

## **BE WARY OF WHOM YOU TAKE YOUR DEEN FROM**

**NOTE:** On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2017 a marriage conference was held at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg. Scholars flew in from all over the world to give speeches. The conference was branded as Islamic. However, on the day many laws of the Shariah were violated. This includes free-mixing, acts in which very dirty jokes were made, insults towards the marriage of Nabi ﷺ and utter disrespect towards the noble Abu Hurairah (RA).

In this talk, Hazrat Ml. Dawood Seedat (DB) spoke about these violations and their great, long-term consequences. Hazrat also made mention of the Eidgah in Durban and the Ship cruise. The commonality between all three events is the modernisation of deen caused by lack of ilm and not seeking the guidance of true, upright Scholars. This modernisation is a global problem. The primary advice contained in this transcript deals with the causes of modernisation and how to combat them in light of the Sunnah. Hazrat further speaks about whom we can take our deen from and whom we should avoid, making this transcript one that is applicable to all.

Lastly, any mistakes is the error of the compiler for which I seek Allah's forgiveness and the reader's pardon. May Allah accept Hazrat's work and efforts, Aameen.

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Throughout our lives our parents regularly advise us. As children, we do not understand the wisdom in their words. Later on after he passes away, the son will sit and remember what papa said. He will remember how papa told him to do things and having followed his advice, he will realise how wise papa was. Following his advice prevented many headaches and heartaches.

Likewise in life, our greatest benefactor after Allah is Nabi ﷺ. Thus although our parents love us unconditionally, their love cannot match the love He had for this Ummah. If only we were to adhere to his wise words and teachings then throughout our lives, we would also say the same thing. Seeing how his teachings protect us, we would also remember him lovingly the way we remember our deceased fathers. During every moment in life, we will think what did Nabi ﷺ tell us to do in this situation? I should follow him. He was always right. When a problem emerges we will remember that my Nabi ﷺ warned me about this, he told me to be careful. I better watch out and avoid this. Once we reach this stage of thinking and our actions reach this level of adherence to the Sunnah, we will experience the love and the concern he had for us.

One of his invaluable advices is to be careful of whom we acquire our deeni knowledge from. The question may arise; why must we be so careful? The reason why is because deen is pure. Therefore, only deen in its pure state will be accepted by Allah. Breaking the laws of Allah in an attempt to practise deen, will not be accepted by Allah. Because where is the logic in that, how can we break his laws in order to establish his laws? If we do that, we are spreading a watered down version of deen, not the real deen in its pure form.

One who does this may think he is doing great works of deen, but on the day of judgement his bank balance will be nil. He is like a businessman who sells all his stock for a cheap price. His shop will become very busy outwardly, it seems like he is doing very well. But at the end of the day when he takes stock, he will see that he is heading towards bankruptcy. That he has little money left. Therefore, this advice of Nabi ﷺ is extremely valuable as it protects and secures the purity of our

deen. If we were to just accept deeni knowledge from all and sundry, we will be like the businessman who sells goods at a loss.

Recently in Durban a family eidgah was held in which men and women prayed together. Praying together like this is against the teachings of Islam that speak of modesty. The organisers wanted to hold the same gathering here in Pietermaritzburg, but the idea got blown away. Hopefully, it does not rear its ugly head in our town again. But to put an eidgah together is not a small job. It would require a lot of work, like securing a place, getting a speaker etc. Perhaps the organisers were misinformed about the ruling of this in deen. Someone may have told them that women used to attend the eidgah in the Prophetic era, leading them to believe that mixed eidgah gatherings are part of deen.

The organisers may have assumed that they are reviving a Sunnah, therefore, they may be sincere in their thinking. That mind set will motivate an individual to endure the sacrifice and effort required to organise such a large event. However, in reality he is not reviving the Sunnah, he is doing the complete opposite. He is going backwards by reigniting fitnah. He may think he is reawakening the Sunnah but in reality, he is creating fitna.

Due to lack of sound knowledge and studying without the guidance of an upright scholar, one begins to believe that this is the right way. But on the day of judgement when he checks his balance of deeds, he will see that that Eid morning he woke up early to organise, it all went to waste. There was no reward in it, because the act of mixing men and women together for Eid prayer is not right. Then, he will realise that I should have listened to the Ulama. They said it was wrong from the beginning but I was too busy quoting Bukhari without having studied it at all. I did not have a sound understanding of Fiqh or the way Shari'ah works. I did not know what Hazrat Umar (RA), Umm Salamah (RA) and Maa aishah (RA) said on this matter. Thus I ignorantly proceeded to work hard for something which, rather than reward, accrued nothing for me.

Like this, we have many incorrect things happening in the name of Islam. As explained, sometimes the organisers may be sincere but misinformed. However, unfortunately at other times the organisers are very well informed. They know what is right and wrong. However, they proceed with that which is wrong to push an agenda under the guise of classes, conferences and seminars. Yes they teach deen but in their teaching, they drop a few drops of poison.

Back in the days, books and writings were more common. Orientalists were the enemies of Islam and they knew books were popular. So they would write great books that were wonderful to read, but they would write with an agenda. An innocent Muslim would buy them with a good intention of reading about great personalities of Islam. However because it was written by Orientalists who did not care about the Shariah, they would add incorrect statements. 90% of the book would be on par, but 10% would mention things that would lead to people questioning deen. That's how easy it is to lead someone astray. Just put a question marks in their head, then all the ifs and buts will come to mind. Now, we have opened a door for Shaytaan. He will make those doubts stronger until slowly, a person drifts away from deen. Unknowingly, this person can now be easily influenced. It only takes a small wave to tip him over the edge of the cliff, because his deeni foundations have already shattered.

Some programmes that take place are advertised well on social media and radio stations. Do not be deceived by well-designed posters, fancy halls and good advertisements. This creates excitement and a hype amongst the masses. Do not be deceived by that either. When an Islamic programme takes place, these factors do not determine how Islamic and acceptable it is. Rather, what we must check is simply whether the programme conforms to Shariah.

Before we would advise the masses to check whether Ulama are involved or not. If they are then you join too, if not, then you avoid it too. However, sadly times have changed. It is similar to yesteryears when we would advise reverts to look at Muslims if they want to learn about Islam. Now we say that if you want to learn about Islam, read the books. Hazrat (RA) would say that now we have to tell people to not follow Muslims. Likewise, the time has now come where unfortunately we have to say that even if Ulama are involved in a programme, do not blindly follow suit. Rather, first check if the programme conforms to the Shariah or not. If it does not, do not attend no matter how great it may seem.

When Ulama speak out against these programmes, we advise people to be wary of people coming to our country, bringing in modern ideas and thoughts. Some people misunderstand our warnings, assuming that us Maulanas think deen is just for us to preach. No-one else can speak about deen except us, no-one else can hold programmes expect us. However, that is not the case at all! Maulanas do not think that way.

Those involved in Tableegh are always given platforms in our masajid to speak about the 6 points. They are not Maulanas but they are given guidelines and they preach accordingly. Look at Hafiz Doctor Hansa Saheb from Ladysmith. He is a doctor, not a Maulana or a scholar. Yet he is invited to talk in Darul Uloom to Bukhari students because he is suhbat yafta (meaning he has spent time with upright Ulama). He has stayed in company of Hazratjee MI. Maseehullah Khan (RA) and he is in regular contact with Ulama and Muftis. Hafiz Qasim Paruk is a businessman but he is suhbatyafta too. He sits in itikaaf in the largest masjid in Pietermaritzburg where he does bayans. People attend. No-one complains that he is a not a Maulana so why is he speaking? No-one says that, because it is fine! As long as a person follows Shariah he can preach, no matter who he is.

Therefore, our warnings are not based on personal agendas, rather, we are just echoing the warnings of Nabi ﷺ. Be wary of who you take your deen from. Now coming to the programme that happened over the weekend, it completely violated the laws of Shariah. Therefore, last year when it took place we spoke out against it too. But we were met with arguments that these people are coming from all over the world because our marriages are in crisis. They want to help us and the Ummah! People complained that you Ulama are not doing enough to help us so now that someone is, why do you have a problem?

I am not saying this with pride but alhamdulillah, most if not all South African Ulama are actually assisting in the field of marriage. They are helping many couples, we just do not advertise everything we do. Even when it is late at night, they listen to couples and help them get back together. They sit down and help without charging you an arm and a leg. We do not hold once off conferences a year, rather, we work daily to solve marital and general issues for free.

Though we spoke about it last year too, still, the programme took place and it has taken place again this year. You all know what happened in this programme. They brought a comedian to the stage. Know that there is no place for being a comedian in Islam. We must not stretch the ahadeeth of Nabi ﷺ. Yes there is place for humour but there is no scope for taking it up as a profession. Even our humour must be true and clean, as advised by Nabi ﷺ.

This particular comedian spoke against the marriage of Nabi ﷺ and Maa Aishah (RA). Since then people have said that we cannot understand how the organisers of this function could even invite him! They are intelligent people, they must have researched before inviting him. When you do that research, you will notice his character and the way he speaks in his other shows. Someone sent me a newspaper article of this comedian doing an interview before this marriage conference. He said that I like to rock the boat and push the limits to see what people say. Those are not his exact words, he

said something to that effect which has been recorded. Therefore, what he did was clearly premeditated. It is shocking that when doing a background check, the organisers did not take into consideration this clear desire of his to spread fitna. This is what happens when we do not seek the guidance of the Ulama. We fall into the frame of ghaflat and the scene is set for ghaflat.

So this comedian, he stepped up on stage and openly mocked Abu Hurairah RA. He also indirectly mocked the marriage of Nabi ﷺ with Maa Aishah (RA). This was the worst statement he made that day. But where is the poison, the poison which I spoke about a little while ago? The poison is that the insinuation he made towards the marriage of Nabi ﷺ, this made him fall into the folds of kufr. If he has made tawbah, he will still have to recite the kalimah and make his nikaah again. This is in accordance to the legal rulings of senior Muftis in our country.

They say that he lost his Imaan at that time and all those that laughed, they lost their Imaan too. Imaan means faith. Faith requires total belief in Allah and Nabi ﷺ, his disgusting insinuations violated that. The poison is, what about all those who were sitting in that gathering? Who will go and inform each one of them that they need to renew their Imaan and nikaahs? All the repercussion of his words, who will ensure that that is sorted out?

When we sit in an Ijtima, Khanqah, Darul Uloom, Halaqah by our Ulama, do we have these fears of losing Imaan? Do these problems happen? That they call towards Imaan but instead, people enter into the folds of kufr? No, these major issues do not occur in our programmes. But it will happen in those programmes because when you violate the laws of Shariah, there is no end to how low you will stoop. Organisers of such shaytaani events will keep on entertaining the crowds and the numbers to fill their pockets. It is hard to get people to pay for a ticket, so they keep on inventing new ideas to keep the numbers coming.

There is a young Alim who is studying to become a Mufti who sent me the audio of this comedian speaking. He said that Maulana Saab I know you won't watch the video or look at the pictures, so listen to this audio instead. Therefore, I heard it. The worst of his statements were the ones made about the prophetic marriage and Sahaaba (RA), and that is what everyone has been disgusted by since the event.

The thing that I am crying about is if he did not say those things, everyone would have been fine with the programme taking place! Whereas if you listen to every sentence of his, it is difficult to understand how our mothers, sisters, fathers and brothers were able to sit and listen. He was speaking pure filth making rude, dirty jokes in front of a Muslim audience. Mothers were sitting with their daughters, whilst he was discussing their private parts on stage! Where is sharam haya gone of this Ummah?

It was after that, that he made those statements about Abu Hurairah (RA). Thereafter he carried on for a good few minutes. My question is, where were those organisers and why did they not stop him immediately? They had many speakers. One was a 'love Doctor', one was a 'marriage guru' and one was a 'love specialist'. Did it not irk them when this comedian spoke like that?

A lady from the audience said something and he said sister, are you judging me? He continued to insult Abu Hurairah (RA) until eventually, one man from the back came to his senses and began shouting at him and causing a commotion. Only then did his act come to an end but initially, he did not care. Rather he was saying to the man, must I come and sort you out? Eventually when he got off the stage, there were still some Muslims who clapped for him.

The comedian has since released a statement seeking Allah's forgiveness. We ask Allah to make him sincere in his apology and forgive us all, aameen. Another comedian also interceded for him saying

that he is a nice, funny guy. We comedians get desensitised so cut him some slack. SubhanAllah, what a way to water down the situation! They do not get desensitised, they get de-imaan-ised.

The Ulama who were unfortunately a part of this programme have issued a statement, distancing themselves from the words of the comedian. Alhamdulillah they have condemned what he said. They also said that when we heard of the statements we immediately contacted the organisers, advising them to take steps and they followed this advice. They distanced themselves from these statements but not the rest of the programme, whereas the whole programme was wrong. The gathering was mixed, there was filthy talking and all the speakers were on stage addressing and looking at the women. How can a Shaikh or a Maulana or whatever his title is, sit on the stage on a chair, with a women sitting right next to him? Is that Shariah? No of course not, that is a clear violation! Yet, there is no apology for that. Had the comedian not insulted the Sahaaba (RA), these Ulama would have seen no problem with this mixed, immodest, inappropriate gathering.

Someone sent me an Instagram picture with the faces blocked out. I asked Maulana Zahir Hansa that how do they do this? He told me that they have a feature of the phone which allows you to blacken the face. So someone showed me a picture of one of those Shaikhs and a lady sitting together on stage. Behind them is a wallpaper of the first national bank/riba institute. How is riba Islamic? Therefore if they were really sincere, they would have distanced themselves from the entire conference. This is why I said be wary of who you take your deen from. Not all 'Ulama' are upright.

Now I want to speak about another poison. I said earlier didn't I, that they drop their poison and then they go. Everyone has apologised pushing the blame on the comedian. He apologised and the Maulanas said they were not there when it happened. If they did not take part from the beginning, not even 10% of the audience would have attended. Those Maulanas were like bait for the organisers. It is the same with the Muslim cruise. They tried it but the idea did not go ahead. So they got a Mufti on board and like a bait, he bought in all the customers. People began saying that these Maulanas have difference of opinions, let's just follow this Mufti instead of the rigid ones.

So everyone apologised, we accept, make tawbah and wish that it never happens again. However, these video clips do not die. Currently there are problems in Aqsa and people are circulating clips from over five years ago of Palestinians. Those people then say to me that Maulana, can you see what has just happened? But they did not happen now, they happened many years ago!

God forbid but if this was to circulate in the future, children who are now in grade 5 or 6 may be in metric. If they just search Joey Rasdien on YouTube and watches all his clips, eventually they may hear this one. They will see this comedian saying that there are 365 days in a year. Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA), who he referred to as 'brah', only lived for two years. That is 730 days. The comedian even calculated how many minutes per day, making it clear that he had pre planned this all. So he said that how could he write 40,000 ahadeeth? "Be realistic", he said to the crowd. Now five years on, this question will create a doubt in this young man's mind. In universities, some lecturers have Shia inclinations so there, he may be hearing similar anti-Sahaaba (RA) comments too. That will only make matters worse leading him to think that it is true, it does not make sense how he did all of that in a year. Once that question is planted it will open the door to Shiism, Salafism and modernism.

Whereas the truth is, it was nothing like that. Abu Hurairah (RA) did not narrate 40,000 ahadeeth. Where did the comedian get that number from? To quote hadeeth, you have to understand it first. If there is a hadeeth with the same wordings but two different Sahaaba (RA) narrating it or two different chains, it is regarded as two ahadeeth. Therefore, including all the narrations Abu Hurairah (RA) narrated plus minus 5000 ahadeeth. If you take away all the repetitions, it is in region of around 2000. He lived for 50 years after the demise of Nabi ﷺ. There were other Sahaaba (RA) alive at that

time but he had hundreds of students. If he were to say anything wrong, the Sahaaba (RA) would have addressed it.

Furthermore, he said himself that it was barakah of Nabi ﷺ's dua that he was able to retain ahadeeth. The other Sahaaba (RA) like the Muhajiroon and ansaar had commitments and family but he did not have that. Thus he would stay in Suffa, always present for the talks of Nabi ﷺ. All the ahadeeth he narrated, Abu Hurairah (RA) specified that he did not hear them all from Nabi ﷺ. Therefore, those that he heard directly, he would say that I heard Nabi ﷺ saying this. There were some that he heard from Sahaaba (RA), not Nabi ﷺ directly. For those he would say that this is reported from Nabi ﷺ.

This shows and explains the allegations spread by the comedian. He wasted his time becoming a joker rather than studying ahadeeth. So he does not understand or possess ilme hadeeth. Perhaps someone put a question mark in his head, so now he is putting it in the minds of others. Those who watch this in the future, may not know of this explanation. When circulated, the clip will not come with an apology from Ulama and those present who gave fame to the conference. How then, will we sort this problem out? This is why these type of conferences are dangerous, they have long-term and great future harms.

It is better to sit in humble surroundings and learn deen. Mufti Ebrahim Salejee will be coming to Mountain Rise Masjid on Thursday night to deliver a talk. Go there, your Imaan will be renewed and refreshed. There is no fear of falling into kufr or losing Imaan either. Or sit with Tableeghi Jamaats, sit in their gatherings where they read fazaile amal. If your Shaikh is in town, go there or go to Khanqah or an Ijtimaa programme. These are the places to learn deen from. May Allah grant us the tawfiq to understand.

What has been stated so far, I do not intend to defame or shame any Ulama who were present. Allah alone knows what was their intention was, but I hope it is an eye opener for us all. A foolish person will say that Maulana you go to the mall, there are free-mixing, music and women there. Why do you go there then? That is stupidity talking. I always mention that I am the worst of people with the weakest Imaan. That which I do in my weakness and personal capacity, I cannot justify it by calling it Islam. I seek Allah's guidance and forgiveness for my errors, but to cover it up by using and abusing the name of Islam is wrong.

We said the same about that cruise. If an Asian man advertised it to all and sundry and someone sought my advice, of course I would advise them not to go. It is not a nice environment, on a ship cruise there generally is an environment of immodest, sin and heedlessness. Rather, go somewhere else for a holiday. That will be my advice to him. Perhaps if possible, I would speak to the Asian man about his cruise but I will not hammer him down.

The problem we had with the cruise was that the organiser advertised it as 'Islamic'. He got a Scholar and a nasheed artist on board to give weight to his claim. So now it is the duty of every Muslim to oppose it and defend Islam. Therefore, I am the worst of sinners with many weaknesses and spiritual sicknesses for which I seek your duas. But when Islam is being misused, abused and misrepresented, then even a kameena like me has to stand up before you in my own little voice and defend our Islam. Allah does not need us, rather we are in need of defending this deen. As we get closer to the day of judgement, more things like this will happen. We do not know what our children and grandchildren will see in adulthood. Therefore, we must prepare them by creating a deeni environment at home. This will solidify their foundations, preventing it from being shattered and broken by fitna in adulthood.

For example, when everyone was laughing and clapping, one man put an end to the act by standing up and challenging the comedian. Had he not, everyone would have continued laughing away their Imaan. Clearly this man had some taleem along the way and this understanding did not allow him to carry on laughing. We must give our children that taleem. Perhaps they may wander off the straight path at times, but that taleem will give them the correct and firm grounding. Thus when required, his Imaan will spark and turn into a raging fire to defend this deen. Also, introduce your children to deeni programmes. Acquaint them with good Ulama who tread on the path of ihtiyaat rather than jaaiz fataawa.

Lastly, keep Masjid Aqsa in your duas. Those who pass away there, they are shuhadah and they will enter Jannah. They have no choice in the matter of Palestine and Aqsa. From a deeni perspective, I sometimes think we are worse off because this watering down of deen, we are knowingly doing it with our own hands. In Palestine a lady whose clothes are taken off her body, that is oppression against her and she will not be held accountable. What about our daughters, wives and sisters who remove their clothing with their own hands for all and sundry to see? Whose Imaan is worse? Hazrat (RA) would say, camel oh camel which part of you is straight?

Remember brothers and sisters, the words of Nabi ﷺ will come true. Towards the end of time holding onto deen will be like holding on to burning charcoal. We cannot think that I cannot hold on anymore! Rather realise that you will remain an estranged minority. You will become like strangers. Deen will return to that so be prepared for many new fitnahs. When they come, stay away and remain firm on the true, pure deen. Never fear the reproach of the reproachers provided you are on the truth. Continuously enjoin the truth and forbid the evil with love and wisdom. Never consider yourself better than anyone, rather, consider everyone better than yourself. For they may have some weaknesses whilst we have more. Therefore, do not look down on people. However, a wrong is a wrong and it can never become a right, so that must be pointed out. May Allah enable us to stay firm upon deen and may He save us from falling into these new traps and fitnas, Aameen.

— Hazrat Ml. Dawood Seedat حفظه الله

*Above is an extract from Hazrat's bayaan on 24/7/2017. To listen to the full bayaan, please follow this link: [www.dawoodseedat.co.za/?wpfc\\_sermon=be-wary-with-regards-to-who-we-learn-our-deen-from](http://www.dawoodseedat.co.za/?wpfc_sermon=be-wary-with-regards-to-who-we-learn-our-deen-from)*