

# Islām, not Humanism

---

Shaykh Ṣāliḥ Ibn Fawzān al-Fawzān

[Member of the Committee of Major Scholars in Saudi Arabia]

Translation by Maaz Qureshi

مكتبة السنة

[www.SunnahPublishing.net](http://www.SunnahPublishing.net) | [www.SunnahAudio.com](http://www.SunnahAudio.com) | [Admin@SunnahPublishing.net](mailto:Admin@SunnahPublishing.net)

## Islām, not Humanism<sup>1</sup>

Shaykh Ṣāliḥ Ibn Fawzān al-Fawzān

[Member of the Committee of Major Scholars in Saudi Arabia]

So our Religion is a Religion of mercy for mankind, for the animals and for every living creature, as the Prophet (*ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam*) has stated. Rather, it is a mercy for everything that is in the earth. The Prophet (*ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said, “The Most Merciful (*al-Raḥmān*)<sup>2</sup> bestows mercy upon those who are merciful. Be merciful with all those who are in the earth and the One who is above the heavens will then be merciful with you.”<sup>3</sup>

Indeed, our Prophet (*ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam*) was sent with a comprehensive mercy, as Allāh the Exalted said,

**“And We have not sent you, (O Muḥammad), except as a mercy to all the worlds.”** [Sūrah al-Anbiyā' 21:107]

Indeed, Allāh the Glorified and Exalted has commanded *iḥsān* (goodness, perfection). So Allāh the Exalted said,

**“And do good. Indeed, Allāh loves the doers of good.”** [Sūrah al-Baqarah 2:195]

And the Prophet (*ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said, “Indeed, Allāh has written *al-iḥsān* upon everything. So when you kill, then kill well and when you offer an animal sacrifice, then perform it well. So every one of you should sharpen his knife, and let the slaughtered animal die comfortably.”<sup>4</sup>

Indeed, Allāh forgave the transgression of a woman who came before us due to the fact that she saw a dog lolling its tongue out of thirst. So she let it drink, thus Allāh forgave her.<sup>5</sup> And Allāh punished a woman with the Fire of Hell due to that fact that she imprisoned a cat and would not let it eat; she would not even allow it to eat from the

---

<sup>1</sup> **Translator's Note:** Humanism is a belief-system and way of life, which gives precedence to human reason over all else and rejects what it terms 'superstition' (this also includes religion overall). Amongst others, Humanism is a methodology for agnostics, atheists, rationalists and secularists. Recent years have seen some ignorant Muslims - may Allāh guide them - proclaiming that Islām and its *Sharīah* are backwards and that progress, honour and mercy and compassion are found in the Humanist ideology. What follows is Shaykh Ṣāliḥ Ibn al-Fawzān's reply to this call and its proponents.

<sup>2</sup> **Translator's Note:** Imām Muḥammad Ibn Ṣāliḥ al-'Uthaymīn (d.1421H) says, “*Al-Raḥmān* is the Possessor of vast mercy.” Refer to *Tafsīr Juz 'Ammā* (p. 23).

<sup>3</sup> **Ṣaḥīḥ:** Related by al-Tirmidhī (no. 1847), from the *ḥadīth* of 'Abdullāh Ibn 'Amr (*raḍiyallāhu 'anhu*). It was authenticated by al-Albānī in *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmi'* (no. 3522).

<sup>4</sup> Related by Muslim (no. 3615), Abū Dāwūd (no. 2432), al-Tirmidhī (no. 1329), al-Nisā'ī (no. 4329), ad-Dārimī (no. 1888) and Aḥmad in his *Musnad* (no. 16516), from the *ḥadīth* of Shaddād Ibn Aws (*raḍiyallāhu 'anhu*).

<sup>5</sup> Related by al-Bukhārī (no. 2286), Muslim (no. 4162), Abū Dāwūd (no. 2187), Aḥmad in his *Musnad* (no. 8519) and Mālik in his *Muwatta'a'* (no. 1455), from the *ḥadīth* of Abī Hurayrah (*raḍiyallāhu 'anhu*).

insects of the earth.<sup>6</sup> And the Prophet (*ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said, “O servants of Allāh! The Prayer, the Prayer and whatever your right hands possess.”<sup>7</sup> Allāh the Exalted said,

**“Worship Allāh and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbour, the neighbour farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allāh does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful.”** [Sūrah al-Nisā' 4:36]

And the texts of the Book and the *Sunnah* and the deeds of the Muslims concerning this topic are many and cannot be enumerated. There is no comparison between Islām and any other religion from amongst the religions. So our Religion is a Religion of comprehensive *iḥsān*. It has come to take mankind out of the various forms of darkness into the light; and from the worship of the servants to the worship of Allāh; and from the transgression of the (other) religions to the justice of Islām.<sup>8</sup>

And Islām is what Allāh has honoured us with, as the Leader of the Believers, 'Umar Ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (*raḍiyallāhu 'anhu*) said, “We are a nation whom Allāh has honoured with al-Islām. So as long as we keep seeking honour in other than it, then Allāh will humiliate us.”<sup>9</sup>

So this Religion encompasses all forms of goodness. So why do we object to it and attribute ourselves to humanism? So we have made our deeds like the deeds of those who are in need due to humanism. And we say that this is a humanist action, but we do not say that this is an Islāmic action. And we say about our kingdom (i.e. the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) that it is a humanist kingdom, but we do not say that it is an Islāmic kingdom. And we do not say: the Islāmic kingdom.

Indeed, this belittles the importance of Islām and it causes neglect for a considerable aspect from amongst the aspects of the *da'wah* (invitation) to Islām. It causes one to remain heedless with regards to what Islām contains of mercy for mankind.

So let our ascription be to al-Islām and let our honour come from al-Islām. Indeed, al-Islām is the true Religion of humanism and not the humanism of those who ascribe themselves to it whilst attempting to destroy it. So the one who calls to *kufr* (disbelief) and *Shirk* (associating others with Allāh in worship), this one is an opponent of

---

<sup>6</sup> Related by al-Bukhārī (no. 2192), from the *ḥadīth* of 'Abdullāh Ibn 'Umar (*raḍiyallāhu 'anhumā*).

<sup>7</sup> **Ṣaḥīḥ:** Related by Ibn Mājah (no. 2689), from the *ḥadīth* of 'Alī Ibn Abī Ṭālib and by Aḥmad in his *Musnad* (no. 25462), from the *ḥadīth* of Umm Salamah (*raḍiyallāhu 'anhā*). It was authenticated by al-Albānī in *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmi'* (no. 3873).

<sup>8</sup> **Translator's Note:** Rabī' Ibn 'Āmir (*raḍiyallāhu 'anhu*) said, “Allāh has sent us to deliver whomsoever chooses, from the worship of men, to the '*ubūdiyyah* (worship and servitude) of Allāh; and from the narrowness of this world, to the vastness of this world and the Hereafter; and from the oppression of the (false) religions, to the justice of Islām.” Refer to *al-Bidāyah wa al-Nihāyah* (7/40) of Ibn Kathīr.

<sup>9</sup> **Ṣaḥīḥ:** Related by al-Ḥākim in *al-Mustadrak* (1/61-62). It was authenticated by al-Albānī in *Silsilah al-Ṣaḥīḥah* (1/50).

humanism. And the one who calls to ruling by other than what Allāh has revealed, then this one is an opponent of humanism. So the one who distracts the nation, spills the blood and destroys the countries and the properties, this one is an opponent of humanism.

Indeed, the true humanism is in al-Islām, which came when the proponents of humanism were involved in the *jāhiliyyah* (pre-Islāmic ignorance) of the ignoramuses and the misguidance of the blind ones. Their strong ones would devour their weak ones. And their wealthy ones would show no mercy to their poverty-stricken ones. So with this Islām, Allāh took them out of the various forms of darkness into light and from ignorance to knowledge and from *Shirk* to *Tawḥīd* (belief in the oneness of Allāh) and from oppression and transgression to justice. And the latter part of this *Ummah* (nation) will not be rectified, except by that which rectified its first part.<sup>10</sup>

So let our ascription be to Islām and let us find our honour in al-Islām. May Allāh grant success to everyone who holds onto al-Islām.

---

<sup>10</sup> **Translator's Note:** Imām Mālik Ibn Anas (d.179H) said, "The latter part of the *Ummah* (nation) will not be rectified, except by that which rectified its first part." Related al-Qāḍī 'Iyāḍ in *al-Shifā'* (2/676).