

Who are al-Ghurabaa (strangers)?

The messenger Muhammad (saw) said: 'Islam came as something strange; and it will return as something strange. Paradise is for those who are seen as strangers.' His companions (ra) then asked: 'who are the strangers oh Rasoul-ullaah?' He replied: 'Those who forbid the evil when the people become corrupted.'

Our ultimate aim of pleasing Allaah (swt) and entering paradise (in the form of green birds – as promised for the martyrs) can only be accomplished when we forbid the evil and stand firm on the right path in a time when people become so corrupted. In regards to the same narration, Imaam Ahmed said: 'they (the strangers) are the ones who increase (their eemaan) when the people decrease (their eemaan).'

In the same hadeeth but narrated by 'Abdullaah ibn Mas'oud (ra) the messenger Muhammad (saw) was asked: 'oh Rasoul-ullaah who are they (the strangers)?' He replied: '*an-Nuzzaa' min al-Qabaa-il* – those who withdraw themselves from their own people.' An-Nuzzaa' (those who withdraw) has two meanings:

1. Those who completely withdraw themselves from their own tribes and family customs and traditions.
2. Those who leave their countries or place of residence for Jihaa (fighting against the enemies of Allaah).

The messenger Muhammad (saw) praised the *Nuzzaa'* as they are the ones who leave all forms of corruption, nationalism, free-mixing, customs and traditions etc. They are people who will be a minority and seem as strangers due to their uncompromising love to Allaah and his messenger (saw). An-Nuzzaa' is from the word an-Naza' (to withdraw) and is used in regards to the moment when the soul is extracted from the body by the angel of death. An-Nuzzaa' are the people of paradise, they give up their own tribes, livelihood, culture, careers and customs. You see them travelling frequently across the kingdom of Allaah (making hijrah), forbidding evil and fighting against those who do not believe in Allaah, nor the hereafter; and against those who do not forbid what Allaah and his messenger (saw) forbids, and against those who do not acknowledge the deen of Islam (by embracing it).

In other narration Abdullaah bin 'Amrou ibn al-'Aas (ra) said: 'when we were with him (saw) and he said 'tooba lil-Ghurabaa (paradise is for the strangers) we asked: who are they?' He (saw) replied: 'They are the good people and are very few in number compared to the majority.' (All mentioned ahaadeeth can be found in Saheeh Muslim, Ibn Maajah, Musnad Imaam Ahmad, al-Bukhaarie and at-Tirmidhie).

The messenger Muhammad (saw) also said: 'be in the dunyaa like a stranger or someone passing by.' The dunyaa will not last for eternity and is something the believers pass by. Those who live in this world as passers by will be a ghareeb (singular for ghurabaa). The ghurabaa have unique beliefs and characteristics; always fulfilling what Allaah (swt) and his messenger order them to do, whilst keeping away from what they forbid.

It is reported in at-Tirmidhie and Abou Daawud that the messenger Muhammad (saw) said: 'In the future a time will come where to stand firm in the deen would be like holding fire in your hands. The one who stands firm will get the reward of 50 men.' His companions then asked: 'will they get the reward of 50 men from among us or from among them?' He (saw) replied: 'the reward of 50 men from among you.' The companions of Rasoul-ullaah did not face the problems we face today, such as verifying ahaadeeth to be saheeh (authentic), as they could just ask him (saw) directly. Neither did they have the problem of very few 'Ulamaa as they had the Nabie (saw) to teach them the whole deen. Definitely to follow the Messenger Muhammad (saw) without to see him is far more difficult than to have him with you in person where you have the opportunity to ask him questions directly. Therefore we can earn much more reward due to the hardship we face of not having the messenger (saw) with us.

So who are the Ghurabaa?

The Ghurabaa are those who submit to Allaah (swt) exclusively, following the Sharee'ah in every aspect of their life. They worship, obey and follow none but Allaah, associating no man, woman or object with him. Their example to follow is the messenger (saw) and his companions. Tawheed is their attribute as they offer their ritual acts to none but almighty Allaah: "**Say: 'Verily, my Salaat (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allaah, the Lord of the 'Aalameen (mankind, jinns and all that exists).'**" (EMQ al-An'aam, 6: 162)

They are far away from the majority, acting upon the divine information Allaah has sent to mankind: "**And if you obey most of those on earth, they will mislead you far away from Allaah's Path. They follow nothing but conjectures, and they do nothing but lie**" (EMQ al-An'aam, 6: 112). The real Ghurabaa do not miss any corruption, culture or tradition (as many people miss their old corrupted lifestyle). The Ghurabaa hate all that they used to do and any *jaahiliyyah* they come across, hence you never see them voting for man-made law, calling for Freedom, Secularism, Democracy, Allegiance to the Queen or any form of kufr or shirk.

To be from this minority we must always keep rejecting anything that is alien to Islaam such as the customs of the people: Easter, Valentines Day, Christmas and New-Years, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Birthdays and any other form of celebration or anniversary that is not from Islaam. An-Nuzzaa' reject all of this corruption and innovation and the consequence they face will be sever attack by all kinds of people, the so-called Muslims and Non-Muslims.

They engage in the Jihaad verbally, financially and physically and are the people of haq (truth), Tawheed, al-Walaa' wal-Baraa' (love for the believers and hatred towards the disbelievers) and people who forbid the *munkar* (what the Sharee'ah defines to be evil). Allaah (swt) says: *"As for those who strive hard in our cause, we will surely guide them to our paths (i.e. the straight path). And verily, Allaah is with the Muhsinoun (good doers)."* (EMQ al-'Ankaboot, 29: 69)

May Allaah make us be from this minority saviour sect (Ahl us-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah) and save us from following the desires of the corrupted majority, Aameen.