

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُ الصَّلَاةِ وَالسَّلَامِ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ أَدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيُرْضِي إِنَّمَا 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*

Was it a City of Nifaaq?

It is mentioned that once, the great Imam Imam Abu Hanifah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - entered the blessed court of Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him*. At that time, he was still young and not well known. Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - asked him where he had come from and he replied that he had come from Kufah in Iraq.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then said, “That same city in which there is Nifaaq. (In other words, that is a city in which many hypocrites also live and many of them conceal themselves from others.).

Imam Abu Hanifah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then asked the great Imam to allow him to recite a verse of the Qur'an which the great Imam allowed him to read.

He then recited verse 101 of Surah Taubah (9). But changed the name of the city. He recited:

“And some of the illiterates around you are hypocrites; and some of the people of Medina; hypocrisy has become ingrained in them; you do not know them; We know them; We shall soon punish them twice - they will then be consigned towards the terrible punishment.”

In other words, he used the name “Kufah” in this verse instead of “Madina Shareef”.

When Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - heard him using the name Kufah instead of Madina Shareef which is the correct name, he asked him to read the verse properly.

When Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Abu Hanifah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - recited the verse in a correct manner he then explained to Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - that this blessed city is also a place where the Munafiqeen used to live.

Later on, Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Malik - *may Allah be pleased with him* - began to show immense respect to him and was also the one who mentioned that if Imam Abu Hanifah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - wanted to prove the colour of a pillar to be gold, he would be able to do so and also do so with evidence as well. (Nuzhatul Majaalis)

This also proves to us what we should be extremely cautious when making a statement about someone without first thinking what we are saying. Yes, once the complete evidence is in front of us, then there is no doubt that we should never hesitate to expose the person or his teachings.

We should never think that every jungle is free of wild animals. There is a possibility that there are wild animals in that forest. In like manner, we should not be deviated by people who appear in front of us with fancy turbans and clothes and think that this is someone very pious and noble. After all, even Abu Jahl used to wear a turban as per Arab practise. But internally, he was a great enemy of Islam. In like manner, there are people who appear in front of us and say fancy things and we are captured by this

person's words and speech but we fail to realise that this is actually a hidden enemy of Islam.