

Friday Khutbah – 31/05/2013

The Safavid (*Safawi*) State; Its Foundation and Crimes – The New Safavids

The religion of Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) is one only. It is the straight path that leads to His pleasure and *Al-Jannah*. On the other hand, the religions of *Shaytan* are numerous.

Throughout human history, the messengers of Allah guided people to the way of Allah while *Shaytan* lead them away from the way of Allah to other ways which caused their loss. One cannot count the false religions and ideologies that human beings followed in the past or the false religions and ideologies which people follow today.

When Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) sent 'Isa (*alaihis-salam*) confirming the message of Musa (*alaihis-salam*) and giving the glad tidings of the mission of Muhammad (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*), his disciples and their followers believed and followed the true religion. This continued until Paul (original name Saul of Tarsus), the Jewish man introduced *Shirk* in Christianity in the form of the doctrine of trinity which replaced the monotheistic religion which 'Isa (*alaihis-salam*) preached.

After 'Isa (*alaihis-salam*), Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) sent Muhammad (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) confirming the messages of previous prophets and closing the cycle of prophet-hood. Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) decreed that the religion which Muhammad (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) brought shall remain until the end of time.

With regards to his *Ummah* (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) – the *Ummah* of *Da'wah* or in other words all those who lived after his mission – some of them Allah guides to His true religion while others are misguided and they go astray following false religions.

Among those who follow the *Deen* of Muhammad (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) some remain steadfast on the true path following the Book and Sunnah and the way of *as-Salaf as-Salih*, while others deviate and fall into *bid'a* – that leads either to *Kufr* or *Fusooq*.

The attempts to change Islam and introduce into it beliefs that were not part of it started at an early stage in Islamic history; namely towards the end of the period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs. Abdullah ibn Abi Saba', the Jewish and hypocrite, wanted to assume in Islam the same role that Paul assumed in Christianity. He and his followers introduced the *bida'* of rebellion against the rightly guided Caliph Uthman ibn Affan, may Allah be pleased with him. They claimed they were *Shiites* – or supporters- of *Ahl al-Bait*. They went to extreme with regard to their opinion of Ali, may Allah be pleased with him. They first claimed that he was infallible and then attributed prophet-hood to him. They went in their extremism as far as ascribing divine qualities to him. On the other hand, they accused the *Sahaba*, may Allah be pleased with them – except a few of them – with different accusations. They abused the three rightly guided Caliphs, whom Allah is pleased with, and whom Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) died while he was pleased with them.

Later the people of *Bida'* split into many different sects. The biggest of their sect is the *al-Imamiyyah Al-Ithniy Ashriyyah* Shiite– those who believed in the twelve Imams i.e. Ali and his descendants.

In the tenth century of *Hijra* an evil and ruthless *Imamiyyah* state was founded. It was the Safavid (*Safawi*) state founded by Pasha Ismail who fought against the Sunni state in Iraq, destroyed it in the year 907 of *Hijra* (1501 CE) and made the Iranian city of Tabriz his capital city. This era marked one of the major turning points in Islamic history.

At the beginning of his rule, the Safavid declared the *Al-Imamiyyah* to be the *Madhhab* of his State and that he will make it the official *Madhhab* of the whole of Iran. When he was advised that the *Madhhab* of Iran was the *Shafie Madhhab*, he said: "I don't fear anyone!"

The *Ahl as-Sunnah* in Iran suffered greatly from the Safavids, and were forced to convert to *Shi'ism* after the Safavids had killed one million of them in a few years. As a result, the percentage of Shiites in Iran increased from 10% to 65%.

The Safavid continued to conquer the Muslim lands until he captured Baghdad after seven years of the founding of his empire. He ordered Baghdad to be destroyed and *Ahl as-Sunnah* to be killed. He desecrated their graves and burned their bones. Among the graves which were desecrated was that of Imam Abu Haneefah, may Allah have mercy upon him.

Many of *Ahl as-Sunnah* fled Baghdad to Syria and Egypt. The news of the great massacres against *Ahl as-Sunnah* reached the Ottoman Caliphate. The Ottoman Sultan Saleem *Al-Awwal* met with his statesmen and scholars, and they decided that the Safavid state was a danger to the Muslims of the world and the Sultan must declare Jihad against it and stop its aggression. So, the Sultan led an army of 100000 soldiers and marched towards Iraq where they met the 100000 strong Safavids' army. The Sultan defeated the Safavids' army, and most of its soldiers were killed. The Ottoman continued to fight against the Safavids after the death of Pasha Ismail until they finally managed to destroy the Safavid's empire completely after two and a half centuries of aggression.

That was a brief history of the Shiite Safavid's empire and its founder Pasha Ismail who was a fanatic and a repressive ruler. One example of his fanaticism and brutality was that he called upon his mother who was a Hanafi Sunni to convert to *Shi'ism*. When she refused, he ordered that she should be killed, and was killed, may Allah have mercy upon her.

May Allah save Muslims from the evils of the *Al-Batiniyyah* secret sects. May He protect the Muslim lands from their evil plans.

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There are lessons and morals for *Ahl as-Sunnah* from the history of the Safavid Empire. This is very important because along the same path the new Safavids march after the establishment of their new state in Iran; a sectarian state which seeks – like the Safavids- to spread *Shi'ism*. They seek to spread it in *Sham*, North and West Africa, in Asia and elsewhere in the Sunni lands.

The Syrian crisis has clearly exposed the reality of *Al-Rawafidh* (the new Safavid) in Iran, Lebanon and Iraq and uncovered their ugly sectarian face which they tried to hide it for long and deceive the Muslims with slogans such as 'Islamic unity' and 'resistance' against the Israeli enemy. They have proven that they cannot be anything other than a sectarian project. This is obvious in their unlimited support to the Ba'athist tyrannical Syrian regime which has been killing its own people for the last two years.

It is political opportunism that has brought the Shiites and the Ba'athist together. *Al-Rawafidhs* on one hand consider the Ba'athist to be *Kafir*, and the Ba'athist on the other hand are secularists who do not like the fundamentalism of *Al-Rawafidhs*.

We ask Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) to foil the *Al-Batiniyyah* and to strengthen *Ahl as-Sunnah* and keep them firm and established on the blessed land of *Sham* and elsewhere.

اللهم احقن دماءهم ، و صن اعراضهم ، واخذل اعداءهم . إنك سميع قريب مجيب الدعوات .