

FEEDBACK ON MEETING WITH SHEIKH NINOWY

Dear Brothers of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah!

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Please find, below, a summary of the meeting that was held with Sheikh Ninowy on Saturday 10th of October 2015 in Pretoria. This is not a word for word account of the discussion but a conceptual summary. We may have added a few sentences here and there to explain the Aqeedah of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah and also to make it easy for the public to understand since this was a scholarly discussion.

We would like to, at the outset, make it clear that the meeting held with Sheikh Ninowy was not a debate nor was it aimed at proving him right or wrong. It was purely to have first-hand information regarding his beliefs and practices in order for the Ulema-e-Ikraam to give an opinion and guide the Sunni masses regarding his beliefs and practises.

This is approximately what was understood by the Ulama present:

1: Sheikh Ninowy: I believe in the Afdaliyyat (greatness) of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (May Allah be pleased with Him) over all, after the Prophets (peace be upon them).

Sunni Belief: This is an undisputed belief of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah.

2: Sheikh Ninowy: I believe in the sequence of Afdaliyyat of the Khulafa-e-Rashideeni, that is, First Hazrat Abu Bakr, then Hazrat Umar, then Hazrat Uthmaan and then Hazrat Ali. (May Allah be pleased with them)

Sunni Belief: This is an undisputed belief of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah.

3: Sheikh Ninowy: If anyone insults Hazrat Amir Muawiya (May Allah be pleased with him), he is a grave sinner.

Sunni Belief: *This person is not just a grave sinner; he is Bid'ati, Daall and Mudill (astray) and deserves the fire of hell as mentioned by Sadrush Shariah Mufti Amjad Ali A'zami in Bahaar-e-Shariat.*

4: Sheikh Ninowy: Swearing any Sahabi is a very severe sin, especially the khulafa-e-Rashideen. Swearing the Khulafa-e-Rashideen is such a grave sin that it is close to kufr but not Kufr.

Sunni Belief: *According to the research of Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat such a person, who insults and further denies the Khilafat of Shaikhain Kareemain (Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Umar; (May Allah be pleased with them), is a Kaafir. This is the stance of majority of Fuqaha (Muslim jurists). The Sunni Muslims will not move an inch from the beliefs of Akaabir Ulama.*

5: Sheikh Ninowy: If the reason for swearing the Sahabi is due to the Suhbat (companionship) of Rasoolullah (peace & salutations be upon Him) then that person is a Kaafir, because this is an insult of Rasoolullah (peace & salutations be upon him).

Sunni Belief: *This is an undisputed belief of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah..*

6: Sheikh Ninowy: I do not regard the person who denies the Imamah or Khilafat of Shaikhain (Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Umar) as Kaafir because there is Ikhtilaaf (deference of opinion) amongst Ulama on this issue and I follow the opinion that doesn't regard them as Kaafir.

Sunni Belief: *Such a person is Kaafir, as mentioned in "Raddur Rafadah" by Shaikhul Islam Wal Muslimeen Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat Imam Ahmad Raza Khan with the reference of Durre Mukhtar, Khizanatul Muftiyyeen, Tabyeenul Haqaiq, Hashiyatut Tahawi Alad Duril Mukhtar, Fatwa Bazzazia, Bahrur Raique, Majmaul Anhur Sharah Multaqal Abhur, Nazmul Faraied published in Egypt, Tayseerul Maqasid, Uqoodud Durriyah, Fatawa Hindiah, Fatawa Khairiah and many more authentic books.*

Therefore, the vast majority of renowned Ulama and Mashaaikh of the Arab and Non-Arab world are unanimous on this verdict.

In actual fact, Ikhtilaaf is on verbal abuse of Sahabah but according to the Fuqaha-e-Ikraam (Islamic jurists) there is no Ikhtilaaf on the Kufr of such a person who denies the Imamah and Khilafat of Shaikhain Karimain, because on this matter there is a highest level of consensus of all Sahabah, which is termed as "Ijma'a -e- Nassi" in the terminology of Usool ul Fiqh and to reject the Ijma'a -e- Nassi of all Sahabah is equal to rejecting the verses of Quran and Mutawaatir Hadith, as mentioned in Noorul Anwaar by Mulla Jeewan Alahihir Rahmah on page 222.

Besides denying the legitimacy of the Khilafat of Sayyuduna Abu Bakr Saddique, Shias have many more undisputed Kufr beliefs, detail of which will be provided in the second report at a later stage.

It is indeed a very big blunder and deception if someone says "the differences between Sunnis and Shi'as are reconcilable". The fact is, There is no chance and no possibility whatsoever for the Kufr and Imaan to reconcile with each other.

7: Sheikh Ninowy: I regard a person, who denies any of the Durooriyaat-e-Deen (essentials of Deen), as a Kaafir.

Sunni Belief: This is an undisputed belief of Ahlussunnah. Khilafat and Imamah of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique is also from the Darooriyaat-e-Deen, therefore the denier of the Khilafat of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr is a Kaafir. (Sheikh Ninowy accepts the principle but for some reasons cannot implement it on Shi'as)

8: Sheikh Ninowy: If it is proven that any individual Shi'a or Salafi or Wahabi who denies any of the Darooriyaat-e-Deen, I regard him as a Kaafir

Sunni Belief: This is an undisputed belief of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah. The ground reality is that it is almost impossible in today's time to find a Raafazi/Shi'a who does not negate one or more of the Durooriyaat-e-Deen.

9: Sheikh Ninowy: I do not regard Ahl ul Bid'ah (Astray ones) as kaafirs. They still have Imaan; therefore it is fine to say our Shi'a brothers and Salafi brothers etc.

***Sunni belief:** We agree that Ahl ul Bid'ah are not Kaafirs but these people are indeed out of the fold of Sunniyyat and many amongst them have crossed the limits of Shariah and committed Kufr, therefore they cannot be called our brothers. Sunni Ulama disapprove of the way Sheikh Ninowy addresses Ahl ul Bid'ah as his brothers (without clarifying that those who deny Dharooriyaat-e-Deen are excluded) which may give the layman the impression that there is nothing wrong with their beliefs.*

10: Sheikh Ninowy: Those Shi'as who swear Hazrat Ayesha and regard Hazrat Ali as **Ilah (worthy of worship/God)** they are Kafirs.

***Sunni Belief:** This is an undisputed belief of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah.*

11: Sheikh Ninowy: (When the Deobandi Kufirs such as Imkaan e Kizb etc. were explained to Sheikh Ninowy) he immediately said that all these are Kufriyaat (disbeliefs) and the one who says this or even validates it; he is also a kaafir with certainty.

***Sunni Belief:** This is an undisputed belief of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah.*

12: Sheikh Ninowy: I am a preacher and when I am invited to speak at any Salafi or Deobandi event, or even if Christians or Jews invite me, I go and give the true message of Islam but I don't advise the general public or my Mureeds to attend the functions of these people. I know my Aqeedah and I stick to my beliefs.

***Sunni Ulama:** The Ulama disagreed with this conduct and tried to persuade Sheikh Ninowy to stop this kind of mixing with the astray ones. On the advice of the Ulama he showed some acceptance of this advice.*

13: Sheikh Ninowy: Hadith-e-Jabir is fabricated but I believe that Rasoolullah is Noor because of other proofs not because of Hadith-e-Jabir

Sunni Ulama: *it is good to know that you believe in Rasoolullah (peace & salutations be upon Him) being Noor but the Ulama disagreed and presented arguments against his opinion that the Hadith of Hazrat Jabir is not fabricated.*

Note: *(the notion of Sheikh Ninowy regarding the Noor of beloved Rasool peace be upon him was told to Ulama-e-Ikraam by some brothers after the meeting) in the further communications, Sunni Ulama will try to confirm, if sheikh Ninowy believes Rasoolullah's being Noor, like the Quran is Noor, Shariat is Noor, Hidayat is Noor etc. Or he believes that beloved Rasool (peace be upon him) is created from the Noor of Allah, which is the Haqiqat (reality) of Rasoolullah (peace be upon him). This has been always the difference between Sunnis and Wahabis.*

14: Sheikh Ninowy: I believe that all the Ahadith which talk about Ahl ul Bid'ah (people with corrupt beliefs) where it says: "don't make salaam to them, don't sit with them, don't eat with them, don't drink with them, don't read their Namaz e Janazah, don't visit them when they are sick, keep them away from you and you stay away from them" etc. are weak and I don't base my practice on these Ahadeeth.

Sunni Ulama: *The Ulama disagreed with this because these Ahadith are quoted and practised by many great Muhadditheen and scholars of Islam. It is for this reason, these Ahadith gained strength and will not be classified as Da'eef (weak). This is the Manhaj (way) of Jamhoor (majority of) Muhadditheen.*

15: Sheikh was asked about the Hadith of Sahih Muslim which says: "stay away from them and keep them away from you so that they may not mislead you nor involve you in their mischief". Does he regard this Hadith of Sahih Muslim "weak" as well?

Sunni Ulama: As a response Sheikh Ninowy did not provide much argument on the Hadith of Sahih Muslim.

16: Sheikh Ninowy: Reading Salah behind Ahl ul Bid'ah is Ghair Mustahab (Makrooh Tanzihi)

Sunni Belief: Salaah behind such a person is Makrooh Tahreemi (not Makhrooh Tanzihi) and it must be repeated.

17: Sheikh Ninowy: The Hadith of 73 sects is Sahih but the last part of the Hadith which says "all will go to hell except one" is weak or even fabricated. The narrators have added that part.

Sunni Ulama: The Ulama disagreed and presented proofs against his argument.

18: Sheikh Ninowy: I believe that the Thawaab of Khatam of Quran reaches the Marhoomeen and I practice that as well, but there is no conclusive evidence so I am correct in saying that there is no Sahih Hadith. Ahadith in this regard are weak.

Sunni Ulama: The Ulama discussed that the Sheikh should have rather explained that there is no proof of the Thawaab **NOT** reaching the deceased but there are ample poofs of it reaching the deceased though they are Da'eef proofs, instead of his approach "there is no conclusive evidence". He agreed that his approach was unbecoming. "I do make mistakes" he said. He also agreed that Da'eef Hadith is good enough to prove the virtues of practicing something.

19: Sheikh Ninowy: If anyone insults Rasoolullah (peace & blessings be upon Him) and I am there, even if I am in the gathering of a million people, I will not be part of that gathering and will leave immediately.

Sunni Ulama: This is an undisputed belief of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah.

20: Sheikh Ninowy: Sheikh was asked: "You are a known scholar and Murshid to some. With you going to the gatherings of the Ahl ul Bid'ah, many will follow and also perform Salaah behind them. Do

you acknowledge this and take responsibility? He replied "I don't encourage anyone to read Salaah behind them nor attend their gatherings. If anyone done so it is because of his own misunderstanding and ignorance and that is not my fault."

Sunni Ulama: *The Ulama disagreed with this conduct. He may not explicitly be condoning his Mureeds and followers to do so but, by attending such functions, calling them his brothers and saying that he has love for them, may be giving them implicit permission to follow the Ahl ul Bid'ah in Salaah or otherwise. It has come to our attention that some of Sheikh's Mureeds have invited the Ahl ul Bid'ah to address the masses at functions hosted by them and also invited them to lead Salaah in Masjids run by them.*

21: Sheikh Ninowy: I do not deny that there is Ijma'a on the Khilafat of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (May Allah be pleased with Him) but there isn't 100% Ijma'a on it. One Sahabi remained silent. He mentioned the name of Sahabi, Hazrat Sa'd Bin Ubadah. (May Allah be pleased with Him)

Sunni belief: *The fact is, there was 100% consensus on the Khilafat of Sayyuduna Abu Bakr Siqqique (May Allah be pleased with him) as mentioned by all Akaabir and prominent Ulama. If one Sahabi remained silent as sheikh Ninowy claims. It does not matter because silence is also agreement and all others, in thousands, took Baiy'at openly. So, it does not affect the Ijma'a at all.*

None of the Sahabas opposed or refused to accept Siyyuduna Abu Bakr Siddique as a true and legitimate Khalifah of beloved Nabi (peace be upon him)

22: Sheikh Ninowy: it is a Hanafi viewpoint to regard Shia'as as Kaafirs because of denying the Khilafat of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique, Shaf'ee Ulama do not regard Shi'as as Kaafirs on this base.

Sunni Ulama: *Ulama read out a Fatwa of Imam Taqiyyuddeen Subki Shaf'ee, who regards Shi'as as Kaafirs because of denying the Khilafat of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique (May Allah be pleased with him). Sheikh Ninowy immediately said "**Subki is Hanafi**". But the truth*

is that Imam Taqiyyuddeen Subki is Shaf'ee not Hanafi. Readers can do their own research on Imam Subki.

This was just the brief summary of the discussion. We have not gone into too much of detail but there is no Hukme Sharee given as yet by this delegation of Ulama. We will study some of his arguments on the Kufr of the insulters and deniers of the Imamah and the Khilafat of Shaikhain Kareemain. (May Allah be pleased with them) We are in the process of requesting him to furnish proofs of these arguments. Thereafter we will prepare another document which will clearly show the differences between his opinions and the opinions of our respected and accepted Akaabir and Mashaaikh of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah.

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