

A low-angle night photograph of a building. A bright street lamp is visible in the upper left, casting a warm glow. Numerous small, bright sparks or embers are falling from the top of the frame, creating a starry effect against the dark sky. The building's facade is dark, with a few windows visible on the right side, some of which are illuminated from within.

The People of Secret Gatherings & Hidden Meetings: The Saa'fiqah (1)

Shaykh Ahmed Bazmool

The People of Secret Gatherings & Hidden Meetings: The Saa'fiqah (1)

Umar bin Abdul-Aziz رحمه الله said:

If you see a people talking in secret about a matter pertaining to their religion at the exclusion of the common people, then know that they have embarked upon misguidance.

Important Points to Consider:

1. Umar b. Abdul-Aziz was the Khalifah and the ruler of the Muslims. So his speech is the speech of a person who is well-acquainted with such matters and who is experienced in such affairs.

2. Overall Meaning of this Narration:

Holding meetings in secret far away from the ruler and the common people leads to misguidance and deviation. And these hidden gatherings are from the signs of the people of innovation and misguidance.

3. ***"If you see a people talking..." :***

"People" here does not refer to the masses. It refers to those who are preoccupied with knowledge and Dawah because Umar b. Abdul-Aziz said, "matter pertaining to their religion".

4. ***"At the exclusion of the common people..." :***

It means that they hold these secret and hidden meetings to discuss issues affecting the common people. However, there is no problem if they were to discuss issues that concern only them.

5. Matters affecting the masses are specifically for the rulers and not for the subjects (those being ruled) even if they are scholars. Those that speak regarding issues pertaining to the masses without the permission of the ruler are the ***"Ruwaibidhah"***.

The Prophet ﷺ said, ***"There will come to the people years of treachery, when the liar will be regarded as honest, and the honest man will be regarded as a liar. The traitor will be regarded as faithful, and the faithful man will be regarded as a traitor. And the Ruwaibidhah will speak. It was said:***

'Who are the Ruwaibidhah?' He said: 'Insignificant people who will speak about matters concerning the common people'".

The people of these secret meetings and hidden gatherings are not rulers nor have they been authorised by the ruler. So there is no doubt that they are from the **Ruwaibidhah** and from those mentioned in the above narration of Umar b. Abdul-Aziz.

6. "They have embarked upon misguidance" :

This means that these secret meetings and hidden gatherings at the exclusion of the ruler and the exclusion of the masses are the starting point and the basis of their misguidance and deviation.

Whoever treads this path will deviate and become misguided unless Allah wants guidance for him.

7. It is enough evil, wickedness, misguidance and deviance for these secret meetings that this affair has not been mentioned in the Qur'an nor the Sunnah nor the Manhaj of the pious Salaf. Rather, in the Qur'an, the Sunnah and the speech of the pious Salaf is what proves

the evil and misguidance of this affair. Therefore it is not permissible for anyone to defend these secret gatherings nor is it permissible for anyone to say that these hidden gatherings are beneficial for the Muslims and that they help to organise the affairs of the Muslims, for indeed this is all from the insinuations of the Shaytan.

8. Umar b. Abdul-Aziz رحمه الله said, "There is no excuse for anyone after the Sunnah to be upon misguidance believing that it is guidance."

So there is no excuse for the people of these secret gatherings and these Shura meetings to be upon this misguidance after knowing the Sunnah even if they think that they are a guidance and something good.

If a people were to speak in secret about any matter of the Deen at the exclusion of the other believers and at the exclusion of the people of knowledge and Deen, then this matter would lead them to misguidance and desires. This is because secrecy and concealment is a satanic path.

9. There is the well-known tremendous narration of Abdullah b. Mas'ood and Abu Musa Ash'ari where they saw people in a Masjid gathered together in circles performing various types of Dhikr. The vast majority of these people joined the Khawarij and rebelled against Ali رضي الله عنه and fought against those who are from the best of mankind (Sahabah). These people gathered together in circles remembering Allah and it led them to rebelling against and fighting Ali and the Sahabah رضي الله عنهم.

What therefore can be said regarding the people of these secret meetings and hidden gatherings?! What is being discussed in their secret Shura Council?! And what is this going to lead them to?!

10. Those that defend these secret meetings and try to falsely interpret them as correct Islamic concepts such as "consultation" etc. are in reality cheating, lying, deceiving and fooling the Salafi masses. So do not be tricked!

Taken from Shaykh Ahmed Bazmool's Commentary on the Narration of Umar b. Abdul-Aziz (above) on 14 Jumada Al-Oula corresponding to 20 January 2019.

See following link for full lecture in Arabic:
<http://saafiqah.com/?p=1428>