

QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET



THE ART OF
DIFFERING
PART 2



1

WAS THERE ANY INSTANCE IN WHICH ONE OF THE SAHAABAH (RA) HELD AN OPINION HELD BY NO ONE OF THEM? AND HOW DID THEY DEAL WITH IT?

Abdullah bin Mas'ood (ra) held that the last two Surahs of the Qur'an were only supplications and not Surahs as such. Being a personal Ijtihad against the unanimity of the Sahaabah (ra), no one followed him and he himself later got it corrected and discarded his personal opinion. Such was the stance of the Sahaabah (ra). They were very keen to follow the truth regardless of whoever says it or opposes it.

2

DID THE SAHAABAH (RA) TRULY BECOME ENEMIES AND FOUGHT EACH OTHER?

Some of the Sahaabah (ra) did indeed fight each other. However, that was not because of enmity but because of difference of stance on some issues. That was within the wisdom of Allah and we learn a lot from them while differing. They demonstrated great compassion and respect for each other although they were fighting. Here is an example.

One time Ali ibn Abi Talib (ra) was in the opposing army against Talhah (ra). Talhah (ra) has a son called Umar, Umar ibn Talhah. Ali ibn Abi Talib (ra) told Umar ibn Talhah: I hope that I and your father would be among the people about whom Allah said,



“And We shall remove from their hearts any lurking sense of injury: (they will be) brothers (joyfully) facing each other on thrones (of dignity).”

Al Qur'an 15:47

Being in Paradise facing each other means that they will have no hatred and they will be brothers as they were brothers in this world. They will be brothers in the Aakhirah, and they will be placed in a similar position in Paradise. A very emotional statement from Ali ibn Abi Talib (ra). Although there was a fight between him and Talhah (ra) but he never had hatred against him.

3

The Muslim groups in non-Muslim countries differ on whether or not they should celebrate the birth of the Prophet (pbuh). How to solve this problem, and which principle will best help them reach a united decision?

We should understand that some Muslims say that you can celebrate, while other Muslims say that you cannot celebrate, and you should not celebrate. Those who say that you should not celebrate, they believe that if you celebrate you are committing a sin and a Bid'ah. Those who say that you should celebrate, they don't say that it is obligatory upon you to celebrate, or if you don't celebrate you are committing a sin or a Bid'ah.



Here both parties agree that not celebrating is not sinful. What is the stance that will help them to maintain a healthy atmosphere of differences? Since not celebrating is not sinful according to both parties whereas celebrating is a sin according to one party, the first opinion should be adopted so as to keep united, and eliminate our differences. Thus the principle applied here is “avoiding differences.”

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