

Chapter Eleven

Speak only when you have the Knowledge

Tradition 11.1 H 95, Ch. 11, h 1

Muhammad ibn Yahya has narrated from Ahmad and 'Abdallah (both) sons of Muhammad ibn 'Isa from Ali ibn al-Hakam from Sayf ibn 'Umayra from Mufaddal ibn Yazid who has said the following:

"(Imam) Abu 'Abdallah^{a.s} said, 'I would like to warn you about two types of misconduct that lead a man to destruction: I prohibit you from dealing with Allah^{swt} on the basis of falsehood and from giving 'fatwa' (decree) to people without knowledge.'"

Tradition 11.2 H 96, Ch. 11, h 2

Ali ibn Ibrahim has narrated from Muhammad ibn 'Isa ibn 'Ubayd from Yunus ibn 'Abd al-Rahman from 'Abd al-Rahman ibn al-Hajjaj who has said the following:

"Imam Abu 'Abdallah^{a.s} has said, 'Beware of two types of misbehaviour. These are the bad habits that have led many people to their destruction. Beware of giving fatwa to people on the basis of your own opinion and to follow a religion without knowledge.'"

Tradition 11.3 H 97, Ch. 11, h 3

Muhammad ibn Yahya has narrated from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn 'Isa from al-Hassan ibn Mahbub from Ali ibn al-Ri'ab from abu 'Ubayda al-Hadhdha' from Abu Ja'far^{a.s} who has said the following:

"The angels of mercy and the angels of wickedness condemn those who give fatwas to people without knowledge and guidance. Such people will be held responsible for the sins of all those who have followed such fatwas."

Tradition 11.4 H 98, Ch. 11, h 4

A number of our people have narrated from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Khalid from al-Hassan ibn Ali al-Washshi' from Aban al-Ahmar from Ziyad ibn abu Raja' from Abu Ja'far^{a.s} who has said the following:

"What you know (about religion from us) then you may speak about it but when you do not know say, 'Allah knows the best'. When a man refers to a verse in the holy Quran and gives it a meaning that would be farther from the truth than the heavens are from earth."

Tradition 11.5 H 99, Ch. 11, h 5

Muhammad ibn 'Isma'il has narrated from al-Fadl ibn Shadhan from Hammad ibn 'Isa from Ri'ab'i ibn 'Abdallah from Muhammad ibn Muslim from Abu 'Abdallah^{a.s} who has said the following:

"It is very proper for a scholar to say, 'Allah knows the best' if he does not know. This cannot be said by a person who is not a scholar (as it may imply that he is a knowledgeable person)."

Tradition 11.6 H 100, Ch. 11, h 6

Ali ibn Ibrahim has narrated from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Khalid from Hammad ibn 'Isa from Hariz ibn 'Abdallah from Muhammad ibn Muslim from Abu 'Abdallah^{a.s} who has said the following:

"If you are asked about what you do not know, then you should say, 'I have no knowledge about it but do not say, "Allah knows the best" as it may create doubts in the hearts of the audience. If the person upon questioned says, "I do not know his audience will not accuse him of anything."

Tradition 11.7 H 101, Ch. 11, h 7

Al-Husayn ibn Muhammad has narrated from Mu'alla ibn Muhammad from Ali ibn Asbat from Ja'far ibn Sama'a from several persons, from aban, from Zurara ibn A'yan who has said the following:

"I asked Imam Abu Ja'far^{a.s} this, 'What are the rights of Allah^{swt} on people?'" The Imam^{a.s} replied, "They must say what they know and abstain from saying anything that they have no knowledge of."

Tradition 11.8 H 102, Ch. 11, h 8

Ali ibn Ibrahim has narrated from his father from ibn abu 'Umayr from Yunus (ibn 'Abd al-Rahman) from abu Ya'qub Ishaq ibn 'Abdallah from Abu 'Abdallah^{a.s} who has said the following:

"Allah^{swt} has addressed His servants in two verses of the holy Quran very particularly:

Did they not make a covenant (with God) in the Book not to speak any thing other than the Truth about God and to study its contents well?

They attribute a lie about something that is beyond the limits of their knowledge and whose interpretation has not yet been revealed . . ." (10:39)

Tradition 11.9 H 103, Ch. 11, h 9

Ali ibn Ibrahim has narrated from Muhammad ibn 'Isa from Yunus from Dawad ibn Farqad from one he narrated from ibn Shubruma (a judge in al-Kufa during the rule of al-Mansur) who has said the following:

"I never heard any thing like a statement I heard from Imam Abu 'Abdallah^{a.s} and it is almost as he said, 'Pierced my heart.'" The Imam^{a.s} said, "My father narrated from my great-great-great-great grandfather, the holy Prophet^{s.a.w.w} who said, 'Those who act on the basis of analogy will face their destruction and lead others to their destruction. Those who give fatwas without the knowledge of the abrogating and the abrogated, the clear text and that which requires interpretation, they will face destruction and lead others to their destruction.'"

All praise belongs to Allah^{swt} May Allah^{swt} send peace and blessings upon Hazrat Muhammad^{s.a.w.w} and his holy progeny.