

The Ruling Concerning Taking Allaah – the Mighty and Majestic – or His Messenger or Anything From the Sharee`ah in Jest

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On the Issue of Takfeer

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Allaah – the Mighty and Majestic – says: “If you ask them (about this), they declare: ‘We were only talking idly and joking.’ Say: ‘Was it Allaah, and His Ayaat and His Messenger that you were mocking?’ Make no excuse; you have disbelieved after you had believed’. If We pardon some of you, We will punish others amongst you because they were Mujrimoon (disbelievers, polytheists, sinners, criminals etc.) [Soorah at-Taubah (9):65-66]

Ibn Katheer says in his Tafseer: “Abu Ma`shar al-Madaneer said: from Muhammad ibn Ka`b al-Qurazee and others: “They said: A man of the Munafiqoon said: ‘I do not see anyone more greedy in filling his stomach, nor more untruthful in speech, nor more cowardly in battle than our reciters.’ So that was conveyed to Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) who was riding his camel. So he said: ‘We were only jesting, playing and speaking as riders speak to shorten the journey’, so he said: ‘Was it Allah and His Aayaat and His Messenger that you were mocking?’ [Soorah at-Taubah (9):65-66] and the man’s legs were dragging on the stones and Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) did not look at him – and he was hanging onto the tail end of the camel of Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam).” [Tafseer ibn Katheer 2/367]

Shaikhul-Isaam Muhammad Ibn `Abdul Wahhab said: “So He informed them that they had disbelieved after having believed even though they said that they uttered the words of kufr without believing in them – but rather out of play and jest – and He explained that mocking the signs of Allaah is kufr – and this will occur from one whose heart is pleased with that saying and if there were eemaan in his heart then it would have stopped him from saying that.” [Fathul-Majeed p. 436]

The committee for Fataawa (of the scholars of Saudi Arabia) was asked: ‘What is the ruling regarding one who makes fun of recommended actions such as the siwaak (tooth cleansing stick), wearing shortened clothes and sitting in order to drink?’ So they answered: ‘Anyone who makes fun of recommended actions such as the siwaak, wearing the shirt up to half up the shins and placing one hand upon the other in prayer – and such actions as are established in the Sunnah – then it must be explained to such a person that these actions are from the Sharee`ah and that it is proven from the Sunnah of Allaah’s Messenger (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) – and if he persists in mocking the authentic Sunnah then he becomes a kaafir because of that – since by that he is defaming Allaah’s Messenger (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) and that is major kufr.’ [Fatwaa no. 5213, dated 15/1/1403H]