

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصْلَى عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

People behave like their Leaders

There is an Arabic proverb which explains that people are like those who are in control of them.

If we look at the past leaders of Islam, we will see this clearly. During the era of Hujjaj bin Yusuf, it was a time of murder and oppression. Numerous people were sent to jail, numerous people were killed, and numerous people simply disappeared. In the morning the usual conversation of people in that era must have been, “Who was killed yesterday? Who was hanged? Who was whipped in public?”

In the time of Waleed bin Abdul Malik, he was noted for building new structures and busying himself with construction work. He also built many bridges and pass ways.

There is no doubt that during his time, the conversation must have centred on what was built yesterday and which bridge was completed in which part of the country.

After him, Sulyaman bin Abdul Malik appeared. He was someone very passionate about food and drink. We are sure that during his time, the latest food and drink on the market must have been discussed. He was also very passionate about music and song and this must have also been a normal topic of discussion among the people in his era.

However, when the blessed era of Hadrat Sayyiduna 'Umar bin Abdul Aziz - *may Allah be pleased with him* - arrived, the topic among people must have been, "How much of the Qur'an did you memorize? How many Nawaafil did you read during the night? How many fast did you keep during this month? How much Qur'an did he read or how much Qur'an did he complete, etc." (Nawaadir)

There is no doubt that the behaviour of a leader certainly impacts on the people he is in charge of.