

Mufti ‘Abdul’Azeez Āli Shaykh
(hafidhahullāh)

SLANDERING PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF “JARH WA’T-TA’DEEL”¹

The noble Shaykh ‘Abdul’Azeez Āli Shaykh, Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Head of the Council of Senior Scholars and the Permanent Committee for Academic Research and Edicts, warned students of knowledge against dishonouring each other and making their gatherings places of cursing, slandering, belittling and damaging reputations. [He stated this] in requesting uniting the ranks and word and ensuring that what we say is good so as to seek Allāh’s Face. He also warned against disgracing and mocking people in a way which does not befit Ahl ul-’Ilm not to mention others.

He indicated that some of those who attach themselves to knowledge make their gatherings of backbiting, slander, false accusations and void statements and promoting false rumours so as to curse this one and that one. [Those who do this] say “this is out of Jarh wa’t-Ta’deel so we curse this scholar, criticise and critique him because he erred and opposed our manhaj, so we have to deem him as mistaken, curse him and ascribe to him things which are not from him.” Shaykh ‘Abdul’Azeez Āli Shaykh stated “as for the issue of Jarh wa’t-Ta’deel then this is well-known, however how do I criticise my brother when he is close to me and not dead? I contact him and discuss his views with him as it is possible that what has been transmitted to me opposes the reality.” The Mufti mentioned the ayah

“O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful.”

{*al-Hujurāt* (49): 6}

The Mufti described these statements as being erroneous clarifying that it is obligatory for a Muslim to discuss with his brother if an error emanates from him and explain the correct view to

¹ Dated Friday 13th Jumādā al-Ākhir 1433 AH/4th May 2012 CE. Refer to the article here: <http://mufti.af.org.sa/node/2709>

him so as to be rewarded in his actions. As for dishonouring him, defaming him and his reputation with others and spreading lies and accusations about him then this is a mistake and will render the person as sinful and not rewarded. The Mufti stated: “If the ‘Ulama contact each other, co-operate and close the doors of Shaytān of occupying themselves with each other’s shortcomings then Shaytān despairs that the worshippers worship him in the Arabian Peninsula, however he is pleased with causing dissension among them, meaning by: causing enmity and hatred, and this is unbecoming for the common Muslims, let alone the people of knowledge.”