledge of quadrupeds with the knowledge of prophets ﷺ: 'Is your knowledge equal to that of prophets - or that of the leader of all prophets ﷺ?'

Surely, they will not dare to explicitly claim such equality.

But if they do - after all, when they have equated it<sup>91</sup> with four-legged beasts, would it be a surprise if they claim it for two-legged ones?<sup>92</sup>

<sup>89</sup> Sûrah Al-A'arâf, 7:179.

<sup>90</sup> Sûrah Al-Furqân, 25:43-44.

<sup>91</sup> The knowledge of prophets ﷺ

<sup>92</sup> The insolent people themselves.

Suppose they do, ask them whether there is anyone among their teachers or shaykhs who is greater than them in knowledge.

After all, there MUST be someone, who is higher to them in knowledge? When they find that *someone*, then obviously these people are lesser than that *someone*, otherwise why would they become their students or followers? In which case, the knowledge of this *someone*, is equal to that of animals or cattle. Thus, these insolent followers are lesser than cattle and justifying this verse truly describes them.

Thus, is their punishment; and the punishment of the hereafter is greater. Mayhap, they knew!<sup>93</sup>

كَذَلِكَ الْعَذَابُ وَلِالْعَذَابِ الْآخِرَةِ  
أَكْبَرُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩٣﴾

﴿٩٣﴾

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<sup>93</sup> Sūrah Al-Zumar, 68:33.

## FALSEHOOD IN DIVINE SPEECH

O Muslims! Thus was the description of words which were disrespectful to prophets and even the Master of all Prophets ﷺ; what can one say about statements that assail the reverence of Allāh tāālā Himself!

For the sake of Allāh, be just and say whether a person who says the following remains a Muslim? One who said:

When did **I** say that I do **not** believe that falsehood can transpire<sup>94</sup>  
[in the Speech of] the Creator?<sup>95</sup>

Which means, the Lord Almighty is effectively a liar, has lied and shall lie. And concerning the above statement, the Muftī who issued the following ruling:

Even though such a person has erred in the understanding of Quranic verses,<sup>96</sup> one should not call him a kāfir, or a heretic or a misguided person.

and said:

One should not say harsh things to such a person<sup>97</sup>

and said:

Because it would necessitate takfir of elder scholars;<sup>98</sup> a Hanafi cannot scorn or claim that a Shāfi'ī is misguided.

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<sup>94</sup> **wuqū' e kizb e Bārī**: that falsehood shall/has occurred [in the speech] of Allāh tāālā.

<sup>95</sup> This is the statement of some person upon which Rashīd Ahmed was asked for a fatwā; instead of ruling that such a person is a kāfir, Rashīd Ahmed rationalized these statements. See Appendix C for a full translation of the *istiftā* and the fatwā. In summary, it was this fatwā, upon which Rashīd Ahmed was ruled a kāfir; later Deobandis deny this fatwā and claim that it is a forgery – even though Gangohī neither refuted it nor denied it himself, in spite of the *takfir* on this account being published and circulated widely in his own lifetime.

<sup>96</sup> **ta'wīl e āyāt**

<sup>97</sup> Mentioned in the *istiftā*: that he believes in **wuqū' e kizb e Bārī**

In other words: It has been – MáādhAllāh – the madh’hab of many elder scholars that the Lord Almighty is a liar.<sup>99</sup> This is a topic upon which there is difference and is similar to the difference of Ḥanafīs and Shāfiyīs; some fold their hands [in prayer] below the navel, and some above. Similarly, some have said that the Almighty is truthful and some have said that He is a liar. Therefore, do not consider a person who calls Him a liar as misguided or a heretic.<sup>100</sup>

So, if one calls the Almighty a liar – let alone calling him a heretic, do not even consider him a sinner!

One who issues a ruling about the belier of the Almighty, and of his own volition attests that the Almighty has **‘Power to utter falsehood; but it is impossible to occur, and this is an issue that is agreed upon;’**<sup>101</sup> does such a person remain a Muslim? Particularly, when he has explicitly attested:<sup>102</sup>

The meaning of occurrence of falsehood thus becomes valid.<sup>103</sup>

That is, it is valid to say that falsehood has occurred in the [speech of the] Almighty. Does a person who says this remain a Muslim? And does one who considers such a person as a Muslim remain a Muslim himself?

O Muslims! For the sake of Allāh, be just and fair.

After all, by definition, ‘faith’ means to attest<sup>104</sup> to the Truth of Allāh táālā; and its diametric opposite is to belie.<sup>105</sup> Belie means, to consider someone

<sup>98</sup> *úlamā e salaf ki takfīr lāzim āati hai*

<sup>99</sup> According to such a Muftī – i.e. Rashīd Afīmed Gangohī.

<sup>100</sup> As implied by the fatwā. By not ruling such a person kāfir, the Muftī himself becomes a kāfir; and as if this was not enough, the Muftī’s explanation clearly attests *wuqūú* and leaves no room for misunderstanding.

<sup>101</sup> *qudratu’n álā al-kadhibi maá imtināá al-wuqūú*: See Alahazrat’s classic *Sub’ḥān as-Subbūḥ* for a detailed refutation of this mendacity and a paper in English based on it, *The Truth About a Lie*, in which *kalām* terms crucial for a clear understanding of this issue were explained.

<sup>102</sup> Rashīd Afīmed.

<sup>103</sup> *wuqūú e kizb ke maání durust ho gaye* according to the fatwā; see Appendix C.

<sup>104</sup> *taşdiq*: to attest to the truth of someone.

as having lied. When someone explicitly says that the Almighty can lie, and yet his faith remains intact – only the Lord knows – what kind of an animal 'faith' is!

Why are Magians, Hindus, Christians and Jews considered as *kāfir*? They do not call even those objects they worship [as gods] as liars. Yes, they reject the Word of the True Lord, the Almighty – by denying that the Qur'ān is not His Word; or by refusing to accept what it describes. As such, there might not be a *kāfir* in this world who considers his god as a god; and his speech as his speech – yet claim that his speech contains falsehood and that it is valid to say that falsehood has occurred in such speech.<sup>106</sup>

An unbiased person will not have any doubt that these people have blasphemed against Allāh táālā and His Messenger ﷺ. This is when you are tested by Allāh; fear Allāh, the Subduer, the One, the Powerful,<sup>107</sup> and recall the verses that have been mentioned earlier and act upon them. If you do so, your faith will fill your heart with a dislike of the blasphemers; it will certainly not allow you to side with those who have insulted Allāh and Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ. You will be averse to them and you will dissociate from them, instead of finding baseless and lame excuses for their abuses.

Be just for the sake of Allāh! If a person reviles your father, your mother, your teachers, your shaykhs – and not just verbal insults, but written ones that are printed and published; will you still maintain your friendship with them? Will you find excuses for them or try to interpret their words favorably? Or totally ignore them?

No, no; never!

If you have self-respect as a human should, and care for the honor of your parents or teachers as any self-respecting individual should, you would find their<sup>108</sup> very faces abhorrent. You would flee from them, you would

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<sup>105</sup> *takdhīb, takzīb*: to belie, to consider someone false or their speech falsehood.

<sup>106</sup> Of what he considers as his god.

<sup>107</sup> *Wāḥid, Qaḥḥār, Jabbār*

<sup>108</sup> Those who insult your parents or teachers and hurl profanities at them.

## ALIBIS OF THE FIRST GROUP

At this point, there are two groups of people who have reservations in accepting the above rulings. The **FIRST GROUP** is of uninformed and ignorant people; and they cite two kinds of excuses:

**The First Alibi:** *These people are our teachers, our elders and our friends.*

The answer to this excuse has already been described from the verses of the Qur'ān above, that Allāh táālā has repeatedly said in His Book and clearly said, that if you wish to escape the Wrath of Allāh táālā, then do not make any concession to the insolent person even if he is your own father.

**The Second Alibi:** *These people are also scholars;<sup>111</sup> and how can we consider scholars as kāfirs or censure them?*

The answer to this is given by your Lord Almighty who says:

Have you not seen he, who has taken his desire as his god? Allāh táālā has made him to go astray in spite of his knowledge; and sealed his hearing and his heart and put a veil on his sight. Who can guide him after Allāh táālā (has made him go astray)? Do you not heed an admonition?<sup>112</sup>

أَفَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَٰهَهُ هَوَادُ وَأَضَلَّهُ  
اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ وَخَتَمَ عَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِ  
وَقَلْبِهِ وَجَعَلَ عَلَىٰ بَصَرِهِ غِشَاوَةً  
فَمَنْ يَهْدِيهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا  
تَذَكَّرُونَ ❀

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<sup>111</sup> maulavi, mawlawī

<sup>112</sup> Sûrah Al-Jāthiyah, 45:23.

And He says:

The example of those who were laden with the burden of the Torah, but they did not bear it – their parable is like that of a donkey that carries books. What a bad example of a people they are – they who belie the signs of Allāh; verily Allāh does not guide the transgressors.<sup>113</sup>

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ حُمِّلُوا التَّوْرَةَ ثُمَّ لَمْ  
يَحْمِلُوهَا كَمَثَلِ الْحِمَارِ يَحْمِلُ  
أَسْفَارًا بِئْسَ مَثَلُ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ  
كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي  
الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ❁

And He says:

And recite unto them, the tidings of he, whom We gave knowledge of our Signs – but he went out of it, and followed Satan – and became a transgressor. If We wished, we would have elevated him because of his knowledge, but he held his ground [and worldly life] and followed his desire; his example is like that of a dog – which pants if you chase it and pants if you leave it alone.

وَإِذْ عَلَّمْنَا نَبَأَ الَّذِي آتَيْنَاهُ آيَاتِنَا  
فَانْسَلَخَ مِنْهَا فَاتَّبَعَهُ الشَّيْطَانُ  
فَكَانَ مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ ❁ وَلَوْ شِئْنَا  
لَرَفَعْنَاهُ بِهَا وَلَكِنَّهُ أَخْلَدَ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ  
وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ فَمَثَلُهُ كَمَثَلِ الْكَلْبِ إِنْ  
تَحْمِلُ عَلَيْهِ يَلْهَثُ أَوْ تَتْرُكُهُ يَلْهَثُ  
ذَلِكَ مَثَلُ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا  
بِآيَاتِنَا فَاقْصُصِ الْقَصَصَ لَعَلَّهُمْ  
يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ❁

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<sup>113</sup> Sūrah Jumu'ah, 62:5.

This is the example of a people that belie our verses and transgress their own souls. Only those whom Allāh guides are the guided ones; and those whom He makes them go astray, verily, they are in a great misfortune.<sup>114</sup>

سَاءَ مَثَلًا الْقَوْمُ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا  
بِآيَاتِنَا وَأَنْفُسَهُمْ كَانُوا يَظْلِمُونَ ﴿١١٤﴾  
مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِي وَمَنْ  
يُضِلِلْ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ ﴿١١٥﴾

That is, knowledge does not guarantee guidance. This is the choice of the Lord Almighty. These are verses of the Qur'ān and there are numerous ḥadīth that warn about misguided scholars. For example, in one ḥadīth, it is said that the angels of hell will seize such scholars before they seize idol-worshippers; when they protest, 'do you seize us even before you take idol-worshippers?' The [angels will] answer:<sup>115</sup> 'Those who know are not the same as those who do not know.'<sup>116</sup>

Brothers! The respect given to a scholar is because he is considered as an heir of the Prophet ﷺ; and this is true when he is rightly guided. But when he goes astray, is he the Prophet's heir or the heir of Satan? In the former case, respecting him is respecting the Prophet;<sup>117</sup> but in the latter case, it is showing respect to Satan. And this is so, when such a scholar has not even breached the boundary of kufr, like scholars among innovators. Then, what about those who commit explicit kufr? It is kufr to even *consider* him a scholar, let alone *respecting* him for being a scholar.

<sup>114</sup> Sūrah Al-Aārāf, 7:175-178.

<sup>115</sup> *Shuāb al-Īmān*, Al-Bayhaqī, Ḥadīth No. 1900.

<sup>116</sup> **Alahazrat's footnote:** This ḥadīth is reported by Al-Ṭabarānī in *Al-Mujam al-Kabir*, Abū Nuāym in *Ḥilyah* narrating from Anas ؓ elevated to RasūlAllāh ﷺ that he said so.

<sup>117</sup> Because you respect his heir.

Brothers! Knowledge is beneficial, but only when it is accompanied by true religion; otherwise pandits<sup>118</sup> and priests<sup>119</sup> are also scholars, aren't they? Iblīs was a big scholar, but does any Muslim respect him? He was known as the 'Teacher of Angels,'<sup>120</sup> but when he turned his face from the respect of Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ – because the light of RasūlAllāh ﷺ shone in the forehead<sup>121</sup> of Sayyidunā Ādam ؑ and Iblīs did not prostrate to it; and from that moment, he wears the collar of damnation around his neck.

And since that day, his rightly-guided students<sup>122</sup> send damnation upon him; every Ramaḍān, he is shackled in chains of fire for the whole month; and on the day of Judgement, they will drag him and throw him in hell. Thus, it is clear that there is no respect for knowledge or teachers when they are disrespectful towards RasūlAllāh ﷺ.

Brothers! A million laments upon such claims of being Muslims for whom the eminence of teachers is more important than that of Allāh táālā or Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ. Or the love of brothers or friends is more prominent than the love of Allāh and His Messenger ﷺ.

O Allāh! Give us true faith on account of Your beloved ﷺ and for the sake of his true esteem and mercy. Āmīn.

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<sup>118</sup> Hindu religious scholars.

<sup>119</sup> Christian religious scholars.

<sup>120</sup> *muállimu'l malakūt*

<sup>121</sup> **Alahazrat's footnote:** It is in *Tafsīr al-Kabīr* of Imām Fakhruddīn Rāzī concerning the verse: '*And these are Messengers, we made some superior to others...*' [Sūrah al-Baqarah, 2:253]:

The Angels were commanded to prostrate to Ādam because the light of Muḥammad ﷺ shone in his forehead. And in *Tafsīr Nishāpūri*: The prostration of angels to Ādam was on account of the light of Muḥammad ﷺ that shone in the forehead of Ādam.

<sup>122</sup> *shāgirdān-e-rashīd*: that is, angels.

## ALIBIS OF THE SECOND GROUP

The second group is that of adamant people, enemies of religion – those who deny the necessary aspects<sup>123</sup> of religion themselves, and then after uttering explicit statements of *kufr*, they attempt to erase it by proffering interpretations so that the rider of *darūrī*<sup>124</sup> is lifted and so they can escape the ruling of *kufr*. As if Islam is nothing more than repeating the *kalimah* like a parrot – even if such a person considers the Almighty as a liar or utters filthy words referring to the Messenger ﷺ, his faith remains intact.<sup>125</sup>

Rather, Allāh has damned them on account of their disbelief, their *kufr*; only a few among them shall have faith.<sup>126</sup>

بَلْ لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِكُفْرِهِمْ فَقَلِيلًا مَّا  
يُؤْمِنُونَ ❁

These are enemies of Muslims and Islam. And to deceive the common people, they craft a few satanic devices – and attempt to modify the religion of Allāh.<sup>127</sup>

### THE FIRST SUBTERFUGE

They say: *Islam is the name of uttering the kalimah; it is said in the ḥadīth: whosoever uttered lā ilāha illā Allāh shall enter paradise.*<sup>128</sup> Then how can anyone become a *kāfir* by just saying or doing something?

<sup>123</sup> *zarūriyat e dīn*: those things that are necessary to know and denying it is *kufr*. The respect of RasūlAllāh ﷺ is a requirement of religion.

<sup>124</sup> *darūrī*: necessary, requirement; same as the above footnote.

<sup>125</sup> According to this second group of people.

<sup>126</sup> Sūrah Al-Baqarah, 2:88.

<sup>127</sup> When such people try to insist that these heresies like ‘falsehood is included in Divine power’ is an old issue WITHIN Ahlu’s Sunnah, is it not an attempt to change the religion of Allāh tāālā? *lā ḥawla wa lā quwwata illā billāh*.

<sup>128</sup> Al-Ṭabarānī, *Al-Mújam al-Kabīr*, Ḥadīth No. 2348.

O Muslims! Beware of this accursed deception; which implies that as if reciting the *kalimah* makes one the son of the Almighty! Because, if a man's son abuses him or beats him – or does whatever – he still remains that man's son. Similarly, if one says *lā ilāha illā Allāh*, and then calls the Almighty as a liar or abuses the Prophet ﷺ, his faith does not change.<sup>129</sup> One of the answers to this deception is already given above:

Do people expect that they will be spared at merely saying 'We believe', and that they will not be tested?<sup>130</sup>

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ ﴿٢٠٠﴾

If Islām<sup>131</sup> would be valid by mere recitation of the *kalimah*, then why does the Qur'ān criticise and refute the delusion of people?<sup>132</sup> Your Lord Almighty says:

The bedouins say: 'we bear faith.' Tell them: you have not believed yet; rather say, 'we have submitted to the Will of Allāh' as faith has still not entered your hearts.<sup>133</sup>

قَالَتِ الْأَعْرَابُ آمَنَّا قُلْ لَمْ تُؤْمِنُوا وَلَكِنْ قُولُوا أَسْلَمْنَا وَلَمَّا يَدْخُلِ الْإِيمَانُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ

<sup>129</sup> This is also derived from the verse that refutes the Jews and Christians, when they said: "we are the sons of Allāh and His beloved ones" [Sūrah Al-Māyidah, 5:18.] Ibn Abbās reports that RasūlAllāh ﷺ was telling the community to fear Allāh, and the Jews and Christians said the above as cited in the verse.

<sup>130</sup> Sūrah Al-Ānkabūt, 29:2.

<sup>131</sup> **Alahazrat's Footnote:** Shaykh Mujaddid e Alf e Thānī (Imām Ahmed Sirhindī, d.1034 AH) says in his *Maktūbāt*:

In Islām it is not sufficient to merely say the *kalimah*; rather it is necessary to attest to all the required aspects of religion - *mā ūlima bi'd darūratī majāratun minā'd dīn* – all that is spontaneously known. It is also necessary to disavow and repudiate disbelief (kufr) and infidels (kāfirs) so that (one's) Islām is valid from all perspectives.

<sup>132</sup> They will be spared by merely saying that they are Muslims as mentioned in the verse.

<sup>133</sup> Sūrah Al-Hujurāt, 49:14.

**And He says:**

When the hypocrites come to you, they say: 'we bear witness that you are the Messenger of Allāh.' Verily, Allāh knows that you are the Messenger of Allāh - and Allāh bears witness that these hypocrites are certainly liars.<sup>134</sup>

إِذَا جَاءَكَ الْمُنَافِقُونَ قَالُوا نَشْهَدُ  
إِنَّكَ لِرَسُولِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِنَّكَ  
لِرَسُولِهِ وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ  
لَكَاذِبُونَ \*

Notice, that uttering the kalimah and swearing oaths that they are truthful did not avail the hypocrites - Allāh táālā revealed and bore witness that they were liars. So if one says: '*he who utters lā ilāha illā Allāh will enter paradise*' to mean that 'regardless of anything else,' is actually rejecting the Qur'ān.

However, one who recites the kalimah and calls himself a Muslim, we shall certainly consider him a Muslim as long as he does not contradict fundamental precepts of Islām either in word or deed. And if such a word or deed (that negates Islām) has occurred, then his utterance of the kalimah is of no use.

**Your Lord Almighty Allāh says:**

They [hypocrites] swear by Allāh that they have never said so [things disrespectful to the Prophet.] But verily, they have uttered words of disbelief [kufr] and have become disbelievers after having been Muslims.<sup>135</sup>

يَخْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ مَا قَالُوا وَلَقَدْ قَالُوا  
كَلِمَةَ الْكُفْرِ وَكَفَرُوا بَعْدَ إِسْلَامِهِمْ

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<sup>134</sup> Sūrah Al-Munāfiqūn, 63:1.

<sup>135</sup> Sūrah Al-Tawbah, 9:74.

Ibn Jarīr (al-Ṭabarī), Ṭabarānī, Abu'l Shaykh, Ibn Mardawīh report from ʿAbdullāh ibn ʿAbbās ؓ who narrates that:<sup>136</sup>

RasūlAllāh ﷺ was sitting in the shade of a tree; presently, he said: 'a man will come to you now and look at you with the eyes of satan; do not speak with him when he comes.' After a while, a man with amber<sup>137</sup> eyes appeared. RasūlAllāh ﷺ called him and asked: 'why were you and your friends saying disrespectful things about me?'

The man went back and brought his companions and they swore that they did not say anything that was insulting or disrespectful.

Allāh tāālā revealed these verses on this occasion and said: 'you swear that you have not said it; but certainly, you have said it and it is an utterance of disbelief [word of kufr] – and because of this, you have become *kāfirs* after having been Muslims.'

Notice that Allāh bears witness that those who say things disrespectful about the Prophet ﷺ become *kāfir* even if they insist that they are Muslims.

And He says:

If you ask them, [why they said so,] they reply, 'We were joking and being playful.' Tell them: 'Do you make fun of Allāh tāālā and His verses and His Prophet?'

وَلَيْنُ سَأَلْتَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ إِنَّمَا كُنَّا  
نَخُوضُ وَنَلْعَبُ قُلْ أَبِاللَّهِ وَآيَاتِهِ  
وَرَسُولِهِ كُنْتُمْ تَسْتَهْزِئُونَ ؕ

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<sup>136</sup> Various *tafsirs* mention this citing Ibn Jarīr, in the commentary of the verse 74 of Sūrah Tawbah.  
See *Tafsīr Ibn Kathīr*.

<sup>137</sup> The word in ḥadīth is **azraq** – literally 'blue,' but it does not necessarily mean blue. Amber or grey eyes are also termed as *azraq*, as mentioned in *Tāj al-Ārūs*. Alahazrat has translated it as '*karanjī ānkhoñ wālā*' meaning one with hazel or amber eyes.

Do not find excuses – you have become infidels after professing faith.<sup>138</sup>

لَا تَعْتَذِرُوا قَدْ كَفَرْتُمْ بَعْدَ  
إِيمَانِكُمْ

Ibn Abī Shaybah, Ibn Jarīr, Ibn al-Mundhir, Ibn Abī Hâtim and Abu'l Shaykh report from Mujāhid, a prominent disciple of Ábdullāh ibn Ábbās ؓ and he narrates:<sup>139</sup>

concerning the verse: **'When you ask them, they say, 'We were jesting and were being playful.'** A man among the hypocrites said: 'Muḥammad ﷺ tells us that the camel of so-and-so is in such and-such a valley; what does he know about the unseen?'<sup>140</sup>

O Muslims! Notice, that a hypocrite who only said: *'what does Muḥammad ﷺ know about the unseen'* was deemed an insult to Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ and Allāh táālā clearly rejects all excuses and says: *"Do not try to find excuses – you have become kāfirs after having professed faith."*<sup>141</sup>

This is also a lesson to those who deny that the Prophet ﷺ, did not have absolutely any knowledge of the unseen.<sup>142</sup> This is the speech of hypocrites, and anyone who says so, according to the verse, is one who mocks Allāh táālā, the Qur'ān and RasūlAllāh ﷺ and is an open disbeliever and an apostate.<sup>143</sup>

Because, to possess knowledge of the unseen is a distinct attribute of prophets as said by Imām Ghazālī, Imām Qaṣṣallānī, Mawlānā Ālī al-Qārī, Állāmah Muḥammad Zarqānī and other senior scholars, which I have mentioned in various books written on this subject.<sup>144</sup> It is exceedingly

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<sup>138</sup> Sūrah Al-Tawbah, 9:65-66.

<sup>139</sup> *Tafsīr Ibn Jarīr al-Ṭabari* and *Tafsīr Durr al-Manthūr*; concerning the verse.

<sup>140</sup> *What does Muḥammad ﷺ know about the ghayb?*

<sup>141</sup> Sūrah Al-Tawbah, 9:66.

<sup>142</sup> *muṭlaqan munkir haiñ*: those who deny such knowledge absolutely.

<sup>143</sup> According to Sūrah Al-Tawbah, 9:65-66 (see p.32).

<sup>144</sup> And his masterpiece *Ad-Dawlatu'l Makkiyyah*.

strange and obvious heresy, that one denies that prophets have such knowledge and [says] that it is *muḥāl* even if this knowledge has been **bestowed** by Allāh tāālā.<sup>145</sup> Then, according to this person everything is hidden from Allāh tāālā and He cannot give this knowledge to anyone even if He so wishes! May Allāh tāālā protect us from the deception of Satan. Āmīn.

Yes, the claim of even a speck of knowledge for someone<sup>146</sup> without the grant of Allāh tāālā is certainly kufr. It is also an invalid belief that the knowledge of [anybody in the] creation<sup>147</sup> can encompass the knowledge of Allāh tāālā, and is against the opinion of most<sup>148</sup> scholars. However, the knowledge about everything from the first day to the final day of judgement – that which has happened and shall happen, *mā kāna wa mā yakūn*<sup>149</sup> – is only a small part of the Knowledge of Allāh tāālā.

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<sup>145</sup> **Alahazrat's footnote:** By the grace of Allah, there are four upcoming epistles refuting this novel narrative: 1) *Irāḥatu Jawānif al-Ghayb* 2) *Al-Jilā al-Kāmil* 3) *Ibrā'a al-Majnūn* 4) *Mayl al-Hudāt* among which the first will be published very soon along with a translation and the rest will also follow, with the aid of Allāh; *wa billāhi't tawfiq*.

<sup>146</sup> In the creation.

<sup>147</sup> Anyone and everyone in the creation: *ilm e makhlūq*.

<sup>148</sup> **Alahazrat's footnote:** The reason why we have restricted it to 'most' shall be explained. InShāAllāh, in the gloss titled, *Al-Fuyūdāt al-Malakiyyah li Muḥibbi'd Dawlati'l Makkiyyah*. [see annotation below the dotted line]

<sup>149</sup> Which is restricted to: from the first day of the first creation coming into existence, to the final day of judgement. And we believe that RasūlAllāh ﷺ was given this knowledge.

In the gloss:

Thus it is proven that it is impossible [*muḥāl*] by both Law [*sharān*] and rational proofs [*ʿaqlān*] that for anyone in the creation to encompass [*iḥāṭah*] the Knowledge of Allāh tāālā completely and comprehensively [*at-tafṣīl*]; rather even if the knowledge of first and the last [in the creation] are put together, it is not even comparable to the relation, a billionth part of a drop of water has to a billion oceans because that billionth part is from a drop of infinity and thus infinite in itself and so forth [recursively].

Further, replying to an accusation in *Ghāyatu'l Ma'mūl*:

This is our belief in Allāh tāālā. Anyone who reflects on this explanation in this section – not to mention these final comments concerning the comparison of the knowledge of Creator and that of His creation – will be convinced that I am exonerated from the

This part is not even comparable to a billionth part of a drop of water in relation to a billion oceans. Indeed, this 'part' is itself a small part of the knowledge of Sayyidunā Muḥammad ﷺ. I have described all these issues in *Al-Dawlatu'l Makkiyyah* and other books. Anyway, this was mentioned as a point of objection, but nevertheless it was InShāAllāh, a beneficial digression; and now, let us return to our previous discussion.

## THE SECOND SUBTERFUGE

They say: *The madh'hab of Imām Aázam رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ is that, 'takfīr is not done of anyone who prays facing the qiblah.'*<sup>150</sup> and it is in the ḥadīth that: *'whosoever prays facing our qiblah and eats the animal slaughtered'*<sup>151</sup> by us, *is a Muslim'*.<sup>152</sup>

O Muslim! This is an unclean deception in which, they even went beyond mere uttering the kalimah and named faith as just turning one's face to the qiblah. That is, one who faces the qiblah and prays is a Muslim, even if he says that Allāh tāālā lies, or insults Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ – his faith remains intact, *as firm as the ablution of bibi tamiyz*<sup>153</sup>

falsehood and slander of those who attribute the following belief to me "he [Aḥmed Ridā] claimed equality [*al-musāwāh*] of the Knowledge of the Creator and His creation [that is RasūlAllāh ﷺ] except that the two differed only in being Pre-Eternal and accident [*qidam wa ḥudūth*].

Concerning the word 'most,' he writes:

Yes, in spite of all this, we still do not do takfir of those who say this, as claimed in *Al-Mawḍū'āt*. This is because, gnostics like Sayyidi Abu'l Ḥasan al-Bakri رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ and those who followed him have said so, as mentioned by Shaykh Al-Ashmāwī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ in his commentary of *Ṣalāt Ahmed al-Badawi*...

...Shaykh Abd al-Ḥaqq mentioned this in his *Madāriju'n Nubuwwah* and neither did takfir, nor called him a heretic [*yudallil*] and did not even name him, but simply said, 'a gnostic has said;' and then followed it, with the comment: 'Allāh tāālā knows better what he really meant by this, because if this is taken literally [*ala zāhirihī*] it contradicts numerous [established] proofs,

<sup>150</sup> Imām Aázam, *Fiqh al-Akbar*. Also, **qiblah**: the direction one faces.

<sup>151</sup> *dhabh, zabiha*

<sup>152</sup> *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, Kitāb al-Ṣalah. 1/56.

<sup>153</sup> *chuñ wuzu e muḥkam e bibi tamiyz*

**The First Answer:** Your Lord Almighty ﷻ says:

Righteousness is not that you turn your face towards the east or the west; rather, the virtue of he who bears faith in Allāh and the final day, angels, the Book and prophets<sup>154</sup>

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ  
الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ  
آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ  
وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ

Thus it is clearly explained that the most important thing is that one should have faith in the necessities of religion;<sup>155</sup> merely turning towards a direction to pray is of no use [with defect in the fundamentals].

And He says:

That which they spend was not stopped from being accepted, until they disbelieved in Allāh and His Messenger; and they do not come to pray, except lazily; nor do they give in charity except with dislike<sup>156</sup>

وَمَا مَنَعَهُمْ أَنْ تُقْبَلَ مِنْهُمْ نَفَقَتُهُمْ  
إِلَّا أَنَّهُمْ كَفَرُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَلَا  
يَأْتُونَ الصَّلَاةَ إِلَّا وَهُمْ كُسَالَى وَلَا  
يُنْفِقُونَ إِلَّا وَهُمْ كَارِهُونَ

They [hypocrites] were called as kāfirs, in spite of their standing in prayer; were they not facing the qiblah in prayer? They were not just facing the qiblah, but they were praying behind the qiblah of the hearts and souls, the ka'abah of religion and faith: Sayyidunā RasūlAllāh ﷺ.

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<sup>154</sup> Sūrah Al-Baqarah, 2:177.

<sup>155</sup> *zarūriyāt e dīn*

<sup>156</sup> Sūrah Al-Tawbah, 9:54.

And He says:

And if they repent and establish prayer, and give charity, then they are your brothers in the religion. And thus, we explain our verses to people of knowledge. And if they give their word and then break their covenant and scorn your religion, then, kill the leaders of disbelief; their oaths amount to nothing – mayhap, they refrain.<sup>157</sup>

فَإِنْ تَابُوا وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا  
الزَّكَاةَ فَإِخْوَانُكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ  
وَنَفَصِلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ \*  
وَإِنْ نَكَثُوا أَيْمَانَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ  
عَهْدِهِمْ وَطَعَنُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ فَقَاتِلُوا  
أَيِّمَةَ الْكُفْرِ إِنَّهُمْ لَا أَيْمَانَ لَهُمْ  
لَعَلَّهُمْ يَنْتَهُونَ \*

When those who prayed and gave charity said something scorning religion, they were addressed as leaders of kufr, and the heads of disbelievers. Isn't insulting Allāh táālā and His Messenger, scorning the religion?

Listen to what your Lord Almighty says:

Among the Jews are those, who swap words from their places, and they say: 'we hear and we disobey. Hear us, may you never be made to listen, make concessions for us.' And they say **rāyina** by twisting their tongues, and scorning the religion. It would have been better for them if they said: 'we

مِنَ الَّذِينَ هَادُوا يُحَرِّفُونَ الْكَلِمَ  
عَنْ مَوَاضِعِهِ وَيَقُولُونَ سَمِعْنَا  
وَعَصَيْنَا وَاسْمَعْ غَيْرَ مُسْمَعٍ وَرَاعِنَا  
لَيَّا بِالسِّنِّهِمْ وَطَعْنَا فِي الدِّينِ وَلَوْ  
أَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا وَاسْمَعْ  
وَانْظُرْنَا لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ وَأَقْوَمَ

<sup>157</sup> Sūrah Al-Tawbah, 9:11-12.

hear and obey; hear us, and consider us.' But Allāh has damned them because of their kufr and they will not bear faith, except some [among them].<sup>158</sup>

وَلَكِنْ لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِكُفْرِهِمْ فَلَا  
يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ﴿٤٦﴾

In Madinah, Jews would attend the assembly of the Prophet ﷺ and would say: 'Hear us! May you not be made to hear.' On the outside, this was meant as a prayer, meaning: 'May you never hear an undesirable thing,' but in their hearts, they had this sick intention: 'that may you not be able to hear at all.' When the Messenger ﷺ said something, they would say *rāyīnā*, meaning 'give us consideration, as we have not understood it well.'<sup>159</sup> But they, would intend another meaning. Some have said that they intended *rūūnah*<sup>160</sup> and others said that they used to twist their tongues and say it with a little elongation as *rāyīnā* meaning, 'our shepherd.'

When an innuendo is considered as disparaging the religion, then should not an explicit insult be considered worse? If you are judicious, you will not fail to notice that even the negative meanings of the innuendos [mentioned in the verse, uttered by the Jews] are not as ugly as these explicit insults.<sup>161</sup>

A curse to be deaf, or foolishness or a shepherd – are not as ugly<sup>162</sup> as saying: 'less in knowledge than Satan,' or 'equal to madmen and animals in knowledge' or referring to God, 'that He is a liar, tells lies and one who

<sup>158</sup> Sūrah An-Nisā', 4:46.

<sup>159</sup> They tried to pretend as if they were saying: '*ihfaẓnā* - protect us,' though they really meant to insult by deriving it from *rūūnah* [*Mufradāt al-Qur'ān*, Imām Rāghib al-Aṣṣahānī].

<sup>160</sup> *rūūnah* means foolishness or imbecility. In major readings it is recited as *rāyīnā* without tanwīn meaning, 'Do not say *rāyīnā*.' Ḥasan recited this verse with tanwīn: *lā taqūlū rayīnan*; Thālab says that it means: '[O Jews, who say this] do not utter a lie, in mockery and foolishness' [*Tāj al-Ārūs*].

<sup>161</sup> Explicit insults uttered by Gangohī, Ambhetwī and Thānawī.

<sup>162</sup> They are ugly and are blasphemies; the sayings of the modern blasphemers are even more ugly and are hence even more severe blasphemies.

calls Him a liar is a righteous Sunni Muslim.’ *Al-‘iyādhū billāh!* We seek Allāh’s refuge.

**The Second Answer:** Attributing this nasty delusion<sup>163</sup> to the *madh’hab* of Imām Aázam رحمہ اللہ is a slander of the Imām, because he has said in his famous book explaining the creed of Ahlu’s Sunnah:<sup>164</sup>

the Attributes of Allāh are Pre-eternal and are not accidents; <sup>165</sup> nor are His Attributes from His creation; <sup>166</sup> whosoever says that His Attributes are His creation or that they are accidents, or tarried in this belief or doubted this, <sup>167</sup> then verily, he has disbelieved [*kāfir*] in Allāh taālā.

And the Imām says in his *Kitāb al-Waṣiyyah*:<sup>168</sup>

whosoever says that the Speech of Allāh is a creation, <sup>169</sup> is a disbeliever [*kāfir*] of Allāh taālā.

In the commentary of *Fiqh al-Akbar*:<sup>169</sup>

Fakhr al-Islām <sup>170</sup> said that it has been reported with veracity that Imām Abū Yūsuf said: ‘I debated Abu Ḥanīfah in the issue of *Createdness of the Qur’ān*, and eventually we both agreed that

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<sup>163</sup> That merely facing the *qiblah* makes one a Muslim and regardless of everything else, we do not do *takfīr* of those who face towards our *qiblah* in their prayer.

<sup>164</sup> *Fiqh Al-Akbar*, Imām Abū Ḥanīfah.

<sup>165</sup> *muḥdathah*

<sup>166</sup> *makhlūq*

<sup>167</sup> Tarried or doubted that: the Attributes of Allāh are Pre-eternal and neither accidents nor creation.

<sup>168</sup> *Kitābu’l Waṣiyyah*, Imām Abū Ḥanīfah.

<sup>169</sup> *Minah al-Rawḍ al-Az’har*, Ālī al-Qārī, Pg.95.

<sup>170</sup> Fakhr al-Islām, when mentioned in Ḥanafī texts without qualification usually refers to Imām Muḥammad al-Pazdawī [d.482 AH].

whosoever says that the Qur'ān is created is a disbeliever [kāfir.]'

This has also been reported by Imām Muḥammad.

Thus, it is the unanimous opinion and agreement of the three Imams of the madh'hab, that those who say that the noble Qur'ān is a created thing are kāfirs. The Mútazilah, the Karrāmiyyah and the Rāfidīs, who claim that the Qur'ān is a creation; do they not pray facing the Qiblah?<sup>171</sup>

Take this very specific case that we are discussing now; Qādī Abū Yūsuf, the prominent Ḥanafī Imām says in his *Kitāb al-Kharāj*:<sup>172</sup>

Any Muslim who insults the Messenger ﷺ or belies him, or finds fault with him, or diminishes his rank – has certainly committed kufr and has disbelieved in Allāh tāālā. The wife of such a person goes out of wedlock.

It is clearly and explicitly said that even an attempt to diminish the rank of RasūlAllāh ﷺ by Muslims, will render him a kāfir and his wife goes out of wedlock. By common definition, is not a Muslim among those who pray facing the qiblah?<sup>173</sup> Indeed, he is; but on account of his blasphemy and uttering disrespectful words referring to Sayyidunā Muḥammad ﷺ, his facing the qiblah is of no benefit.

**The Third Answer:** In the terminology of scholars, *ahl al-qiblah* or the People of Qiblah, are those who fulfill all the requirements of faith and if a person contradicts or denies even a single thing from that which is considered as Necessary Requirement,<sup>174</sup> he is considered as a disbeliever, an apostate by unanimous agreement.<sup>175</sup> In fact, one who does not consider such a person<sup>176</sup> as a kāfir, is himself a kāfir.

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<sup>171</sup> Aren't they considered as kāfirs according to major Imams, including the three mentioned above?

<sup>172</sup> Imām Abū Yūsuf, *Kitāb al-Kharāj*, 182.

<sup>173</sup> *ahl al-qiblah*

<sup>174</sup> *darūriyāt; zarūriyat e dīn*

<sup>175</sup> *kāfir, murtadd by ijmāʿ*

<sup>176</sup> One who denies or contradicts a necessary requirement of faith.

It is said in *Shifā, Bazzāziyyah, Al-Durar wa'l Ghurar* and *Fatāwā al-Khayriyyah*:

...muslims are unanimously agreed upon the ruling that one who insults the Messenger • is a *kāfir*, a disbeliever; and one who doubts that such a blasphemer is *kāfir*, or that he will be punished is himself a *kāfir*.<sup>177</sup>

In *Majmā al-Anhur*<sup>178</sup> and *Durr al-Mukhtār*:<sup>179</sup>

And a person who is ruled a *kāfir* due to his insulting prophets, the repentance of such a person is absolutely unacceptable; one who doubts that such a person will be punished, or that he is a *kāfir* is a *kāfir* himself.

Though cited in support of this sub-topic, the ruling clearly describes that a blasphemer, according to *ijmāā* is an apostate and those who do not consider such people as apostates, are themselves apostates.

It is in *Fiqh al-Akbar*:

It is mentioned in *Al-Mawāqif* that the people of Qiblah are not ruled as *kāfirs* as long as they do not reject things that are classified as requirements of faith and things upon which there is a unanimous agreement like considering a forbidden thing to be permissible.

...it is obvious that our scholars do not permit the takfir of Ahl al-Qiblah on account of sins; but this does not mean just facing the Qiblah, because the extremist/fanatical Rafidīs who claim that Jibril ʿ made a mistake in delivering the Revelation,<sup>180</sup> because Allāh

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<sup>177</sup> Qadi Iyād al-Mālikī, *Kitāb al-Shifā bi Tārifi Huqūq al-Muṣṭafā*, 2/208.

<sup>178</sup> Shaykh-Zādah, *Majmā al-Anhur*, 1/677.

<sup>179</sup> Ālāuddīn al-Ĥaskafī, *Al-Durr al-Mukhtār*, Kitāb al-Jihād, Bāb al-Murtadd.

<sup>180</sup> *wah-y*

táālā sent him<sup>181</sup> towards Áli ؑ; and some others among them claim that he is god. Even if they pray facing our Qiblah, they are not believers. This is the intended meaning of the saying of the Prophet ﷺ that: "one who prays like us and facing our Qiblah, and eats our slaughter, then he is a Muslim."<sup>182</sup>

That is, he is a Muslim as long as he does not contradict a necessary aspect of religion or does not do anything that negates his belief. In the same book elsewhere, he says:<sup>183</sup>

know that Ahl al-Qiblah is meant to refer to those who agree [and believe in] the necessary aspects of religion. Like, that the world and everything in it is an accident,<sup>184</sup> and that bodies will be resurrected and assembled on Judgement day,<sup>185</sup> and the Knowledge of Allāh táālā encompasses everything<sup>186</sup> – the general and the specific and other such things.

Even if a person dutifully meets religious obligations and performs worship alongside the belief that the world is pre-eternal or denies that people will be assembled in their bodies or that Allāh táālā does not know the minutiae, is not included in the Ahl al-Qiblah. And the meaning of the saying: **we do not do takfīr of Ahl al-Qiblah**, according to scholars of Ahlu's Sunnah is, that we should not do takfīr of those who do not carry signs of disbelief nor carry

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<sup>181</sup> This is the belief of a fanatical group of Shiāh who claim that Jibrīl ؑ delivered the Revelation to Sayyidunā Muḥammad ﷺ instead of Sayyidunā Áli ؑ.

<sup>182</sup> Al-Qārī, *Sharḥ Fiqh al-Akbar*, 446.

<sup>183</sup> Ibid., 429

<sup>184</sup> *ḥādith, ḥawādith*

<sup>185</sup> *ḥashr*: to be gathered and assembled.

<sup>186</sup> The Mútaẓilah believe that Allāh has only generic knowledge and does not have knowledge of specifics and the minutiae. *Al-iyādhū billāh*.

such sign; neither have done anything or said something that requires this ruling.

Imām Ábd al-Áziz al-Bukhārī<sup>187</sup> says in his commentary on *Uṣūl al-Ḥusāmī*:<sup>188</sup>

if a person exaggerating in his [heretical] belief, so much that it becomes necessary to rule him a kāfir,<sup>189</sup> then, we do not bother whether he agrees or disagrees with something; because he is not included in the classification of ummah<sup>190</sup> that has been given the testimony of being [as a group] vouchsafed [from error]<sup>191</sup> even if such a person imagines himself to be a Muslim.

Because, the term ummah does not merely refer to those who pray facing the Qiblah, but rather refers to those who are [true] believers. And this person<sup>192</sup> is a kāfir, even if he does not realize that he is one.

In *Radd al-Muḥtār*:<sup>193</sup>

There is no dispute concerning the disbelief of a person who opposes [or rejects] any required component of faith, even if he

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<sup>187</sup> Imām Ábd al-Áziz ibn Aḥmed Al-Bukhārī, [d.730 AH / 1329 CE] is also famous for his *Kashf al-Asrār*, considered as one of the most important commentary of *Uṣūl al-Pazdawī* of Fakhr al-Islām.

<sup>188</sup> *Al-Muntakhab fī Usūl al-Madh'hab* by Imām Ḥusāmuddīn Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Akhsikathī, [d.644 AH / 1246 CE] this is also known as *Ḥusāmī* or *Uṣūl al-Ḥusāmī*.

<sup>189</sup> On account of his extreme heresy that necessitates *takfīr*.

<sup>190</sup> Al-Bukhārī, *Al-Taḥqīq fī Sharḥi Muntakhab al-Uṣūl*, Bāb al-Ijmāʾ.

<sup>191</sup> The ummah is collectively vouchsafed from error according to the ḥadīth: "Verily Allāh tāālā will not make the followers of Muḥammad agree upon error; and Allāh's aid is with the [righteous] group; and those who go out of this group shall go into fire" [*Sunan al-Tirmidhī*, 2167].

<sup>192</sup> Such a person whose heresy has crossed the limits of kufr.

<sup>193</sup> Ibn Áābidīn, *Radd al-Muḥtār*, Kitāb al-Ṣalah; Bāb al-Imāmah, 1/377.

prays facing our Qiblah and punctual and unfailing in fulfilling obligations and doing good deeds for all his life, as explained in *Sharh al-Taḥrīr*...

Such straightforward descriptions and plain rulings are found commonly in books of Áqīdah, Fiqh and Usūl.

**The Fourth Answer:** It is self-evident from this issue [of facing the Qiblah] itself. Consider a man who prays facing the Qiblah five times, and bows down to Mahadev<sup>194</sup> another time; can any sensible person consider him a Muslim? Whereas saying that Allāh táālā is a liar and insulting Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ is far worse than bowing down to Mahadev, even though they are the same in their being disbelief; because some kinds of kufr are worse than others.

The reason [why the latter is worse] is because, bowing to an idol implies belying the One God, whereas calling him a liar is expressly belying him; and in such prostration, there is a rational possibility<sup>195</sup> that it is a prostration of respect and not a prostration of worship; and veneration<sup>196</sup> is not kufr in itself.

Therefore, if someone prostrates to a scholar or a gnostic out of veneration, he will be a sinner but not a kāfir. However, prostrating to idols [or such icons] is absolutely kufr according to the Shariāh because this is a distinct characteristic of polytheists.

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<sup>194</sup> One of the many false Hindu gods.

<sup>195</sup> *iḥtimāl áqlī*, meaning a plausible explanation exists.

<sup>196</sup> **Alahazrat's footnote:** it is in *Sharh al-Mawāqif* [*Al-Marṣad al-Thālith, Al-Maqṣad al-Awwal*: The Third Standpoint, The First Objective]:

Prostration to the sun is clear proof that such a person does not attest to the veracity of Sayyiduna Muḥammad ﷺ on the exterior; but we issue the ruling according to the exterior, not because it is an article of faith to not prostrate to anyone other than Allāh. Even if it is known that such a person did not prostrate [*sajdah*] for either veneration or the belief that the sun was a god; and if his heart is convinced and unperturbed about attestation [*taṣdīq*] of the Shariāh, then we do not rule him a kāfir near Allāh, though he will be ruled a kāfir due to his outward action.

But insulting the Prophet ﷺ is a major kufr in itself; and there is no vestige of Islām in it. I have not formed my opinion based on this difference, because the repentance of a person who prostrates to an idol is accepted; but the tawbah of a person who insults the Prophet ﷺ is not accepted according to thousands of scholars.<sup>197</sup>

This is the preferred opinion<sup>198</sup> of the following Imams among Ḥanafīs:

- Imām Bazzāzī;
- the accomplished researcher Imām Ibn Humām;
- Állāmah Mawlā Khusraw, author of *Al-Durar wa'l Ghurar*;
- Állāmah Zayn ibn Nujaym, author of *Al-Baḥru'r Rāyiq* and *Al-Ashbāh wa'n Nažāyir*;
- Állāmah Úmar ibn Nujaym, author of *Al-Nahru'l Fāyiq*;
- Állāmah Abū Ábdullāh Muḥammad al-Ghazzī, author of *Tanwīru'l Abṣār*;
- Állāmah Khayruddīn al-Ramlī, author of *Fatāwā al-Khayriyyah*;
- Állāmah Shaykhī Zādah, author of *Majmaú'l Anhur*;
- Állāmah Muḥammad ibn Álī al-Ḥaskafī, author of *Al-Durr al-Mukhtār*.

More details and additional research on this issue can be found in *Fatāwā al-Ridāwiyyah*. The ruling 'tawbah is not accepted' is in Islamic lands and

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<sup>197</sup> Yet, according to latter imāms, repentance is acceptable as Alahazrat himself explains further below.

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Alahazrat has explained this issue of prostration in detail in his book: *Al-Zubdatu'z Zakiyyah fī Tahrimī Sajdatu't Tahīyyah*. [The Pure Cream: On Prohibition of Prostration of Respect].

<sup>198</sup> There is a difference of opinion on this matter in our madh'hab; Imām Ibn Áābidīn has explained that repentance [tawbah] of a blasphemer is accepted in our madh'hab. See *Tanbih al-Wulāti wa'l Ḥukkām álá Ahkāmī Shātīmī Khayri'l Anām*. This is why Alahazrat says: 'among our Imams,' Allāh táālā knows best.

for Islamic rulers, so the execution of a blasphemer is carried out even after his repentance. Nevertheless, if a blasphemer sincerely repents, it is accepted near Allāh táālā. The blasphemer should not make this a basis to not repent at all saying: 'if repentance is not accepted, then why should I repent?' No, this is not the case. Repentance will erase kufr and make him a Muslim and he will be saved from everlasting punishment in Hell. There is a unanimous agreement upon this as described in *Radd al-Muhtār*, and other books. Allāh táālā knows best.

### THE THIRD SUBTERFUGE

They say: *it is written in books of Fiqh that if a person has 99 components<sup>199</sup> of kufr, and one component of Islām, even then we should not call such a person a kāfir.*<sup>200</sup>

**The First Answer:** This is the ugliest of all deceptions. If a man says the *ādhān* once a day or prays two *rakāh* and then worships an idol 99 times; or blows a conch,<sup>201</sup> or rings a bell<sup>202</sup> – does he still remain a Muslim? Can any sensible person consider him a Muslim just because he has one component of Islam, even though he has 99 components of disbelief?

**The Second Answer:** According to this claim, everybody except atheists will have to be considered as Muslims: any polytheist, Magian, Hindu, Christian, Jew – because after all, they believe in a God – which is one component of Islām; rather the fundamental belief<sup>203</sup> that is the basis for all other beliefs!

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<sup>199</sup> *bateen*: that is, things or components or ingredients of kufr. This is not about 99 interpretations that are disbelief and one possible meaning of Islām in ONE statement/action, as it is explained further below in the fifth answer.

<sup>200</sup> This is not a hypothetical statement and is commonly cited by Qadianis.

<sup>201</sup> *sankh* or *shankha*: the shell of a large sea snail commonly occurring in the Indian Ocean (scientific name *Turbinella pyrum*) this is used as a trumpet in rituals, religious practices and an object of worship among Hindus.

<sup>202</sup> Ringing a bell or a *ghanti* is a ritual in Hindu worship; it also accompanies worship in Christian churches and masses.

<sup>203</sup> That is, that God Exists.

Particularly, the philosophers and Aryas<sup>204</sup> because they claim to believe in one God; the Jews and Christians will then be comparatively<sup>205</sup> stauncher Muslims because in addition to monotheism, they also believe in revealed scriptures, thousands of prophets, Judgement day, resurrection, reward and punishment, heaven and hell, which are all Islamic beliefs.

**The Third Answer:** The verses from the Qur'ān mentioned earlier are sufficient to refute this strange claim, where, in spite of uttering the kalimah, in spite of performing the obligatory prayer, the hypocrites were declared as kāfir for just one utterance of kufr; as mentioned in the verse:

and they became kāfirs after  
professing Islām<sup>206</sup>

وَكَفَرُوا بَعْدَ إِسْلَامِهِمْ

and in the verse:

do not proffer excuses; you have  
become kāfirs after professing  
faith<sup>207</sup>

لَا تَعْتَذِرُوا قَدْ كَفَرْتُمْ بَعْدَ  
إِيمَانِكُمْ

Even though, according to this vile subterfuge, it was incorrect to call these people kāfir for merely one thing, and unless more than 99 components of disbelief were found. Probably,<sup>208</sup> they may say as an answer to the above: 'this<sup>209</sup> was a mistake made by God; or said in haste by Him; because this makes the boundaries of Islām constrained – because those uttering the kalimah are being expelled from Islām for a single thing; and He neither listens to excuses nor allows them to explain their excuses.' Alas! God did

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<sup>204</sup> Followers of the *Arya Samaj*, which was founded by Dayananda Saraswati (1824-1883 CE). Among the principles of the samaj/society are belief in monotheism and condemnation of idol worship. [*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, Hastings and Selbie, 57-62] "It was at Bombay, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1875, that Swami Dayanand founded the Arya Samaj." [Ibid., 58]

<sup>205</sup> In comparison to Arya-Samajis and philosophers.

<sup>206</sup> Sūrah Al-Tawbah, 9:74.

<sup>207</sup> Sūrah Al-Tawbah, 9:66.

<sup>208</sup> Hypothetical statement made to illustrate a point.

<sup>209</sup> Terming the hypocrites as a *kāfir* for a single thing.

not discuss this with Naturalist<sup>210</sup> or Nadawī<sup>211</sup> lecturers or other broad-minded Islamic reformers.<sup>212</sup> Allāh's curse be upon oppressors!

**The Fourth Answer:** Your Lord Almighty says,

Do you bear faith in some parts of the book and disbelieve in some other parts? What is the recompense of those who do so, except humiliation in this worldly life; and on the day of Judgement they shall be turned towards a severe punishment; and Allāh is not heedless of all that you do. These are a people who have bought life of this world in lieu of life in the hereafter; neither will their punishment abate, nor will they be given aid.<sup>213</sup>

أَفْتُمِنُونَ بَعْضَ الْكِتَابِ  
وَتَكْفُرُونَ بَعْضٍ فَمَا جَزَاءُ مَنْ  
يَفْعَلُ ذَلِكَ مِنْكُمْ إِلَّا خِزْيٌ فِي  
الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يُرَدُّونَ  
إِلَى أَشَدِّ الْعَذَابِ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ  
عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٢٨٥﴾ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ  
اشْتَرَوْا الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا بِالْآخِرَةِ فَلَا  
يُخَفَّفُ عَنْهُمْ الْعَذَابُ وَلَا هُمْ  
يُنصَرُونَ ﴿٢٨٦﴾

<sup>210</sup> Naturalist or a *neychari* in Urdu, who attempt to explain miracles according to laws of nature; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan of Aligarh and his followers.

<sup>211</sup> Those belonging to *Nadwatul Ulama*, a reformist movement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which sought to bury the differences between sects (irrespective of being Shiah or Sunni; Wahabi or Khariji; Muslim or Naturalist) and unite under the banner of One-Qiblah and One-Kalimah as Muslims.

<sup>212</sup> We rule those who insult the Prophet ﷺ as *kafir* – and even if it is done only once. This we do, following Divine Law and has a precedent in the revelation. Secondly, when we issue this ruling, the Naturalists, Nadawis and other reformers say: 'this ruling of *kufr* is a mistake; this is done in haste, and this constricts the boundaries of Islām, expelling the people of Qiblah from Islām for even small things; rulings are issued without consulting others.' Thus, 'would you say the same about God Almighty because He has declared those who uttered one word of insult as *kafirs*?'

<sup>213</sup> Sūrah Al-Baqarah, 2:85-86.

Suppose, there are a thousand things in the Qur'ān; then it is necessary requirement to believe in each one of them. And if a person believes in 999 and does not accept only one of these, the Qur'ān says that such a person is a *kāfir*, in spite of believing in 999 things out of a thousand. And that he will be humiliated in this world and be meted severe punishment in the hereafter which is forever and the punishment will not be eased even for a moment. This does not say that a person saying 99 things of kufr remains a Muslim just because of one thing; this is not the doctrine of Muslims – rather it is in itself clear disbelief according to the Qur'ān.

**The Fifth Answer:** In reality, those who attributed this belief to scholars of fiqh have actually acted as the Jews who transposed words

they switch the words from their  
[intended] meanings.<sup>214</sup>

يُحَرِّفُونَ الْكَلِمَ عَنْ مَوَاضِعِهِ

Scholars of fiqh did not say that: 'a person is a Muslim if he has one component of Islām, even if he has 99 components of kufr'. We seek Allāh's refuge. Rather, it is the *ijmāā* of our *ummah* that if a person has 99,000 ingredients of Islām, but has one ingredient of kufr – then certainly and absolutely such a person is a *kāfir*. If a drop of urine falls in 99 drops of rosewater, all of it becomes urine<sup>215</sup> but these ignoramuses say, that if a drop of rosewater falls in 99 drops of urine, everything becomes clean!

Leave alone scholars of fiqh, even an ordinary man with some discerning will not say such an absurd and ignorant thing. Rather, what scholars have said is: if a man says something, and 99 meanings of *that statement* are of disbelief, and one meaning is valid in Islām, then unless it is proven that he has really intended the meaning of kufr, we shall withhold from making takfir; because, there is one possibility of this statement which is not kufr. They also add that, if he indeed intended a meaning that is kufr, our efforts to interpret favorably are of no use – because he will remain a *kāfir* near Allāh. This can be illustrated by an example: suppose Zayd says *that Āmr has absolute and conclusive knowledge of the unseen*.

<sup>214</sup> Sūrah Al-Nisā'a, 4:46.

<sup>215</sup> That is, all of it becomes unclean like urine.

This statement has the following possible meanings of kufr:

1. Ámr knows the unseen by himself; this is plain and clear kufr.

Say ye: none in the heavens or  
the earth knows the unseen  
except Allāh táālā.<sup>216</sup>

قُلْ لَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ  
وَالْأَرْضِ الْغَيْبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

2. Ámr does not know the unseen by himself, but he has conclusive knowledge because those<sup>217</sup> who know it have informed him of it.

the reality of the Jinn was  
exposed, that if they knew  
matters of the unseen, they  
would not have remained in  
disgrace and misery<sup>218</sup>

تَبَيَّنَتِ الْجِنَّ أَنْ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ  
الْغَيْبَ مَا لَبِثُوا فِي الْعَذَابِ الْمُهِينِ ❁

3. Ámr is an astrologer or is a

4. Rammāl, a geomancer<sup>219</sup>

5. Samudrak, a palm reader or a practitioner of palmistry<sup>220</sup>

6. divines based upon the crowing of a crow etc.

7. divines by insects falling on one's body

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<sup>216</sup> Sūrah Al-Naml, 27:65.

<sup>217</sup> Other than Allāh táālā.

<sup>218</sup> Sūrah Al-Sabā, 34:14.

<sup>219</sup> **Raml** or Geomancy: is a form of divination that interprets markings on the ground or the patterns formed by tossed handfuls of soil, rocks, or sand. The most prevalent form of divinatory geomancy involves interpreting a series of 16 figures formed by a randomized process that involves recursion followed by analyzing them, often augmented with astrological interpretations. [Wikipedia] In *Kashf al-Zunūn*, it is said that the number of these figures are 12 according to the number of the zodiac signs. Al-Haytamī says that it is ḥarām to learn or teach this science [*Fatāwā al-Hadīthiyyah*].

<sup>220</sup> These kind of fortune tellers are common in India; they claim to tell the future by looking at the lines on one's palms.

8. or by going to the right or left of a bird or a wild animal<sup>221</sup>
9. divines by omens: observing the twitching of an eye or other parts of the body
10. throws dice
11. fortune teller
12. enquires about unseen things through mediums
13. knows mesmerism<sup>222</sup>
14. uses a magic table<sup>223</sup>
15. enquires about the unseen from a planchette<sup>224</sup>
16. has knowledge of physiognomy<sup>225</sup>
17. he has the knowledge of number-magic [*zāyirjah*]<sup>226</sup> and he believes that he attains the knowledge of unseen – conclusively and absolutely – because this is kufr;<sup>227</sup>

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<sup>221</sup> Augury; this and the two previous kinds (#6, #7) are also known as zoomancy or theriomancy: divination by animal behavior.

<sup>222</sup> In 19<sup>th</sup> Century India, mesmerism was considered as a form of occult practice and magic.

<sup>223</sup> Like the Ouija boards.

<sup>224</sup> **Planchette:** A planchette (French for a small plank or board) is an instrument used to communicate with spirits, in spiritualism. It is usually about three inches wide and four inches long, resting on three small legs. [Raymond Buckland, *The Fortune-Telling Book*, 373].

<sup>225</sup> *qiyāfah dāni*: physiognomy; some extreme forms suggested that a person's destiny could be predicted by using this science.

<sup>226</sup> "*The Za'irajah*: A branch of the science of letter magic, (practiced) among the (authorities on letter magic), is (the technique of) finding out answers from questions by means of connections existing between the letters of the expressions (used in the question). They imagine that these (connections) can form the basis for knowing the future happenings they want to know." [Ibn Khaldūn, *Al-Muqaddimah*, Trans. Franz Rosenthal, Vol.3. Pg.182].

In all these examples, it is kufr to believe that information obtained from such sciences (or pseudosciences) is absolutely true and certain (*qaṭʿī-yaqīnī*) and one who has obtained this information has absolute knowledge of unseen (is also kufr); but if one practices the *Zayirjah*

RasūlAllāh ﷺ has said:

If one goes to a soothsayer or a fortune-teller and validates what he says [attests to the truth of the soothsayer] then he has disbelieved in that which was given to Muḥammad ﷺ.<sup>228</sup>

This has been narrated by Abū Hurayrah ؓ and reported through a Ṣaḥīḥ chain by Imām Aḥmed and Ḥākim; and the wordings of the ḥadīth reported by Aḥmed and Abū Dāwūd:<sup>229</sup>

he who consults a soothsayer has verily disavowed that which has descended upon Muḥammad ﷺ.

18. Ámr believes he receives revelation, and on this basis he has veritable knowledge of the unseen as it was given to Prophets; this is outright disbelief.

But he is the Messenger of Allāh  
and Seal of all prophets; and  
Allāh táālā knows all things<sup>230</sup>

وَلَكِنْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ  
وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا ﴿٤٠﴾

19. He does not believe that Ámr receives revelation, but claims that he has this knowledge by divine inspiration<sup>231</sup> – and has complete knowledge of all unseen such that it encompasses the knowledge of the Lord Almighty; this is kufr because, this person has elevated Ámr above

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or *Jafar* - as a guide similar to *istikḥārāh* and not with the belief or claim of absolute knowledge of unseen, it is not kufr. Allāh táālā knows best.

<sup>227</sup> **Alahazrat's Footnote:** That is, when one believes that such knowledge is absolute, certain and conclusive and claiming this with certitude is kufr, as mentioned in the discussion itself.

<sup>228</sup> This was reported by Imām Aḥmed in his Musnad, 2:249, Ḥākim.

<sup>229</sup> Sunan Abū Dāwūd, 2:189.

<sup>230</sup> Sūrah Al-Aḥzāb, 33:40.

<sup>231</sup> *ilhām*

RasūlAllāh ﷺ because, even his knowledge does not encompass the entire knowledge of the Lord Almighty.<sup>232</sup>

Say: can those who know and those who do not know be equal?<sup>233</sup>

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ  
وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

In *Nasīm ar-Riyād* it is said:

Whosoever says that such-and-such a person is more knowledgeable than the Prophet ﷺ has faulted him and thus takes the ruling of one who insults him.

20. Suppose, he does not claim complete knowledge that is all-encompassing; but whatever knowledge he has by inspiration – if he claims that this knowledge, either extraneously or internally, has been given to him directly by Allāh táālā, without the medium of any Messenger of Allāh among men or angels<sup>234</sup> or by following them – is also *kufr*.<sup>235</sup>

Allāh shall not inform of the unseen to any of you common folk;

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُطْلِعَكُمْ عَلَى  
الْغَيْبِ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَجْتَبِي مِنْ

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<sup>232</sup> Alahazrat explains two principles in this statement: proving that anyone else in the creation has more knowledge than RasūlAllāh ﷺ is *kufr*; and secondly that the knowledge of RasūlAllāh ﷺ does not encompass the knowledge of Allāh táālā. In spite of his repeated clarification, Deobandis continue to accuse Alahazrat of believing in the opposite.

<sup>233</sup> Sūrah Az-Zumar, 39:9.

<sup>234</sup> *rusul*, pl. of *rasūl*; Messengers of Allāh, they can be either men or angels; however, Prophets are all men – according to the standard doctrine of Ahlu's Sunnah.

<sup>235</sup> Thus if any information of the unseen is given to us by a non-prophet, or a waliy, it is only through the means of Messengers of Allāh; angels or prophets (because, only a prophet among humans can be a messenger among humans). To claim such knowledge directly from Allāh táālā is *kufr* according to the verse which clearly says: 'Allāh shall not inform anyone except the Messengers He chooses'.

however, He chooses among His Messengers, whom He wishes<sup>236</sup>

رُسُلِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ

He is the Knower of Unseen; he does not disclose the knowledge of unseen to anyone – except His beloved Messengers<sup>237</sup>

عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ فَلَا يُظْهِرُ عَلَى غَيْبِهِ  
أَحَدًا إِلَّا مَن ارْتَضَى مِنْ  
رَسُولٍ

21. Zayd believes that Ámr has certain and conclusive knowledge, but only part knowledge of the Unseen, by means of RasûlAllāh ﷺ either by hearing [from the Masterﷺ] or by seeing [miraculously] or by clairvoyance; that Allāh táâlā has given this kind of knowledge or shall give to someone. This is a valid statement that does not contravene Islam. Therefore, jurists and researchers will not rule a person in this example as a kâfir when he says: *Ámr has absolute and conclusive knowledge of the unseen*. Because, in addition to 20 meanings of kufr, there is a 21<sup>st</sup> possibility that is valid according to Islām.

Therefore, being guarded and careful, and because we should have a good opinion of Muslims, such a person will not be ruled a *kâfir* UNLESS it is proven conclusively that such a person unmistakably intended one of the meanings that is kufr. This, however, does not include people who explicitly insult or blaspheme against Allāh táâlā or His Messenger ﷺ, as they do not remain Muslims.<sup>238</sup> Because, if one does not consider explicit insults as unbelief, it means that he terms blasphemies as Islamic; and one who terms blasphemies as Islamic is himself a *kâfir*.

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<sup>236</sup> Sūrah Aāl Ímrān, 3:179. In *Tafsīr Al-Baydāwī*: "Allah táâlā will not give any of you the knowledge of unseen so that they can be aware of what is in the hearts - whether disbelief or faith; however, Allah táâlā chooses whoever He wishes for His Message; and sends him revelation and Divine Inspiration and gives him some knowledge of the unseen. [*baáḍ al-mughayyibāt*]".

<sup>237</sup> Sūrah Al-Jinn, 72:25-26. It must be noted that scholars of Ahlu's Sunnah have not referred to RasûlAllāh ﷺ as *áálimu'l ghayb* - or Knower of the Unseen; and they have always insisted on the very meaning propounded by various tafsīrs of this verse. *wa billāhi't tawfiq*.

<sup>238</sup> As it follows, caution is exercised only when such statements are open to interpretation; explicit insults are considered at face value; this ruling can be found even in Deobandi *fatāwā*.

We have just now seen from *Shifā, Bazzāziyyah, Durar, Bah̄r, Nahr, Fatāwā Khayriyyah, Majmaā al-Anhur, Durr Mukhtār* etc., that whosoever diminishes the rank of the Prophet ﷺ is a *kāfir*; and one who doubts in the disbelief of such a person (who faults the Prophet ﷺ) is himself a *kāfir*. But some people like the dishonest Jews falsely accuse jurists and attempt to change their statements from their intended meanings:

And the oppressors shall know,  
where they shall be returned  
to<sup>239</sup>

وَسَيَعْلَمُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَيَّ مُنْقَلَبٍ  
يَنْقَلِبُونَ ❁

In the commentary of *Fiqh al-Akbar*:<sup>240</sup>

Scholars have mentioned that the issue of takfir – or ruling someone kāfir: if there are 99 possibilities [for a statement] that are disbelief, and one possibility that is not disbelief; then it is better for the Mufti and the judge to incline towards the meaning that is not disbelief.

In *Fatāwā Khulāṣah, Jāmiy al-Fuṣūlayn, Muḥiṭ, Fatāwā Hindiyyah* etc., it is said:<sup>241</sup>

If in a particular issue, there are facets and possibilities that necessitate takfir [ruling apostacy] and just one facet that prevents takfir; it is necessary for the Mufti and the judge to lean towards this facet and should not rule him kāfir; because it is necessary to have a good opinion of a Muslim. However, if the intention of the person who uttered the statement was according to the possible

<sup>239</sup> Sūrah Al-Shuārā, 26:227.

<sup>240</sup> Al-Qārī, *Sharḥ Fiqh al-Akbar*, Objective: On Knowing what Constitutes Apostacy, 445.

<sup>241</sup> *Khulāṣatu'l Fatāwā*, On Words of Apostacy: The Second Section 4/382.

*Jāmiy al-Fuṣūlayn*, The 38<sup>th</sup> Section: Concerning Words Amounting to Apostacy 2/298.

*Muḥiṭ al-Burhānī*, Section on Apostates and Rulings Concerning Them, 5/550.

*Fatāwā Hindiyyah*, The Book of War: The Ninth Chapter, 2/301.

interpretation that prevents takfīr, he certainly remains a Muslim; but if his intention was not THIS meaning, then there is no point in the Muftī trying to interpret it favorably such that it does not necessitate takfīr, and this will not benefit the accused.

Similarly, in *Fatāwā Bazzāziyyah*, *Baḥr ar-Rāyiq*, *Majmá al-Anhur*, *Ḥadīqah an-Nadiyyah*, *TātārKhāniyyah*, *Sall al-Ḥusām al-Hindī* it is said:<sup>242</sup>

On ambiguous statements that can be interpreted, one should not rule kufr; because ruling kufr is the extreme in all punishments for the most extreme crime; and where there is possibility of interpretation, it cannot be termed as extreme.

In *Baḥr ar-Rāyiq*, *Tanwīr al-Abṣār*, *Ḥadīqah an-Nadiyyah*, *Tanbīh al-Wulāt* and *Sall al-Ḥusām* etc., it is said:<sup>243</sup>

The Muftī who says that he shall not rule on the apostacy of a Muslim as long as his statement can be interpreted favorably, has done well.

Notice, that all this is about a statement or a word that was uttered and which can take multiple meanings; It does not mean that if a person says a few things – some kufr and some Islamic – then we withhold from takfīr. But it is a habit of Jews<sup>244</sup> to switch places of words and their meanings.

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<sup>242</sup> *Fatāwā Bazzāziyyah*, "On Words that are Ambiguous", 6/321.

*Baḥr ar-Rāyiq*, The Book of War: Chapter on Apostates, 5/125.

*Majmá al-Anhur*, The Book of War: Chapter on Apostates, 1/688.

*Ḥadīqah an-Nadiyyah*, "The Slighting of Shariáh is Apostacy," 1/302.

*TātārKhāniyyah*, The Book on Apostates, 5/458.

*Sall al-Ḥusām al-Hindī*, *Rasāyil Ibn Áābidīn*; 2/316.

<sup>243</sup> *Tanbīh al-Wulāti wa'l Ḥukkām*, *Rasāyil Ibn Áābidīn*; 1/342.

*Al-Durr al-Mukhtār Sharḥ Tanwīr al-Abṣār*, Chapter on Apostates, 1/356.

<sup>244</sup> Like the Jews in Madīnah who would change the places of words and context in the Torah.

## AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE

This analysis clarifies another issue mentioned in books of fatāwā like *Fatāwā Qādī Khān* etc., where it is said that the following statements or actions are kufr:

- if a person performs a Nikah and says, by the witness of Allāh tāālā and His Messenger <sup>245</sup>
- or says that the souls of shaykhs are present and are aware
- or says angels have the knowledge of unseen
- or claims knowledge of unseen for himself<sup>246</sup>

In all the above circumstances, some books of fatāwā ruled the person kāfir, and this was on the basis of a meaning of disbelief,<sup>246</sup> like absolute knowledge or inherent knowledge without being granted etc. Because these statements can be interpreted in many<sup>247</sup> favorable ways that have valid meanings in Islamic Law.

Furthermore, as the statement is not about absolute and conclusive knowledge – and this could mean knowledge by conjecture or estimation; in which case, the twenty-one possibilities would be doubled,<sup>248</sup> and many of these forty-two possibilities will not be kufr; because it is not kufr to claim that one has knowledge of unseen by estimation or conjecture.<sup>249</sup>

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<sup>245</sup> Rephrased from *Fatāwā Qādī Khān*.

<sup>246</sup> The ruling of kufr is given, only when the intention of that statement was a meaning that is regarded as kufr; otherwise, in case of statements open to interpretation, caution is exercised.

<sup>247</sup> Because even one single favorable meaning is enough to withhold from takfir.

<sup>248</sup> Twenty-one concerning conclusive-absolute knowledge as described in the example above; and the next twenty-one concerning conjecture and estimation.

<sup>249</sup> *ilm e žanni*

this is dependent on the intention of the person who said it. If his intention was the same as that, which the basis for the ruling of kufr, then he is a kāfir; if his intention was otherwise, then it won't be considered as kufr.<sup>261</sup>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** One cannot try to find interpretations for clear and explicit statements; interpretation is valid only where there is ambiguity and scope for multiple meanings; otherwise, nothing can be termed as kufr!<sup>262</sup>

For example, if Zayd says: *There are two gods*. And claim to possibly interpret this as: here, 'God,' actually means the 'Commandment of God' – thus, what Zayd actually said was, Destiny as ordained by Allāh is of two kinds: the unalterable and the pending.<sup>263</sup> This is by a metonymical elision,<sup>264</sup> as it is said in the verse:

Except, when Allāh comes to them<sup>265</sup>

إِلَّا أَنْ يَأْتِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ

that is, when the Command of Allāh comes to them.<sup>266</sup> Or, if Ámr says: *I am the Messenger of Allāh*. And claims that he actually meant the literal meaning of *Rasūl*; because, it is Allāh who sent the soul in his body. Such interpretations are absolutely invalid and are unacceptable.

<sup>261</sup> *Al-Ĥadīqatu'n Nadiyyah Sharḥ Al-Ṭarīqatu'l Muḥammadiyyah*; 1:304, "Slighting the Shariāh is kufr."

<sup>262</sup> As a possible interpretation can be found for even explicit statements.

<sup>263</sup> *qadā, mubram, muāllaq*

<sup>264</sup> *ba hazaf e muzāf*: metonymy: conceptual substitution of an attribute to the entity itself. In the verse mentioned, 'when the command of Allāh comes' is substituted with 'when Allāh comes,' because it is impermissible to take the literal meaning as it is *muḥāl*.

<sup>265</sup> Sūrah Al-Baqarah, 2:210; the verse is translated literally, to keep the context.

<sup>266</sup> *Tafsīr Qurṭubī*: "this is not to be taken literally; it means when the command of Allāh comes;" *Al-Kash'shāf*: "that is the coming of the command of Allāh;" *At-Ṭabari*: "the signs of Allāh, the command of Allāh;" so also in tafsīrs *Al-Bayḍāwī*, *Al-Jalālayn*, *An-Nasafi*, and others.

Qādi Íyād says:<sup>267</sup>

claim of interpretation in explicit statements is not accepted.

In its commentary, Áli al-Qārī says: <sup>268</sup>

such interpretation is rejected according to principles of shariāh.

In the commentary by Al-Khaffājī:<sup>269</sup>

such things are not to be heeded; and are considered as vain talk.

In *Fatāwā Khulāsah*, *Fuṣūl al-Ímādiyyah*, *Jāmiy al-Fuṣūlayn* and *Fatāwā al-Hindiyyah* etc., and in the words of Ímādī:

if a person says: *ana RasūlAllāh*, or says in Persian: *man payghambaram*<sup>270</sup> and then claims that he actually meant: 'I bear a message,' such a person will [regardless] be ruled kāfir.

**Remember that attempts to interpret explicit statements favorably are absolutely invalid and unacceptable.**

#### THE FOURTH SUBTERFUGE

They deny it. If a person has not seen these books of blasphemers,<sup>271</sup> they<sup>272</sup> flatly deny it and say they have never said such things anywhere.<sup>273</sup> If a knowledgeable person or a scholar shows them in printed<sup>274</sup> books,<sup>275</sup>

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<sup>267</sup> *Kitāb al-Shifā*.

<sup>268</sup> *Sharh al-Shifā*, 2/396.

<sup>269</sup> *Nasīm ar-Riyād*, 4/343.

<sup>270</sup> Both phrases mean: I am a Messenger of Allāh; or I am a Messenger.

<sup>271</sup> Like *Barāhin e Qātiāh*, or *Hifẓ al-Ímān*.

<sup>272</sup> Deobandis and their apologists.

<sup>273</sup> Like Khalil Ahmed did in his *Al-Muhannad*.

<sup>274</sup> Which are being printed even in our time from both India and Pakistan.

account of this fatwā; Zayd lives for fifteen more years;<sup>288</sup> and Zayd sees and hears all of this – and Zayd does not publish a denial or disavowal concerning that fatwā; and keeps silent with bated breath until his breath has abated – can any sane person imagine that Zayd had denied that the fatwā was his? Or that he meant something else?<sup>289</sup>

And those who are alive<sup>290</sup> are silent until this moment; neither can they deny that they have said such things which are present in published books; nor can they find fancy explanations for such explicit insults.

In the year 1320 AH, all these blasphemies were refuted together in a single publication. Thereafter, some Muslim leaders took a questionnaire concerning these blasphemies to their kingpin.<sup>291</sup>

One should listen to those present in that meeting describe his<sup>292</sup> state of bewilderment and speechlessness at this development; but even then, he could not deny that such things were written, nor could he come up with

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<sup>288</sup> That is, fifteen more years after the first time he is declared kāfir on account of this fatwā.

<sup>289</sup> This is the case of Gangohī and his *fatwā*. Deobandis later claimed that the fatwā was spurious, and try to prove it from his other *fatāwā*. The question is, why did Gangohī not deny this in his own lifetime? Alahazrat was not the first to declare Gangohī kāfir; and in fact, he withheld for sometime (as he explains further below) and for fifteen years – the fatwā carrying Gangohī's name was published, along with refutations and *fatāwā* that ruled him kāfir.

These events occurred a hundred years ago, when there was no deluge of books or publishers, such that it is difficult to keep track of what is being printed where. All this activity was happening in the same geographical location (which is currently, the state of Uttar Pradesh) and refutations were published from Meerut, which is about 120 km from Gangoh and 100 km from Deoband. See maps in Appendix D. But there is not a word of denial from him for 18 years until he died. Even now, such claims are made by other Deobandis; and a denial by Gangohī is non-existent. Gangohī was not completely oblivious of this matter, because there are a number of *fatāwā* in *Fatāwā Rashīdiyyah* related to this issue of *imkān e kazib*.

<sup>290</sup> Khalīl Ahmed Ambhetwī and Ashraf Ālī Thānawī, because this book was written in 1326 AH.

<sup>291</sup> **Alahazrat's footnote:** that is Ashraf Ālī Thānawī.

<sup>292</sup> Thānawī's.

an interpretation<sup>293</sup> or explanation for such statements. He only said: "I have not come here to debate, nor do I want to debate; I am ignorant of this science [of debate] and my teachers were also ignorant. Even if you convince me, I shall say the same thing."

The questionnaire and details of this incident were printed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Jumādā al-Ākhirah, 1323 AH and were handed to the kingpin and his followers; and this is the fourth<sup>294</sup> year running but the answer is only an echo of silence.

In spite of all this, the subterfuge of denial is like saying these people who have insulted Allāh táālā and His Messengers have never been born in this world, and all of this is an outright fabrication. How can one answer this?

May Allāh táālā give them some shame.

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<sup>293</sup> This incident occurred in 1320 AH and Ashraf Ālī wrote a rejoinder to his *Hifẓu'l Īmān* titled *Bastu'l Banān* in 1329 AH; Khalil Ahmed's *Al-Muhannad* was first published in 1325 AH according to Deobandi sources.

<sup>294</sup> Including the year 1323.

## FALSE ACCUSATIONS

When these folk are helpless to do anything else, and cannot see a place to flee; and because Allāh táālā has not given them guidance to repent; and they do not refrain from uttering those blasphemies said against Allāh táālā and His Messenger ﷺ; nor withdraw insults that were published, nor proclaim this withdrawal,<sup>295</sup> they resort to slander, which is the:

### FIFTH SUBTERFUGE

This kind of behavior is described in the verse:

they seek to prevent from the path  
of Allāh and wish to subvert it.<sup>296</sup>

يَصُدُّونَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ  
وَيَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا

To thwart poor common folk from the path of Allāh and to instigate them, and seeking to pull wool over their eyes in broad daylight, they tell them: "What is the reliability of these scholars of Ahlu's Sunnah? And what is the credibility of their *fatāwā*? These people do takfīr for even petty things and their machine always keeps churning out *fatāwā* of kufr.

After all, they have declared Ismāyīl Dihlawī as kāfir; Maulvi Is'hāq<sup>297</sup> as kāfir; Maulvi Ábd al-Ĥayy<sup>298</sup> as kāfir..."<sup>299</sup>

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<sup>295</sup> It is necessary to proclaim repentance for sins done in public, because RasūlAllāh ﷺ said:

When you commit a sin; then repent. Private repentance for sins done in private and proclaim your repentance for sins done openly and in public.

This ḥadīth was reported through a fair and excellent chain by Imām Ahmed in *Kitāb al-Zuhd*, 141; Al-Jabarānī in *Al-Mújam al-Kabīr*, 331; Al-Bayhaqī in *Shu'ab al-Imān* and Narrated by Mu'ādh ibn Jabal ؓ.

<sup>296</sup> Sūrah Al-Aārāf, 7:45.

<sup>297</sup> Maulvi Is'hāq Dihlawī was the maternal grandson of Shāh Ábd al-Ázīz Dihlawī and sympathetic to Ismāyīl Dihlawī's ideas, though he did not outright reject *taqlīd*; author of *Masāyil al-Arba'yīn*.

And those who have a greater degree of shame<sup>300</sup> add that MáadhAllāh! we have declared Shaykh Shāh Ábdu'l Ázīz, Shāh Walīyullah, Hājī Imdādullāh, Mawlānā Shāh Faḍlu'r Raḥmān as kāfir.<sup>301</sup> And those who are beyond all bounds of shame, accuse us of saying – and I seek Allāh's refuge from such thing, MáadhAllāh – that Shaykh Mujaddid e Alf-e-Sāni<sup>302</sup> محمد الله was kāfir.

Wherever they see that someone has a special reverence for a certain personality, there they use his name and say that Sunnis have declared him a kāfir.

This kind of defamation has reached such a state, that some esteemed and honorable<sup>303</sup> people went to Mawlānā Shāh Muḥammad Husayn Ilāhabādī and told him that we have said – and I seek Allāh's refuge: MáadhAllāh, MáadhAllāh, MáadhAllāh – that Sayyidunā Shaykh al-Akbar Muhiyuddin Ibn al-Árabī [may Allāh sanctify his secret] is a kāfir. May Allāh táālā grant the noble Mawlānā lofty stations in paradise, that he acted upon this verse:

if a corrupt person comes to you with  
information, then validate it<sup>304</sup>

إِنْ جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ  
فَتَبَيَّنُوا

<sup>298</sup> Alahazrat did not do takfīr of these people, even though Ismāyīl was the most deserving of being ruled kāfir for his ugly statements – and which Deobandis stoutly defend in the subcontinent.

<sup>299</sup> Deobandis do this even today; notice Taqi Usmani's fatwā mentioned earlier in which he claims that 'he [Ahmed Ridā] ruled Deobandi scholars as kāfir because they refuted these bid'ah practices.'

<sup>300</sup> Said sarcastically; meaning, more shameless.

<sup>301</sup> Which is an obvious lie; not only were these *ulamā* respected by Alahazrat, this was even reciprocal in the case of Shāh Faḍlu'r Raḥmān Ganj-Murādābādī who put his own turban on Alahazrat's head. Moreover, Shāh Ábd al-Ázīz Dihlawī is the teacher/shaykh of Alahazrat's own shaykh, Sayyid Aāl-e-Rasūl Mārahrawī, through whom Alahazrat narrates his sanad of ḥadīth; notably the *ḥadīth musalsal bi'l-awwaliyyah*, and which is narrated by Sayyid Ábd al-Ḥayy al-Kattānī through Alahazrat. See *Fahras al-Fahāris*, 179.

<sup>302</sup> The Reviver at the head of the Second Millenium – Shaykh Ahmed Sirhindi and the head of the eponymous Mujaddidi-Naqshbandi order.

<sup>303</sup> And Brutus is an honorable man.

<sup>304</sup> Sūrah Al-Aḥjurāt, 49:6.

and he wrote to me enquiring whether this was true. I wrote an epistle refuting these false accusations titled *Injā al-Barī ān Waswās al-Muftarī*,<sup>305</sup> and dispatched it to the Mawlānā, who then sent the lying slanderer a present of *lā-hawla*.<sup>306</sup>

It is thus they freely slander; and the answer to this is what your Lord Almighty has said:

verily, those who slander and make false accusations are those who have no faith<sup>307</sup>

إِنَّمَا يَفْتَرِي الْكَذِبَ الَّذِينَ لَا  
يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَأُولَئِكَ  
هُمُ الْكَاذِبُونَ ❀

and He says:

and we send damnation upon liars.<sup>308</sup>

فَنَجْعَلُ لَعْنَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَى  
الْكَاذِبِينَ

O Muslims! It is not difficult to settle this gossamer deception and weak strategem; just ask those who claim such things for proof. Tell them, if you say that these people and úlamā have been ruled as *kāfir*, then do you have any evidence to show us where this has been said? Which is the book or booklet or fatwā or pamphlet in which it has been thus said?

Yea, yea. If you have proof, then why are you holding it back? Show it to us, and if you cannot – and Allāh táālā knows<sup>309</sup> that you cannot<sup>310</sup> – then see what the Qur’ān says about you being liars.

<sup>305</sup> *Injā al-Barī ān Waswās al-Muftarī* [1310 AH].

<sup>306</sup> The phrase *lā hawla wa lā quwwata illā billāh*, which is also a prayer is recited to repel mischief and the devil. In Urdu idiom, ‘to give a present of *lā hawlah*’ means, that he dismissed the person and banished him like a devil. The Mawlānā thus chased away the lying and slandering devils.

<sup>307</sup> Sūrah Al-Naḥl, 16:105.

<sup>308</sup> Sūrah Aāl Imrān, 3:61.

<sup>309</sup> Alahazrat is talking about himself; and since he never declared the aforementioned names as *kāfir*, he says that Allāh knows this to be true.

Your Lord Almighty says:

and if they cannot produce witnesses,  
then they are liars near Allāh<sup>311</sup>

فَإِذْ لَمْ يَأْتُوا بِالشُّهَدَاءِ  
فَأُولَئِكَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ هُمُ  
الْكَاذِبُونَ

O Muslims! Where is the need to examine that which has been examined for ages? This has happened many times; that they have made such vociferous claims and when a Muslim has asked them for evidence, they have turned their backs and never again shewed their faces. Yet, for the shame they have – they do not let go of the repetend that is stuck on their lips; and why would they let go? After all, a drowning man will clutch at a straw.

They use the only pretext that remains for them to draw a veil on the disbelief of those who insult Allāh and His Messenger; they keep repeating this constantly in the hope that unsuspecting common folk are brainwashed into believing that scholars of Ahlu's Sunnah have this habit of making takfīr needlessly and carelessly; and they must have similarly ruled these blasphemers as kāfir.<sup>312</sup>

O Muslims! Where do these slanderers have proof that we carelessly accuse them of kufr? And where can there be a proof for a figment of imagination?

verily, Allāh will not allow  
fraudsters to succeed in their  
conspiracy<sup>313</sup>

وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي كَيْدَ الْخَائِنِينَ ❁

Their false claims are falsified thus, and your Lord Almighty says:

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<sup>310</sup> Because it does not exist.

<sup>311</sup> Sūrah Al-Nūr, 24:13.

<sup>312</sup> That is, they must have ruled them kāfir without properly investigating the issue; like Keller accuses Alahazrat of 'making a mistake' in the fatwā.

<sup>313</sup> Sūrah Yūsuf, 12:52.

tell them: bring evidence if you are truthful<sup>314</sup>

قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ

صَادِقِينَ

This much was sufficient to settle the case; yet, we shall provide more evidence to prove the falsehood of these people such that every Muslim can clearly recognize their lies. And that too, written proof which has been published, and published years ago!

If the accusations upon the scholars of Ahlu's Sunnah, of careless takfīr, were true, then the greatest possibility of finding an instance would be in the case of Ismā'īl Dihlawī. Because scholars have pointed out numerous points of kufr in his statements as mentioned in various publications.

Thus, **FIRSTLY:** In the work *Sub'hān as-Subbūh ān Āybi Kadhibun Maqbūh*,<sup>315</sup> which was first published in 1309 AH, by Anwār e Muḥammadi Press, Lucknow<sup>316</sup> in which I detailed 75 aspects of kufr in the sayings of the aforementioned Dihlawī and his followers; yet, on page 90, I wrote in the conclusion thusly:

Scholars who exercise utmost caution should not consider them as kāfirs. And this is the right opinion; and this is the answer; and the fatwā should be given upon this opinion; and is the preferred opinion in our madh'hab and is also the reliable position; and in this is safety and this is most appropriate.

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<sup>314</sup> Sūrah Al-Baqarah, 2:111.

<sup>315</sup> . There seems to be some confusion in the name; the title of the published work, (and also in the *Fatāwā Ridawīyyah*), it is slightly different and given as *Sub'hān as-Subbūh ān Kadhibi Āybi Maqbūh*. However, in his later works – including here and *Al-Mustanad al-Mutamad*, *āyb* precedes *kadhib*; and both are correct.

<sup>316</sup> The book was written in 1307 AH, published in 1309 AH.

<sup>317</sup> Even though *Barāhīn e Qaṭi'ah* was mentioned in the question that resulted in the book *Sub'hān as-Subbūh*, only the part of 'possibility of falsehood' was cited. Alahazrat's restraint on takfīr was upon this issue. Moreover, Khalīl Aḥmed was ruled kāfir for his insulting statements about RasūlAllāh ﷺ; not upon this issue of *imkān-e-kizb*. Alahazrat is explaining here, that if he were hasty and careless in takfīr, he would have ruled Ismā'īl and his followers as kāfir even back then.

**SECONDLY**, in *Al-Kawkabatu'sh Shihābiyyah Fī Kufriyyāti Abi'l Wahābiyyah*, written solely refuting Ismāyīl Dihlawī and his followers; which was first published in 1316 AH by *Tuḥfah-e-Ḥanafīyyah* Press, Azīmābād. In this work more than 70 aspects that necessitate the ruling of kufr were listed and proved (as kufr) citing Qur'ān, Ḥadīth and scholarly rulings; yet, on page 62, I wrote:

in my opinion, the state of utmost caution bids us to withhold our tongue from declaring them as kāfir; and this is the preferred and most suitable opinion.<sup>318</sup> And Allāh tāālā knows best.

**THIRDLY**, in *Sall al-Suyūf al-Hindiyyah ālā Kufriyyati Bābā an-Najdiyyah*, which was first published in Ṣafar 1316 AH, from Azīmābād. Even in this, Ismāyīl Dihlawī and his followers were refuted and many aspects were listed that necessitate kufr,<sup>319</sup> yet on page 21-22, I wrote:

This is the ruling of Fiqh scholars concerning these mendacious statements;<sup>320</sup> but may Allāh shower our scholars with countless blessings and mercies for their restraint.

In spite of seeing and hearing the leader of this sect<sup>321</sup> declare true Muslims as polytheists and disbelievers – neither does intense anger loosen their grip of caution; nor are they instigated by the desire for retribution; these blessed scholars<sup>322</sup> are still hesitant to rule him kāfir and assert that there is a difference between that which *necessitates* kufr and that which is *necessarily* kufr.<sup>323</sup>

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<sup>318</sup> *hamāre nazdik maqām e ihtiyāt mein ikfār sey kaff-e-lisān ma'khūz o mukhtār o munāsib.*

<sup>319</sup> *luzūm-e-kufr*

<sup>320</sup> of Ismāyīl Dihlawī in his books *Tafwiyatu'l Imān* et al.

<sup>321</sup> *ṭayīfah kā pīr*: leader of this sect, Ismāyīl Dihlawī.

<sup>322</sup> See *Al-Mútaqad*

<sup>323</sup> *luzūm-e-kufr* and *iltizām-e-kufr*.

It is one thing for such statements to be classified as kufr; and an entirely different thing to consider a person who has said that as a kāfir. We shall tread with utmost caution; we shall keep silent - and as long as there is a weak, or even the remotest possibility to withhold from takfir, we shall do so; and hesitate, fear to issue the ruling of kufr.

**FOURTHLY**, in *Izālatu'l Āār bi Hajri'l Karāyim án Kilābi'n Nār*, which was first published in 1317 AH, from Azīmābād; I wrote on page 10:

We prefer the opinion of Kalām scholars in these matters. And thus, do not do takfir of a person as long as he does not deny or reject any necessary aspect of religion; or considers such a denier to be a Muslim.

**FIFTHLY**, let us forget Ismāyīl Dihlawī. Take these blasphemers who have been ruled kāfir only recently. As long I was not aware of their blasphemies, after listing 78 reasons that necessitate kufr on the issue of *imkān al-kadhib*, in *Sub'hān as-Subbūh*, I wrote on page 80 (in the first edition):

I seek Allāh's refuge. And a thousand times: *hāshā lillāh*<sup>124</sup> I certainly do not like to make takfir of these people. Until now, I still consider these followers<sup>125</sup> and modern claimants<sup>126</sup> as Muslims, even though there is no doubt in their heresy and waywardness.

Neither do I issue a ruling of kufr upon the leader of their sect, Ismāyīl Dihlawī; because our Prophet ﷺ has warned us from making takfir of those who say: 'lā ilāha illā Allāh'.

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<sup>124</sup> Allāh forbid! I seek Allāh's refuge! May Allāh never make it so!

<sup>125</sup> Of Ismāyīl; that is Gangohī, Ambhetwī and other Deobandi followers.

<sup>126</sup> Modern claimants of the dead and buried idea of *imkān al-kadhib*.

**We do not rule them kāfir, as long as we do not have proof as obvious and glaringly apparent as the mid-day sun;** and [withhold from takfīr] until the most remote possibility remains to absolve them from kufr. Because Islām will prevail and it cannot be subdued.

O Muslims! I remind you of your religion and your faith; of the day of Judgement, the Prophet and the reckoning in the presence of Ar-Rahmān – and I ask you: Is it not shamelessness to accuse a person of making careless takfīr, in spite of such utmost caution? Is it not oppression? Is it not unjust and unfair to slander him thus?

Sayyidunā Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ has said, and whatever he says is truth:

if you have no shame, do  
whatever you wish<sup>327</sup>

إذا لم تستحي فاصنع ما شئت

O Muslims! These are my statements<sup>328</sup> that have been published for years – some ten years ago, some seventeen and nineteen; yet, the ruling of kufr concerning these blasphemers was issued only six years ago in 1320 AH, when the book *Al-Mutamad al-Mustanad*<sup>329</sup> was first published.

<sup>327</sup> An-Nawawī, *Al-Arbaʿīn*, 20; extracted from Bukhārī.

<sup>328</sup> Refraining from takfīr and utmost caution.

<sup>329</sup> In 1270 AH, Mawlānā Fadlu'r Rasūl Badāyūnī [1213-1289 AH /1798-1872 CE] wrote a book on the doctrine of Ahlu's Sunnah and criticizing the heresies of that time, titled *Al-Mutaqad al-Muntaqad*; this had gone out of circulation for a long time and the surviving copies like the printed edition from Bombay had many typographical errors. Mawlānā Ábd al-Wahīd al-Firdausi requested Alahazrat to edit this work for republishing.

In the course of reviewing the manuscript, Alahazrat felt the need to explain and add, and discuss various burning issues of the age; thus he wrote a commentary on the tract titled *Al-Mustanad Al-Mutamad Bināyi Najātu'l Abad*, which was published together with the original text in 1320 AH. The closing part of the commentary contains juridical answers to questions concerning heresy, apostacy and takfīr. It is in this part that Alahazrat first ruled the Deobandi blasphemers as kāfir.

Allāh knows best.

Be mindful<sup>330</sup> of Allāh and His Messenger and be judicious; these statements of caution and restraint, not only refute the slanders but also bear witness that the person<sup>331</sup> who has been extremely careful in takfīr did not issue the ruling of kufr unless their kufr had become obvious and glaringly apparent as the mid-day sun. Unless he had seen conclusive, clear, incontrovertible and compelling proof of their explicit insults, for which there is absolutely no possibility of favorable interpretation, he did not call them kāfir.<sup>332</sup> After all, it is the same person, this slave of Allāh, who listed seventy reasons that necessitate kufr, but still said:

our Prophet ﷺ has warned us from making takfīr<sup>333</sup> of those who say: *lā ilāha illā Allāh*. We do not rule them kāfir, as long as we do not have proof as obvious and glaringly apparent as the mid-day sun; and [withhold from takfīr] until the most remote possibility remains to absolve them from kufr.

It is the same person who explained 78 reasons that necessitate kufr of these blasphemers according to jurists; but as long as he did not have conclusive proof of their blasphemies refrained from takfīr and said:

I seek Allāh's refuge. And a thousand times: *hāshā lillāh!*<sup>334</sup> I certainly do not like to make takfīr of these people.

Did I have friendship with them at that time, and now, we are estranged? Do we have a dispute on sharing property now, but at that time we did not have any? We seek Allāh's refuge. A Muslim's relation – of love and hate, friendship and enmity is solely for the love and hate of Allāh tāālā and His Messenger ﷺ.

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<sup>330</sup> Allāh o Rasūl ke khawf ko sāmney rakh ke as an idiom.

<sup>331</sup> Imām Ahmed Ridā himself.

<sup>332</sup> Deobandi followers try to posit this by attempting to interpret those statements favorably; remember that interpretation is inadmissible in case of explicit insults and which is written even in Deobandi books.

<sup>333</sup> That is heedless and baseless takfīr, as is obvious.

<sup>334</sup> Allāh forbid! I seek Allāh's refuge! May Allāh never make it so!

As long as these insults were not issued<sup>335</sup> by these blasphemers, and as long as I had not seen or heard<sup>336</sup> of the blasphemies by these people concerning Allāh táālā and His Messenger ﷺ, I was mindful of their being Muslims, and their being people who utter the kalimah: *lā ilāha illā Allāh*. I was careful and I exercised caution; even though this necessitated kufr by the opinion of jurists, I chose the opinion of kalām scholars. When I saw these statements with my own eyes which explicitly insult Allāh táālā and His Messenger ﷺ, there remained no option except to rule them kāfir.<sup>337</sup> Because our imams have said:

one who doubts in the kufr or liability of torment of such a person,<sup>338</sup> is a kāfir himself.<sup>339</sup>

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<sup>335</sup> **Alahazrat's footnote:** Like Thānawī, whose ugly insult of RasūlAllāh ﷺ was published in 1319 AH. Prior to this he used to present himself as a Sunni and there was a time he even used to attend celebrations of Mawlid along with other Muslims.

<sup>336</sup> **Alahazrat's footnote:** Like Gangohī and Ambhetwī; because earlier, I had received that part of their passage which mentioned their statement of falsehood being a possibility for Allāh táālā; I came to know of it later that he also says that the knowledge of satan is greater than that of RasūlAllāh ﷺ.

And concerning Gangohī's fatwā where he says, God can be a liar and if someone calls him a liar, he remains a Sunni and righteous Muslim; I remained silent even after seeing a printed version of the fatwā due to extreme caution and because others had published it, this was not conclusive proof on the basis of which we could make takfīr. Thereafter, I saw the original fatwā with my own eyes, which is in Gangohī's own hand and carries his seal and signature; and in spite of this being reprinted again and again, he kept silent and did not protest, then it was established conclusively that the fatwā was his own.

A similar case was that of the Qadiani Liar; unless I had seen his books myself, I did not insist upon his takfīr. As long as I had only heard that he claims to be the Mahdī and that he (claims he) is similar to Jesus ﷺ, I had said in reply to a question concerning him: 'Looks like some madman'.

Thereafter, a fatwā came from Amritsar which declared him kāfir; and in which passages from his books with reference to page numbers were listed, I wrote only this much: "If these statements are present in the books of Mirza, as mentioned here, then certainly he is a kāfir." See the monograph: *As-Sū'ū wa'l Íqāb ālā al-Masīh al-Kadh'dhāb*, page 18. Yes, when I saw his books myself, then I issued the decisive ruling that he had become a kāfir and an apostate.

<sup>337</sup> Otherwise Alahazrat would himself be enveloped in the ruling.

<sup>338</sup> The blasphemer.

<sup>339</sup> Al-Ĥaṣkafī, *Al-Durr al-Mukhtār*, Kitāb al-Jihād, On Apostacy.

Then, it was incumbent upon me to save myself and the faith of my Muslim brothers and was thus compelled to issue the decree of *kufr*. *And this is the recompense of oppressors, the tyrants.*

Your Lord Almighty says:

Say: that truth hath come and falsehood hath been vanquished: and falsehood was doomed to be vanquished<sup>340</sup>

وقر جاء الحق وزهق الباطل  
الباطل كان زهوقا<sup>341</sup>

and He says:

There is no compulsion in religion  
The path of guidance is distinctly  
manifest from path of evil<sup>342</sup>

لا كراه في الدين قد تبين  
للرشد من الغي

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<sup>340</sup> Sûrah Al-Isrâ'a , 17:81.

<sup>341</sup> Sûrah Al-Baqarah, 2:256.

## CONCLUSION

There were four important milestones to cover in this book:

1. The statements these blasphemers have written and published are indeed insulting and blaspheming Allāh tāālā and His Messenger ﷺ.
2. Anyone who insults or blasphemes Allāh tāālā and His Messenger is a kāfir.
3. And whosoever does not consider them a kāfir<sup>342</sup> and cares for their relationship; or has esteem for them on account of such people being his teachers or shaykhs or friends; then, he is also a kāfir<sup>343</sup> along with them and will be tied with the same rope on the day of Judgement.
4. All those alibis that ignorant and corrupt people proffer are unacceptable and rejected.

Praise be to Allāh, that all these were firmly established and which, we explained with evidence from the verses of the Qur'ān. Now, on one hand is felicity and paradise; and on another is damnation and hell fire. People are free to choose what they like. But remember one thing: a person who forsakes the mantle of Sayyidunā RasūlAllāh ﷺ for the sakes of Zayd and Ámr will never succeed.

As for guidance, that is in the Power and choosing of Allāh tāālā.

These are basic issues that any knowledgeable Muslim knows, but our brothers who are laymen are fond of seeing endorsements.<sup>344</sup> Which endorsements can be higher and prominent than those of the scholars of the two pure sanctuaries,<sup>345</sup> from where religion commenced and

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<sup>342</sup> After learning of their blasphemies.

<sup>343</sup> Because, it is necessary to consider a blasphemer as a kāfir or else one becomes a kāfir himself.

<sup>344</sup> Lit., seals.

<sup>345</sup> *ḥaramayn ṭayyibayn*

according to authentic ḥadīth, there will never be the prevalance of Satan in these places.<sup>346</sup>

Therefore, to satisfy our brothers, I went to visit the sanctuaries and presented my fatwā to the scholars and Muftīs of Makkah and Madīnah. The beautiful endorsements and eloquent speeches made by the esteemed úlamā can be seen in the book: *Ḥusām al-Ḥaramayn ālā Manḥar al-Kufri wa'l Mayn* which has been published in 1324 AH and which also includes a facing translation<sup>347</sup> of each page in Urdu.

O Allāh! Give guidance to Muslim bretheren to accept the truth and to forsake obstinacy and egoism, and protect them, such that they do not advocate Zayd and Ámr against Thee and Thy Messenger; for the sake of Muḥammad ﷺ.

Amen! Amen! Amen!

والحمد لله رب العالمين وأفضل الصلوة وأكمل السلام  
على سيدنا محمد وآله وصحبه وحزبه أجمعين آمين



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<sup>346</sup> The Wahābī government of Saudi Arabia was established after Alahazrat passed away in 1921 CE. While we do not dispute the ḥadīth, MáādhAllāh, it does not necessarily mean that the ḥaramayn will always be under the rule of righteous Muslims. Even Fatimid Shia and Mūṭazilah have ruled over ḥaramayn in the past.

<sup>347</sup> Translation by Alahazrat's nephew, Mawlānā Ḥasanayn Raza Khān titled: *Mubayyin e Ahkām o Taṣdīqāt e Aālām*, 1324 AH.

## Appendix A

### BARĀHĪN E QĀṬIĀH

Maulvi Khalīl Aḥmed (1269-1346 AH / 1852-1927 CE) was born in Ambetha<sup>348</sup> and studied at Deoband. He was the student of Rashīd Aḥmed Gangohī and at his behest, wrote *Barāhīn e Qāṭiāh* as a refutation of the book *Anwār e Sātiāh* written by Mawlānā Ābdu's Samīy Rampūrī, a Sunni scholar who was also a disciple of Hājī Imdādullāh Muhājir Makkī, Gangohī's spiritual master.

It is in this book that Maulvi Khalīl Aḥmed Sahāranpūrī<sup>349</sup> says that the knowledge of Satan is proven from documentary evidence and there is no such evidence for the knowledge of RasūlAllāh ﷺ. He also wrote another book in Arabic named *Al-Muhannad* where he denied that he ever said such a thing. The controversial passage appears on page 51 of *Barāhīn e Qāṭiāh*, published by Kutub Khana Imdādiyah, Deoband, UP, India, 1962.

ثابت ہونے میں کہ خبر اور حدیثیں یہاں مفید نہیں لہذا اس کا اثبات اس وقت قابل التفات ہو کہ مختلف قطعاً سے اس کو ثابت کرے اور خلاف تمام امت کے ایک تیس فاسد سے عقیدہ خلق کا اگر فاسد کیا جائے تو کب قابل التفات ہو گا دوسرے قرآن و حدیث سے اس کے خلاف ثابت ہو پس اس کا خلاف کس طرح قبول ہو سکتا ہے بلکہ یہ سب قرآن و حدیث کا خود فخر عالم علیہ السلام فرماتے ہیں و اھل بیت اور شیخ عبدالحق روایت کرتے ہیں کہ مجھ کو دیوار کی پچھے کا بھی علم نہیں اور مجلس شام کا مسئلہ بھی بھرائی وغیرہ کتب سے لکھا گیا تیسرے اگر افضلیت ہی موجب اس کی ہے تو تمام مسلمان اگر چاہیں ہوں اور خود مؤلف بھی شیطان سے افضل ہیں تو مؤلف سب حرام ہیں بسبب افضلیت کے شیطان سے زیادہ نہیں تو اس کی برتری علیہ علیہ بزرگ خود ثابت کر دے اور مؤلف خود اپنے زعم سے بہت بڑا کامل الایمان ہے تو شیطان سے ضرور افضل ہو کر اعلم من الشیطان ہو گا سوا اللہ مؤلف کے ایسے جمل پر تعجب بھی ہوتا ہے اور رنج بھی ہوتا ہے کہ ایسی نالائق بات منہ سے نکالنا کس قدر دور از علم و عقل ہے، اہم حاصل جو کرنا چاہیے کہ شیطان و ملک الموت کا حال دیکھ کر علم عیاضین کا فخر عالم کو خلاف مخصوص قطعاً ہلکیل محض قیاس فاسد سے ثابت کرنا شرکی نہیں تو کون سا ایمان کا حصہ شیطان و ملک الموت کو یہ وسعت نص ہو ثابت ہوں، فخر عالم کی وسعت علم کی کوئی نص قطعی ہے کہ جس سے تمام نصوں کو رد کیے ایک مشرک ثابت کرتا ہے اور خاصہ کی تخریب تہذیب

<sup>348</sup> Sahāranpūr district, Uttar Pradesh, India.

<sup>349</sup> He is known in the Arab world as Al-Sahāranfūrī, the author *Badhl al-Majhūd*, a commentary on the Ḥadīth compendium Sunan Abū Dawud.

## TRANSLATION

...rather all the claims of the author<sup>350</sup> will be rejected. The Pride of the World **عجب الدنيا** has himself said: 'By Allāh, I do not know that which may befall me nor that which may befall you' as mentioned in the Ḥadīth. Shaykh Abdu'l Haq<sup>351</sup> reports [that he said]: 'I do not even know what is behind the wall.'<sup>352</sup> Thus it is also written in *Bahr ar-Rāyiq* and other books concerning the assembly of marriage.

Thirdly, if it is superiority that necessitates [being higher in knowledge] then all Muslims should be higher than Satan in knowledge – even if it is a sinner;<sup>353</sup> in fact the author is also superior to Satan; so let the author prove that he has knowledge of unseen equal to that of Satan if not more than him, on account of his [the author] being superior to Satan.

The author, according to his own claim is a superior believer, a person of perfect faith, then certainly he is superior to Satan, and therefore he should be more knowledgeable than Satan! We seek Allāh's refuge!<sup>354</sup>

Such ignorance on the part of the author is surprising, and it also saddening that he utters such an unworthy<sup>355</sup> statement which is far removed from knowledge and reason.

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<sup>350</sup> Abdu's Samīy Rāmpūrī, author of *Anwār e Sātiāh*.

<sup>351</sup> Abd al-Ḥaq al-Dihlawī, (958-1052 AH / 1551-1642 CE), famous scholar and the most prominent ḥadīth master in the past 400 years in the subcontinent. He is the author of many books including *Ashiáātu'l Lamáāt*, a commentary on *Mishkātu'l Maṣābīh* and *Madāriju'n Nubuwwah*, a biography of the Prophet ﷺ.

<sup>352</sup> Khalīl Aḥmed misquotes and states the opposite of what Shaykh Abd al-Ḥaq said; such a thing is either as *tadlīs* or as *kadhib*. Because, in the first volume of *Madārij* the Shaykh says: "Some people pose an objection on this and say that it has been mentioned in some reports that RasūlAllāh ﷺ said: 'I am a slave and I do not not know what is behind this wall.'  
**Whereas, this statement is baseless and there is no authentic report of this kind.**"

<sup>353</sup> *fāsiq*

<sup>354</sup> Apparently, Khalīl Aḥmed finds it abhorrent that anyone else can equal Satan in knowledge.

**The outcome:** One should ponder, that by looking at the state of Satan and the angel of death, [and then] proving such encompassing knowledge of the earth<sup>356</sup> for the Pride of the World,<sup>357</sup> without any scriptural evidence<sup>358</sup> and merely by fallacious analogy – if this is not polytheism, then which part of faith is it? The extensiveness of knowledge for Satan and the angel of death is proven by scriptural proof, where is such scriptural proof for the extensiveness of the knowledge of the Pride of the World, thereby refuting all scriptural proofs and establishes one polytheistic belief?

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Khalil Aĥmed's compound sentence above can be decomposed thus:

1. Satan and the Angel of death have encompassing knowledge of the earth;
2. One should not prove similar knowledge for Pride of the world ﷺ by analogy [because it is false analogy]
3. Because doing so opposes scriptural evidence;
4. And proving such knowledge [even by analogy] is polytheism [the rhetorical question: *if this is not polytheism, then which part of faith is it?*].
5. Knowledge of Satan and the Angel of death is proved by scriptural evidence. [*naṣṣ e qat'īl*]
6. There is no scriptural proof for the knowledge of Pride of the world [RasūlAllāh] ﷺ.

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<sup>355</sup> *nā-lāyiq* literally means unworthy, but in usage and idiom it means contemptible, vile, disgraceful.

<sup>356</sup> *ilm-e-muĥīṭ-e-zamīn*

<sup>357</sup> *fakhr-e-ālam* meaning RasūlAllāh ﷺ.

<sup>358</sup> *naṣṣ*

7. And if one tries to prove such knowledge [of Satan and the Angel of death] for RasūlAllāh ﷺ, it is refuting scriptural evidence
8. And saying so is committing polytheism.

Look at it whichever way you want, but Khalīl is saying that if you prove such knowledge for RasūlAllāh ﷺ, you commit shirk; but the same knowledge is possessed by Satan and it is proved by *nass*!

## Appendix B

### HIFZ AL-ĪMĀN

Ashraf Ālī Thānawī<sup>359</sup> was born in 1280 AH and died in 1362 AH (1863-1943 CE). He graduated from Deoband in 1300AH/1883CE and Rashid Ahmed Gangohī tied his turban;<sup>360</sup> Qāsim Nānautawī, Maḥmūd al-Ḥasan Deobandi and Yāqūb Nānautawī were among his teachers.<sup>361</sup>

In 1319 AH, he wrote a small booklet titled *Hifẓu'l Īmān* in which he made a statement that any native Urdu speaker, even an illiterate, will consider as an insult. The following scan is from page 8 of the book, published by Iyāziyyah Book House, Deoband.

شروع نہ ہوں گی تو شرعیات کیلئے جو انچوں کیلئے ہیں وہاں چاہا بنا لیا جب چاہا مٹا دیا پھر یہ کہ  
آپ کی ذات مقدسہ پر علم غیب کا حکم کیا جاتا اگر قول مذکور ہو تو دریافت طلب یہ امر ہے کہ اس  
غیب سے مراد بعض غیب ہے یا کل غیب اگر بعض علوم غیبیہ مراد ہیں تو اس میں حضور کی ہی کیا  
تفصیل ہے ایسا علم غیب تو زید و عمرو بلکہ ہر کسی و مجنون بلکہ جمیع حیوانات و بہائم کے لئے بھی  
حاصل ہے کیونکہ ہر شخص کو کسی نہ کسی ایسی بات کا علم ہوتا ہے جو دوسرے شخص سے عقلی ہے تو  
چاہئے کہ سب کو عالم الغیب کہا جاوے۔ پیرا گریز یا اس کا التزام کرے کہ ہاں میں سب کو عالم الغیب  
کہوں گا تو پھر غیب کو نجد کلاوت نبویہ کیوں شمار کیا جاتا ہے جس امر میں مومن بلکہ انسان کی بھی  
خصوصیت نہ ہو و کلاوت نبویہ سے کب ہو سکتا ہے اور اگر التزام نہ کیا جاوے تو نبی غیر نبی میں وجہ  
فرق دیاوی کرنا ضرور ہے اور اگر تمام علوم غیب مراد ہیں اس طرح کہ اس کی ایک فرد بھی خارج نہ ہے  
تو اس کا بلون دلیل نقل و عقل سے ثابت ہے و لکن ظہیر شہاد میں خود قرآن مجید میں آپ

<sup>359</sup> Pertaining to Thānā-Bhawan in Saharanpur District, Uttar Pradesh, India.

<sup>360</sup> *dastār bandī*: this is a graduation ceremony in Islamic schools; and the tying of the turban signifies that the student has passed the course and is now deemed a graduate.

<sup>361</sup> Muḥammad Akbar Shāh Bukhārī, *Akābir e Ūlamā e Deoband*.

If, the attribution of knowledge to his<sup>362</sup> blessed person by Zayd<sup>363</sup> is valid, then it is necessary to inquire – whether he refers to some parts of knowledge or all kinds of knowledge?

If this refers to a part of such knowledge of unseen,<sup>364</sup> then where is the exclusiveness of RasūlAllāh ﷺ in this?<sup>365</sup> Such knowledge is [possessed by] Zayd and Ámr;<sup>366</sup> rather, every child and madmen; rather, all animals and quadrupeds also possess [such knowledge].

Because, every person has knowledge of something that is hidden from another; then, it becomes necessary to call everyone a knower of the unseen.<sup>367</sup> And then, if Zayd makes it binding upon himself, that he shall call everyone a knower of unseen, then why does he consider this as an exclusive attribute of prophethood?<sup>368</sup> An attribute in which, there is no exclusivity for believers – not even exclusivity for humans;<sup>369</sup> then, how can this be an exclusive attribute of prophethood?<sup>370</sup>

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<sup>362</sup> The Prophet ﷺ

<sup>363</sup> Zayd; a name used for illustration.

<sup>364</sup> *báaz úlûm e ghaybiyyah*

<sup>365</sup> In Urdu: *huzûr*; and this is meant to refer to RasūlAllāh ﷺ.

<sup>366</sup> An idiom to say anyone; like it is said in English: 'Tom, Dick and Harry'.

<sup>367</sup> *áálimu'l ghayb*

<sup>368</sup> *jumlā kamālāt e anbiyā'a*: that is, attributes that are considered as perfect, praiseworthy, distinguishing them from non-prophets etc.

<sup>369</sup> Thānawī has in the previous paragraph said it explicitly that even animals have similar knowledge; so it is not exclusive to prophets, or even believers, or even humans. In other words, Thānawī says: knowledge is not a trait that can be considered as special for prophets.

<sup>370</sup> Ergo, Prophets do not have knowledge of unseen. Thānawī has said earlier that madmen and animals have knowledge that is similar to that of the Prophet ﷺ. Any possible ambiguity is removed by the rhetorical question he himself asks: 'where is the exclusivity – *takhṣīs* – for the Prophet?'

And if one does not consider it binding, then it is necessary to explain the reason for differentiating between a prophet and a non-prophet. And if he refers to all kinds of knowledge such that not even a single thing remains unknown, then the invalidity of such an idea is proven by innumerable narrated<sup>371</sup> and rational proofs.

If one reads the whole passage, it is clear that Thānawī rejects '*part ilm al-ghayb*' and draws similarity of such '*part ilm al-ghayb*' of the Prophet ﷺ with that of animals and madmen; because he trails the discussion with the invalidity of '*kull ilm al-ghayb*'. So the parallels drawn are not accidental or incidental outcome; rather, intentional and deliberate.

Some Deobandis try to fool common people by saying that Thānawī was talking about the phrase '*ʿālimu'l ghayb*' or the 'knower of the unseen.' The passage clearly talks of knowledge and compares - draws similarity with the knowledge of prophets. This is why he asks rhetorically: 'then you should call everyone as knowers of the unseen.'

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<sup>371</sup> *dalil e naqli o aqli se sābit hai.*

## Appendix C

### FATWĀ OF RASHĪD GANGOHĪ

Maulvi Rashīd Aḥmed Gangohī (1244-1323 AH / 1829-1905 CE) was one of the founders of the Deoband school.<sup>372</sup> Even though, his teachers and shuyukh were Sunnis and approved of ideas and practices which are now labeled as 'Barelwi,' at some point he and his friend Maulvi Qasim Nānautawī became admirers of Ismāyīl Dihlawī and Indian Wahābism, which they propagated and advocated through the seminary they founded in Deoband.

This dispute was not merely about certain practices – like celebrating the birthday of the Prophet ﷺ or donating reward to the deceased; but rather in fundamental articles of faith itself. The concept *Imkān al-Kadhib* or the possibility of falsehood in the Divine Speech of Allāh was first instigated by Ismāyīl Dihlawī in India. Gangohī and his students<sup>373</sup> not only validated it, but wrote books and further compounded the mistake by making wild comparisons and conjuring egregious analogies.

Alahazrat and other ṭlamā refuted this (see *Subḥān as-Subbūh*) but withheld from ruling them *kāfir* as this could be due to the misunderstanding of a *kalām* concept. Gangohī was asked about a person who claims 'occurrence of falsehood' and Gangohī replied in a written fatwā that such a person remains a Sunni Muslim. This fatwā of *wuqūʿ* – or occurrence – was handed to Sunni ṭlamā who ruled Gangohī *kāfir* because of this fatwā which was in Gangohī's hand and carried his seal; Alahazrat duly presented photocopies of this fatwā in *ḥaramayn*, and says that it was preserved in the library of Madinah in his time. It is said that the fatwā is present even to this day in a library in Moradabad, UP. Allāh tāālā knows best.

Deobandis claim that this fatwā was forged by Sunni scholars to malign Gangohī. Alahazrat refuted this claim and explained that this denial was

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<sup>372</sup> Founded in 1283 AH / 1866 CE.

<sup>373</sup> Notably, Khalīl Aḥmed Sahāranpūrī [1269-1346 AH / 1852-1927 CE]; and Maḥmūd al-Ḥasan Deobandi [1268-1339 AH / 1851-1920 CE] in his *Juhd al-Muqill*.

never made in Gangohī's own lifetime in spite of the fact that this fatwā was published with refutations for 18 years until his death in 1323 AH.

Alahazrat says in *Tamhīd e Īmān*<sup>374</sup> concerning this fatwā:

This unclean fatwā was published along with a refutation in the booklet *Siyānatu'n Nās* in 1308 AH from Ĥadīqatu'l Ūlūm Publishers, Meerut. It was published again by Gulzār-e-Ĥasanī Publishers, Bombay, in 1318 AH along with a more detailed refutation. Thereafter, in 1320 AH it was published once again with another refutation by Tuĥfah-e-Ĥanafīyyah Publishers, Azīmābād-Patna.

The person who gave this fatwā died in Jumādā al-Ākhirah 1323 AH and remained silent until the last breath. Neither did he deny that it was his own fatwā, even though disowning this fatwā was easier than disclaiming a published book. Nor did he say: 'the meaning of my words is not that which the scholars of Ahlu's Sunnah describe; rather, I meant something else.' Was it an insignificant thing to be attributed with such an explicit kufr, that he did not bother about it?

A fatwā by Zayd, that carries his seal is being circulated openly in his lifetime and his being in good health – and that such a fatwā is certainly and absolutely kufr – and this is being re-published for years; and people have published refutations of this fatwā; and declare Zayd to be a kāfir on account of this fatwā; Zayd lives for fifteen more years; and Zayd sees and hears all of this – and Zayd does not publish a denial or disavowal concerning that fatwā; and keeps silent with bated breath until his breath has abated – can any sane person imagine that Zayd had denied that the fatwā was his? Or explained that he meant something else?

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<sup>374</sup> See *Tamhīd e Īmān*, pages 61-62.

Some may attempt to seize the moral high ground and make the following alibi:

“A Sufi does not reply to attacks on his person; even if people slander him or circulate lies about him. It is difficult to answer every libellous charge. Anybody can publish anything; it is impossible to answer everything. For example, forgeries abound on the internet – so also, Gangohī kept quiet. His silence cannot be considered as proof of culpability.”

### Some answers and more questions:

1. It is important to keep the context of the age in perspective. It was not like today's internet age where anybody is a published author. Back then, anything had to be published through a press – involving paper and ink. Certain publishers – even as in our time – had a reputation. This fatwā was published from well-known publishers. Self-respecting people will not sit idle, if, for example, Penguin or McGraw Hill publishes an article of kufr and attribute it to them. The least a person can do is deny the authorship of such a thing.

2. *Kufr* is not an ordinary accusation to ignore. Particularly, when one is a Muftī and a leader of a prominent school and when he is well known, and when his fatāwā are solicited and issued regularly. Shouldn't a Muftī worry about safeguarding his reputation? If a fraud can forge one fatwā, then what stops him from making more fatāwā?

3. Those who re-published the *fatwā* and refutations were also well-known *ūlamā*. Gangohī replied to letters<sup>375</sup> by Alahazrat and the compiler of *Fatāwā Rashīdiyyah* included some fatāwā of Alahazrat for illustration.<sup>376</sup> Clearly, Alahazrat was considered as a prominent personality. Which scholar in his right mind will keep quiet when a forged fatwā is circulated in his name?

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<sup>375</sup> See *Dafā e Zaygh e Zāgh*, an exchange between Alahazrat and Gangohī on the issue of the domestic crow, which indicates there was correspondence between them. Rashīd Gangohī in his fatwā says that the domestic crow is permissible to eat (See *Tazkiratu'r Rashīd*, 1/180).

<sup>376</sup> The compiler adds a note that the fatwā has been included only to emphasise that even the leader of the other camp – i.e. Alahazrat – was in agreement with Gangohī on this issue; see page *Fatāwā Rashīdiyyah*, 172.

4. A Sufi like Ábd al-Wahhāb al-Shārānī notes that forgeries were inserted in his books and denies them; so it is not against being a Sufi to clear one's name. But, we do not find any denial by Rashīd Gangohī himself in any of his books or in his sayings reported by his close disciple and biographer Aāshiq Ilāhī Meerutī.<sup>377</sup>

5. In the *Fatāwā Rashīdiyyah*, the author mentions and attests that he believes in the *imkān al-kadhib*. There is even a letter purported to be written by Hājī Imdādullāh that clearly says: "nobody claims wuqūú." This was a clear opportunity to add a note that: "A forged fatwā is being circulated in my name and I categorically deny it – it is not my fatwā."

6. That Gangohī was not inclined to argue or debate is incorrect. Apart from the book *Barāhīn-e-Qāṭiāh*, which was written 'by his command,'<sup>378</sup> there are a number of fatāwā that clearly indicate that he was an active participant in the discourse and a lengthy fatwā criticising Nazeer Husain Dihlawī accusing him of being a closet *lā-madh'habi* which is reproduced by his biographer.<sup>379</sup>

7. Clearly the *Fatāwā Rashīdiyyah* was published much later than this fatwā of *wuqūú* which was issued in 1308 AH. In the published *Fatāwā*, one can find letters that are dated as late as 1322 AH. So there was ample chance to include a statement or a saying (because the compiled *Fatāwā* has sections that are oral fatāwā or the *Malfūẓ*) that: "a fatwā of wuqūú circulated in my name is false."

8. When Deobandis made false charges and concocted books attributing it to Alahazrat's forebears, he refuted them. When they forged a seal attributing it to his father, he pointed out that he had passed away prior to the date on the forged seal, thus exposing the slanderers; his nephew published repentance, in spite of a forgery by the copyists (in the issue of the *Waṣiyyah*); Mawlānā Maḥbūb Álī did the same when he published the

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<sup>377</sup> *Tazkiratu'r Rashid*, Áshiq Ilāhī Meerutī.

<sup>378</sup> Thus, it is on the cover of *Barāhīn e Qāṭiāh*. It would not be surprising if modern Deobandis claim that Gangohī did not know of this and even Khalīl was unaware – and that the printer put it of his own accord or even deny that Khalīl Ahmed ever wrote a book like it! *Barāhīn* received a second reprint in the lifetime of Gangohī; the purported letter by Hājī Sahib is included in it.

<sup>379</sup> *Tazkiratu'r Rashid*, Áshiq Ilāhī Meerutī, 1/180.

third volume of *Hidayiq* posthumously, without due diligence. When there was an uproar and Deobandis clamored "Sacrilege!" he humbly retracted and published his statement of repentance. All Gangohi had to do was repudiate the fatwā.

9. The fatwā carries the seal and signature of Gangohi. The seal was, and is, a method of authentication and non-repudiation. True, a possibility of forgery exists, but the only way to address that shortcoming is by a denial when such a spurious document is brought to the notice of the author. In one fatwā, Gangohi permits even the use of telegrams (wire) to confirm news of the new moon<sup>380</sup> for Ramaḍān and based it on the 'common practice and is generally considered to be trustworthy.' When a fatwā attributed to him, in his hand, carrying his seal is circulated, surely people would consider it authentic and trust it even more than a cablegram? If this fatwā was a forgery, then, why did he not refute it?

The question and the answer by Gangohi in that fatwā are translated below; the Urdu transcription and the photograph of the original are also included.

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<sup>380</sup> Ibid. 174.

## TRANSLATION OF THE ISTIFTĀ AND FATWĀ OF GANGOHĪ

*Bismillāhi'r Raḥmāni'r Raḥīm*

**Question:** May Allāh have mercy on you, what do you say in the following matter: Two people were talking about the falsehood of the Creator.<sup>381</sup> A third person said in the favor of one of the two:

Verily Allāh shall not forgive that  
He be associated with partners;  
but will forgive anything other  
than that [polytheism]<sup>382</sup>

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ  
بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ

“The particle *mā* is generic, which also includes the sin of murdering a believer. Thus, it is understood from the above verse that Allāh tāālā will forgive a believer who has deliberately murdered [another believer]. And in another verse it is said:

And the punishment for one who  
murders a believer is hell  
forever<sup>383</sup>

وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِّدًا  
فَجَزَاؤُهُ جَهَنَّمُ خَالِدًا

In this verse, the particle *man* is also generic which includes believers who commit deliberate murder. This means, a believer who has committed a pre-meditated murder will not be forgiven.”

The antagonist<sup>384</sup> of the third person said: "Your argument would then prove occurrence of falsehood [in the Divine Speech of] Allāh. Because, the verse says: *shall* forgive; not will *possibly* forgive."<sup>385</sup> Upon this the

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<sup>381</sup> *kizb e Bārī*

<sup>382</sup> Sūrah Al-Nisā'a, 4:48; also 4:116.

<sup>383</sup> Ibid., 4:93.

<sup>384</sup> From the first two.

<sup>385</sup> *yaghfir*, not *yumkin an yaghfir*

third person said: "When did I say that I do not accept the occurrence of falsehood in Divine Speech?"<sup>386</sup>

The same person<sup>387</sup> has also said: "Falsehood is not ugly and naturally despicable<sup>388</sup> in general; Allāh táālā has permitted falsehood in certain situations. And in certain situations half-truths<sup>389</sup> and plain lies are both preferable [to truth] – not just half-truths. Concerning this third person:

a) Does he remain a Muslim or has he become a kāfir?

b) If he is a Muslim, is he a heretic and astray,<sup>390</sup> or remains in the Ahlu's Sunnah wa'l Jamā'ah in spite of his saying the above concerning falsehood in [the Speech] of Allāh táālā.

Please clarify, may Allāh táālā reward you.

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#### Answer:

Even though the third person has committed a mistake in the interpretation of the verses, one should not call him a kāfir or a heretic or a misguided person.<sup>391</sup>

Because a great number of scholars and elders accept occurrence of the repealing of the threat of punishment.<sup>392</sup> Thus, Maulavi Aḥmed Ḥasan has described this in his monograph *Tanzīh ar-Raḥmān*.

Apart from this, those who consider that occurrence of repealing of the threat of punishment as possible,<sup>393</sup> they also believe that such a

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<sup>386</sup> *maiñ ne kab kaha hai ke wuqū' e kazib ka qāyil nahīñ hūñ?*

<sup>387</sup> The third person.

<sup>388</sup> *kazib ālā'l ūmūm qabīḥ ba mánā munāfir li't ṭabā nahīñ hai*

<sup>389</sup> *tawriyah o āyn kazib*

<sup>390</sup> *bidātī, zāll*

<sup>391</sup> *magar tā-ham usko kāfir kahnā yā bidātī zall nahīñ kahna chāhiye*

<sup>392</sup> *wuqū' e khulfe wa'yid*

repealing can occur. It is also clear that *khulf-wayīd*<sup>394</sup> is a specific case and falsehood is a generic case.<sup>395</sup> Because falsehood means, that which is contrary to what has [really] occurred.

And that which can be contrary can be either in the case of the threat of punishment or promise of reward or any information;<sup>396</sup> and all of these<sup>397</sup> are categories of falsehood. And the existence of the sub-category necessitates the existence of the main class.<sup>398</sup> If one is a human, then certainly he will also be an animal.<sup>399</sup> **Therefore, the meaning of occurrence of falsehood thus becomes valid,**<sup>400</sup> regardless of whom this concerns.

Thus, based upon this, one should not say any harsh word to the third person, because that would necessitate takfir of elder scholars. Nevertheless, this is a weak statement.

However, according to the mad'hab of the elders, it is not permissible for the person with a strong evidence to consider the person with a weak evidence as a heretic.

See Ḥanafīs and Shāfiyīs do not scorn each other or consider each other as a heretic on the basis of the strength of evidence. Just as the issue of

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<sup>393</sup> *mujawwizīn*

<sup>394</sup> Foregoing the threat of punishment

<sup>395</sup> That is, *khulf-wayīd* is a subset of *kazib*.

<sup>396</sup> *gāh e wayīd, gāh e waád, gāh e khabar*

<sup>397</sup> That is: if one acts contrary to carry out the threat [wayīd] or contrary to the promise of reward [waád] or gives information contrary to the occurrence [khabar;] all these are kinds of falsehood.

<sup>398</sup> *wujūd e naú ka wujūd e jins ko mustalzam hai*

<sup>399</sup> Animal is the main class and human is a sub-category and one among kinds of animals.

<sup>400</sup> *lihāzā wuqūú e kizb ke mánā durust ho gaye.*

saying "*InShaAllah I am Mu'min*" is mentioned in books of doctrine.<sup>401</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to save this third person from being considered a heretic or a misguided person.

However, it is better to explain this to him in a nice manner. However, *Power over falsehood, with the impossibility of occurrence*,<sup>402</sup> is an agreed-upon statement; and no one has differed upon this issue.<sup>403</sup>

And if We so Wished We would  
have guided every soul; but as  
it has been said in my Truthful  
promise,<sup>404</sup> I shall fill hell with  
men and jinn<sup>405</sup>

ولو شئنا لأتينا كل نفس  
هداها ولكن حق القول  
مني لأملأن جهنم من  
الجنة والناس أجمعين

And Allāh tāālā knows best.

Written by the lowly Rashīd Aḥmed Gangohī, may he be forgiven.

SEAL:



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<sup>401</sup> Upon which there is a difference between Shāfiyīs and Ḥanafīs; yet they do not consider each other heretics.

<sup>402</sup> *qudratun ālā al-kadhib maā imtināā al-wuqūū*

<sup>403</sup> Which is another delusion and a false claim. No Sunni scholar has attested this belief; see *Sub'hān as-Subbūh* and a simplified summary in English titled: *The Truth About a Lie*.

<sup>404</sup> In *Tafsīr Al-Qurṭubī*: "My truthful promise that I shall punish those who disobey me."

<sup>405</sup> Sūrah Al-Sajdah, 32:13.

## سوال

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

ما فہم رحمہم اللہ دو شخص کذب باری میں گفتگو کرتے تھے۔ ایک کی طرف داری کے واسطے تیسرے شخص نے کہا اللہ تعالیٰ نے فرمایا ہے ان املہ لا یغفر ان یشرک بہ ویغفر ما دون ذلک الخ، لفظ عام ہے شامل ہے معصیت قتل مومن کو۔ پس آیت مذکورہ سے معلوم ہوا کہ پروردگار مغفرت مومن قاتل بالعمد بھی فرما دے گا۔ اور دوسری آیت میں ہے ومن یقتل مؤمناً متعمداً فجزاؤہ جہنم خالد الخ، لفظ من عام ہے شامل مومن قاتل بالعمد کو اس سے معلوم ہوا کہ قاتل مومن بالعمد کی مغفرت نہ ہوگی۔ اس قاتل کے خصم نے کہا کہ آپ کے استدلال سے وقوع کذب باری ثابت ہوتا ہے کیونکہ آیت میں ویغفر ہے نہ ویمنع ان یغفر یہ سن کر اس قاتل نے جواب دیا میں نے کتب لکھا ہے کہ میں وقوع کذب کا قائل نہیں ہوں۔ اور دوسرا قول اسی قاتل کا یہ ہے کہ کذب علی العموم قبیح معنی منافی مطہر نہیں ہے اللہ تعالیٰ نے بعض مواضع میں جائز رکھا ہے اور توریہ وعین کذب بعض مواضع میں دلوں اولیٰ میں نہ فقط توریہ آیا یہ قاتل مسلمان ہے یا ہر فرد اور مسلمان ہے تو بدعتی ضال یا اہل سنت و جماعت باوجود قبول کرنے کے کذب باری تعالیٰ کے، بدینوا و تو جروا۔ **الجواب**۔ اگرچہ شخص ثالث نے تاویل آیات میں خطا کی مگر تاہم اس کو کافر کہنا یا بدعتی ضال نہیں کہنا چاہیے۔ کیونکہ وقوع خلف وعید کو جماعت کثیرہ علماء و سلف کی قبول کرتی ہے۔ چنانچہ مولوی احمد حسن صاحب رسالہ تمیز الرحمن اپنے رسالہ میں تصریح کرتے ہیں۔ بقول علاوہ اس کے مجوزین خلف وعید وقوع خلف کے کسی قاتل میں۔ چنانچہ ان کے دلائل سے ظاہر ہے حقیقت قالوا لانہ لیس بنقص بل ہو کمال الخ۔ اس سے ظاہر ہوا کہ بعض علی خلف وعید کے قائل ہیں۔ اور یہ بھی واضح ہے کہ خلف وعید خالص ہے اور کذب عام ہے۔ کیونکہ کذب بولتے ہیں قول خذت واقعہ کو۔ سو وہ گاہ وعید ہوتا ہے گاہ وعدہ گاہ خبر۔ اور سب کذب کے انواع ہیں اور وجود نوع کا وجود جنس کو مستلزم ہے، انسان اگر ہوگا تو حیوان بالضرور موجود ہوئے گا۔ لہذا وقوع کذب کے معنی درست ہو گئے۔ اگرچہ بعضین کی فرد کے ہو۔ پس بنا علیہ اس ثالث کو کوئی سختی نہ کہنا چاہیے کہ اس میں تکفیر علماء سلف کی لازم آتی ہے۔ بر حید یہ قول ضعیف ہے مگر تاہم مقدمین کے مذاہب پر صاحب دلیل قوی کو تفصیل صاحب دلیل ضعیف ہے مگر تاہم مقدمین کے مذاہب پر صاحب دلیل قوی کو تفصیل صاحب دلیل ضعیف کی درست نہیں۔ دیکھ کر حنفی شافعی پراور عکس بوجہ قوت دلیل اپنی کے طعن و تفصیل نہیں کر سکتا انا مؤمن انشاء اللہ کا مستند کتب عقائد میں خود دیکھتے ہیں۔ لہذا اس ثالث کو تفصیل و تفسیق سے مامون کرنا چاہیے۔ البتہ بڑی اگر فہمائش ہو بہتر ہے۔ لہذا قدرہ علی الکذب مع امتناع الوقوع مستلزم اتفاق ہے اس میں کسی کا خلاف نہیں۔ اگرچہ اس زمانے میں لوگوں کو غنادیجا ہو گیا ہے۔ قال اللہ ولوشئنا کل نفس ہذا ہا و لکن حق القول منی لا ملین جہنم من الجنة والناس اجمعین۔ الایہ فقہ واللہ تعالیٰ اعلم۔ کتبہ الفقہ رشید احمد گنگوہی عفی عنہ۔

نشان مہر [محمد]



### SAMPLE OF GANGOHĪ'S WRITING

This sample of Rashīd Aḥmed Gangohī's handwriting is taken from the collection of his letters published by his disciple Aāshiq Ilāhī Meeruti, in a volume titled: *Makātīb e Rashīdiyyah*, published by Azīzu'l Maṭābiy, Meerut.

متنکح الامام مولانا گنگوہی قدس سرہ

[illegible]

## ANALYSIS

These images have been resized to fit on a smaller page size in this document. When comparing a high resolution scan at considerable magnification it can be clearly seen that both specimens are written by the same hand. Given below are comparisons – in all examples below, on the left are clips from an established specimen – the official handwriting (from *Makātīb*); and on the right are clips from the fatwā, whose authenticity is questioned by Deobandis. The clips of the fatwā, that is the clip on the right, in spite of its poor visibility, is sharper than the printed specimen because it is written by a pen.

Notice the strokes of the *yaa*; the placement of the dot on the *faa*; the strokes of *haa* below; the slanting of the joined *qaaf-áyn*; same words used in the two specimens are identical; including Rashīd Ahmed writing his own name. Other examples are: *alif-sīn*, *wāw-hā*, the *nun* joined with *yaa* or *hā* – the glyphs of *yahīn*, *nahīn*, *yahī* etc;

The seal is barely visible in the fatwā but upon adjusting the contrast it becomes somewhat legible. The fatwā has been untouched and Photoshop is used only to adjust the brightness-contrast, hues and mildtones to enhance visibility. Another screenshot shows the spacing of the lines.

The writing is of superior quality based on Nastáliq, but it does not conform to the formal script used by calligraphers; and is therefore a semi-formal hand similar to cursive writing in English. Calligraphy enthusiasts can clearly see the formation of certain glyphs, short-cuts and the natural strokes are produced by a mature hand that has been writing for years. It would be very difficult to reproduce a similar hand and with such consistency of glyphs, with the spacing and the placement of dots etc. Obviously, the *fatwā* in question was not written with a modern instrument; but with a reed pen, common at that time. Notice the word *ke* which is slightly above the line and the ending *fā* or *tā*, *bā* as a *kashīdah*. The joined *kaaf-alif* glyph is something unique to the writer and is commonly observed throughout in both specimens.

At similar sizes, when placed next to each other, one can notice the similar line spacing; similarly when we zoom out both specimens at a smaller size, they similarity is starkly noticeable.

Allāh táālā knows best.

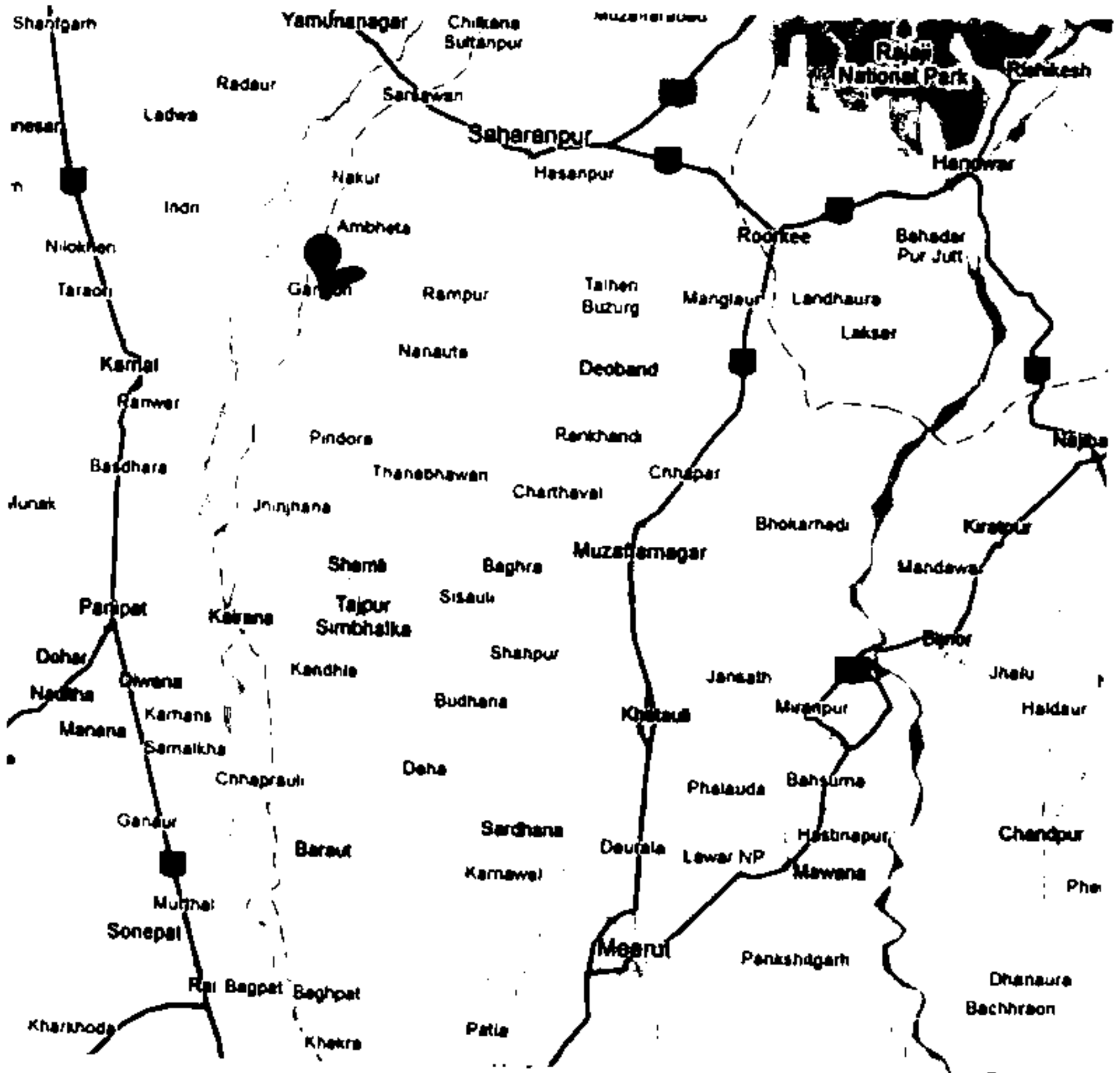




## Appendix D

### SAHARANPUR DISTRICT

The following map shows the district of Saharanpur. This map shows apart from Deoband itself, Gangoh, Nanauta, Ambheta, Thana-Bhawan, Chandpur, Kandhla, Raipur, Meerut, Bijnor and Panipat.



The distance between Meerut and Gangoh is approximately 120 km; and the distance between Meerut and Deoband is 100 km.

## Appendix E

### TRANSLITERATION KEY

Arabic Letter	Latin Character	Arabic Example	Transliteration	English Equivalent
ا اء	a	أمیر	amīr	amazing
ب	b	باب	bāb	basket
ت	t	تاج	tāj	(soft)
ث	th	ثابت	thābit	thing
ج	j	جسد	jasad	jam
ح	h	حسن	hasan	guttural, deep like hose no english equivalent
خ	kh	خبر	khabar	similar to german munich guttural ch; no english equivalent
د	d	دار	dār	(soft)
ذ	dh	ذکر	dhikr	there
ر	r	راشد	rāshid	rose
ز	z	زکی	zakī	zebra
س	s	سهل	sahl	solid
ش	sh	شب	shāb	shock
ص	ṣ	صبر	ṣabr	full rounded, like somber no english equivalent
ض	ḍ	ضیاء	ḍiyā'a	close to daughter no english equivalent
ط	ṭ	طب	ṭibb	full rounded, soft t no english equivalent
ظ	ẓ	ظلم	ẓulm	full rounded, soft d no english equivalent

Arabic Letter	Latin Character	Arabic Example	Transliteration	English Equivalent
ع	ā, í, ú, ý	عرب علم عمر عبد	árab ilm úmar ýid	guttural a no english equivalent
غ	gh	غار	ghār	guttural g no english equivalent
ف	f	فجر	fajr	flower
ق	q	قريب	qarīb	guttural k no english equivalent
ك	k	كتاب	kitāb	kin
ل	l	لباس	libās	late
م	m	ملا	māl	morning
ن	n	نار	nār	noon
هـ	h	هذي	hudā	house
و	w	وزير	wazīr	word
ي	y	يذ	yad	yellow
إ	i	إدام	idām	insight
أ	a	اتم	atam	advent
ب	ā	باب	bāb	father
س	ī	سرير	sarīr	tree
ط	ū	طور	ṭūr	boot
عـ	āā	عالم	āālim	-
عـ	ýi	عبد	ýid	-

Arabic Letter	Latin Character	Arabic Example	Transliteration	English Equivalent
عو	ûû	عود	ûûd	-
شّ	sh'sh sh-sh	الشّمس	ash'shams ash-shams	-
أ	a' or a-	مأسور	ma'sûr	-
يى	i'y or i-y	بيس	bi'ysa bi-ysa	-
و	u' or u-	لولو سولك	lu'lu' su-lika	-
	'	أصحاب تَكْحِيل أَسْهَر	aş'hâb tak'hîl as'hâr	to separate letters to distinguish between sounds represented by letter pairs
	-	أصحاب تَكْحِيل أَسْهَر	aş-hâb tak-hîl as-hâr	to separate letters to distinguish between sounds represented by letter pairs
	superscript	من	mi <sup>n</sup>	to indicate an elision
	-	كأية	ka-âbatil manẓar	to break down words when like sounding letters appear with sukun

## Appendix F

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Imām Aḥmed Ridā Khān al-Baraylawī** ؒ was born in 1272 AH / 1856 CE in Bareilly, a city in North India and in a famous family of scholars; his father Mawlānā Naqī Ālī Khān and grandfather Ridā Ālī Khān were prominent scholars of Ahl as-Sunnah in their time. He studied Islamic sciences in the tutelage of his erudite father. He was a master of many sciences and particularly in Ḥanafī fiqh, he was outstanding among his contemporaries. Even his adversaries have acknowledged that he was peerless in this discipline.

He has many ijāzahs or degrees of authorization in Ḥanafī fiqh, and by his own affirmation, the most important one is from the Muftī of Makkah, Shaykh Ābd ar-Raḥmān as-Sirāj ibn Ābdullāh as-Sirāj. This chain of transmission reaches Imām Abū Ḥanifah through twenty seven links and in further four to the Master of all creation, Muḥammad RasūlAllāh ﷺ. He has an authorization of ḥadīth transmission from the great Meccan scholar, Malik al-Ūlamā, Sayyid Aḥmed Zaynī Daḥlān al-Shāfiyī. Imām Aḥmed Ridā is widely known for his refutation of Wahābīs, innovators and libertarian religion-reformers of the early 20th century.

Alahazrat, meaning the 'Grand Master,' was a common title of respect<sup>406</sup> in the 19th/20th century. Imām Aḥmed Ridā was called as Alahazrat by his followers as he was the major force against innovators and the leader of Sunni scholars of his time. This title became so popular that eventually, it became the de facto appellation of Imām Aḥmed Ridā Khān. Upon his second and eventful visit to Arabia in 1324 AH, the scholars of the two sanctuaries – Makkah and Madinah – were so impressed by his erudition and his efforts to safeguard Ahlu's Sunnah, that prominent ones among them hailed him as the Reviver of the Religion.<sup>407</sup>

Furthermore, major scholars in (pre-partition) India agreed that all the qualities that are required in a Reviver were found in him and thus, he is

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<sup>406</sup> Similar to "His Highness," "His Majesty," "His Holiness," etc.

<sup>407</sup> *Mujaddid*. It is related from tradition, that an erudite scholar will appear at the head of every century and revive the religion and clarify doubts and fight innovation.

considered as the Mujaddid of the 14th century after the blessed Migration of the Prophet ﷺ.

Imām Ahmed Ridā usually referred to himself as 'the slave of the Prophet' ﷺ or *Ábd al-Muṣṭafā* in Arabic.

His skill as a jurist outshone his other abilities and even the corpus of his work is mainly *fatāwā*. Many lengthy books that he has written are usually as a response to questions. Many of his rulings (and more than 150 *fatāwā* as monographs) were collected, indexed and ordered by the Imām himself and named *Al-Áṭāyā an-Nabawiyyah fi'l Fatāwā ar-Ridāwiyyah*, popularly known in the subcontinent as *Fatāwā e Razaviyyah* and has been recently published from Pakistan in 30 volumes.<sup>408</sup> Apart from commentaries and glosses on various texts, his other important works are :

1. ***Kanz al-Īmān***: An explanatory translation of the Qur'ān in Urdu.
2. ***Al-Mustanad al-Mútamad***: A commentary on the Arabic work *Al-Mútaqad al-Muntaqad* by Imām Faḍl ar-Rasūl al-Badāyūnī.<sup>409</sup>
3. ***Jadd al-Mumtār***: a five volume supercommentary on *Radd al-Muḥtār* of Imām Sayyid Muḥammad Amīn Ibn Áābidīn al-Shāmī,<sup>410</sup> which is arguably, the most widely used Ḥanafī text in latter times.
4. ***Al-Dawlatu'l Makkiyyah bi'l Māddati'l Ghaybiyyah***
5. ***Al-Amn wa'l Úlā li Nāyiti'l Muṣṭafā bi Dāfiyī'l Balā'a***
6. ***Tamhīd e Īmān***
7. ***Dhayl al-Muddāā li Aḥsanu'l Wiāā li Ādāb ad-Duāā***
8. ***Al-Faḍl al-Mawhibī fi Máana: idhā ṣaḥḥa'l ḥadīthu fa huwa madh'habī***
9. ***Fatāwā al-Ĥaramayn bi Rajafī Nadwatu'l Mayn***

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<sup>408</sup> Initially, it was published in 12 volumes of approximately 800 pages each in quarto size and small text-size; however, this has been republished from Pakistan in 30 volumes; along with 2 additional volumes for topic and word indexes. This new edition spans approximately 22,000 pages and contains 206 monographs of the Imām.

<sup>409</sup> Passed away in 1289 AH / 1872 CE.

<sup>410</sup> Passed away in 1252 AH / 1836 CE.

10. *Fatāwā al-Āfriqah*
11. *Sub'hān as-Subbūh ān Āybi Kadhibun Maqbūh*
12. *Radd ar-Rifdah*
13. *Qahru'd Dayyān ālā Murtadd bi-Qādiyān*
14. *Niymu'z Zād li Rawmi'd Dād*
15. *Az-Zubdatu'z Zakīyyah fī Tahrimī Sajdati't Tahīyyah*
16. *Kifl al-Faqīh al-Fāhim fī Ahkāmī Qirtāsī'd Darāhim*
17. *Jalī an-Naṣṣ fī Amākin ar-Rukhaṣ*
18. *Barakātu'l Imdād li Ahli'l Istimdād*
19. *Az-Zahr al-Bāsim fī Ĥurmati'z Zakāti ālā Bani Hāshim*
20. *Masayil e Samāā*
21. *Az-Zulāl al-Anqā min Bahri Sabqati'l Atqā*
22. *Al-Ijāzātu'l Matīnah li Ūlamāyi Bakkata wa'l Madīnah*
23. *Madārij Ṭabaqāt al-Ĥadīth*
24. *Al-Rawḍ al-Bahij fī Ādāb al-Takhrīj*
25. *Al-Hād al-Kāf fī Ĥukm ad-Ḍiāāf*
26. *An-Nahy al-Akīd ānī's Ṣalāti Warā'a Ādā't Taqlīd*

He took the Qādirī path and was initiated in that Sūfī order by Sayyid Aāl e Rasūl al-Aḥmadī<sup>411</sup> of Mārahra in 1294 AH.<sup>412</sup> Alahazrat was an ardent lover of the Prophet ﷺ as evident from his works.

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<sup>411</sup> Passed away in 1296AH / 1879CE. The shaykh was a prominent student of the famous scholar and Mujaddid of his age Shah Ābd al-Āziz Muḥaddith al-Dihlawī.

<sup>412</sup> Alahazrat himself points this out in a biographical note on his father Mawlānā Naqī Ali Khān, in the preface of his father's book *Sharḥ A-lam Nashrah*, that he (Alahazrat) received bayāh and khilāfah on the 5th of Jumādā al-Ūlā 1294 AH / 1877 CE along with his father.

He was also a great poet and has written sublime verse in Arabic, Persian and Urdu. His verse in Urdu and Persian is published in two parts named: *Ĥadāyiq e Bakh'shish* meaning 'Gardens of Salvation'. Many of his eulogies and odes are recited, and in particular, the Ode of Salutation or the *Salām* has achieved unparalleled fame and acceptance among Muslims from the subcontinent. The Imām passed away at the age<sup>413</sup> of 68 in 1340 AH [1921 CE] رحمۃ اللہ علیہ.

May Allah táālā have mercy on him and be well pleased with him.



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<sup>413</sup> His age according to the lunar calendar is 68 and the solar calendar is 65.

Imām Aḥmed Riḍā Khān al-Baraylawī (1272AH/1856CE-1340AH/1921CE) *Raḥimahullāh wa raḍiya ānḥu* was among the most prominent scholars of *Ahl as-Sunnah*, a peerless master of many sciences (particularly Hanafī *fiqh*) and a gnostic par excellence. Imām Aḥmed Riḍā was known for his refutation of Wahābīs, innovators and libertarian religion-reformers of the early 20th century. Alahazrat, as Imām Aḥmed Riḍā was popularly known, was widely regarded as the Reviver of the Religion. Among his extensive corpus of works, *Fatāwā ar-Riḍāwiyyah* and *Kanz al-Īmān* are the most notable.

Alahazrat wrote the book *Tamhid e Īmān ba Āyāt e Qur'ān* or *The Preamble to Faith in the Light of the Qur'ān*, to explain the basis of faith and priorities we should have as Muslims and to refute the propaganda that he was careless in takfīr. In this book, he explains fundamental principles of faith, analyzes disparaging statements made by Deobandis and the implication of such statements. He describes the background and conditions which led to the ruling and mentions the extreme carefulness and restraint that he exercised in takfīr, countering accusations that he was 'quick to label anyone kāfir'.

The present work has been translated and annotated by Abu Hasan, a student of Islamic sciences with a keen interest in translating classical works to English. He has translated excerpts from books and biographies, found on his blog [www.tanwir.org](http://www.tanwir.org) and has recently written a paper, *The Truth about a Lie*, refuting the claim that falsehood is included in Divine Power.

Ridawi Press is committed to provide quality translations of Islamic books – especially, those of Alahazrat Imām Aḥmed Riḍā.



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*What an amazing read it was! I have never seen or heard of a scholar with such a high level of acumen who can present information with such perspicuity...*

*... which further makes me believe, that he was indeed sent as a guide and a reviver - a hujjah and a mujaddid - with supreme guidance towards sacred knowledge and the immaculate understanding of it.*

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