

Shaykh Sālih bin Sa’d as-Suhaymī
(hafīdhahullāh)

ON TWO OF THE DEVIANT FRONTS FIGHTING IN SYRIA [‘NUSRAH’ AND ISIS/ISIL]¹

“...IT [ISIS/ISIL] IS A KHĀRIJĪ TAKFĪRĪ GROUP. JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, THEY KILLED THE SON OF THE SON OF MY MATERNAL UNCLE BASED ON THEM JUDGING HIM TO BE A MURTAD [APOSTATE] AS HE WAS WITH ANOTHER OPPOSING FRONT. BOTH FRONTS ARE ON AN ERRONEOUS PATH, WHETHER IT IS NAMED “AN-NUSRAH” OR “ISIS/ISIL”. HOWEVER, THAT ONE [I.E. ISIS/ISIL] IS FAR MORE EVIL...”

Question:

“Some of the enthusiastic youth have gone to fight in Syria and have joined the group which is called ‘The Islamic State’ [ISIS/ISIL]. They mention that which has been spread about them that they kill or participate in terrorism is not accurate, so what is the correct view on this group? May Allāh bless you.”

Answer from Shaykh Sālih as-Suhaymī:

¹ Dated 5th July 2014:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzxyd07C3No>

Summarised translation by ‘AbdulHaq al-Ashanti

The correct view is that it is a Khārijī Takfirī group. Just a few days ago, they killed the son of the son of my maternal uncle based on them judging him to be a Murtad [apostate] as he was with another opposing front.² Both fronts are on an erroneous path, whether it is named “an-Nusrah” or “ISIS/ISIL”. However, that one [i.e. ISIS/ISIL] is far more evil, yet both do neither observe for a believer kinship nor protection. What is sufficient is the strange thing which they announced about two or three days ago about the claim that allegiance is to be pledged to the Caliph, who they claim is the Caliph of the Muslims.

The first thing which they make some of our youth who go and join them do is to annul the allegiance which is around their necks, and you know the ruling on breaking one’s pledge of allegiance. All of us have around our necks a pledge of allegiance, you have a pledge of allegiance around your necks, to the leader in authority in this land. This therefore is treachery and betrayal and on the Day of Judgement the one who betrayed his trust will have a flag raised for him which will say that ‘this was the betrayal of so and so’. Whoever breaks his pledge of allegiance is upon danger, [as the Prophet, *sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam* said] *“whoever splits off from the Jama’ah by an armspan and then dies then he died the death of the pre-Islamic times of ignorance.”* And *“Whoever removes the hand of obedience, and leaves the Jama’ah, will meet Allāh with no proof for him.”* Thus, those individuals break covenants and are far as can be from the truth. They make takfeer of the ‘Ulama, make takfeer of the leaders in authority of our affairs and have no interest other than takfeer! This is what they know and believe is the deen.

They are deceived by “fatāwā” which are issued by some of the fools from behind the scenes. They are of two categories: “Muftis” who issue rulings and are with them and are taken as their Mashāyikh and they are attached to them, they do not refer back to Allāh’s Rule or back to the well-grounded ‘Ulama, they are upon their same way. Then there are those “Muftis” who merely sit and could issue rulings while they are [sitting] in our countries and support them and [support] going to participate in that arena of fire in which the Muslim youth are getting burnt without any objective. They fight under a banner of which they are blind [to the cause of the fighting], under the banner of *‘Asabiyyah* [fanatical group think] and under the banner of *Jābiliyyah* [ignorance].

² [TN]: On Youtube can be seen footage of what is apparently *Jabhat un-Nusrah* forces executing their own fellow Khawārij from ISIS/ISIL. In any case, other fellow Khawārij, from the contemporary Khawārij Qa’diyyah (Ayman adh-Dhawāhirī, Abū Qataadah and Abū Muhammad al-Maqdisī) also have “freed themselves” (!!!) from ISIS/ISIL and deem them as too extreme?! And 600 Chechen fighters left a Chechen group in Syria to join ISIS/ISIL merely because their leader gave salaams to some FSA fighters at a checkpoint!? Yet the contemporary Khawārij theoreticians and ideologues must reap what their own hands have sown.

The Prophet (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*) says: “The one who fights under the banner of which they are blind [to the cause of the fighting], is not from us. Fighting for ‘Asabiyyah or calling to ‘Asabiyyah.”³ Those individuals are ignorant, foolish, “young in age, foolish-minded,”⁴ were warned against by the Prophet (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*) and he said: “If I were to come across them I would kill them just as how ‘Ād were.”⁵ And he said (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*): “The best of those killed are those killed at their hands”⁶ and he said: “They are the most evil of those killed under the canopy of the sky”⁷ and the Prophet (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*) informed also that they are “dogs of the Hellfire”⁸ and that “they recite the Qur’ān yet it does not reach past their throats”⁹ and that “they pass through the deen just as an arrow passes through its target”.¹⁰ The Prophet (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*) informed also that “they will manifest in every century and whenever a faction of them manifests it will be severed, until the Dajjāl will manifest among them.”¹¹ The Prophet (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*) informed also that “you will deem your prayer as insignificant compared to their prayer, and your fasting as insignificant compared to their fasting”,¹² to the other descriptions which the Prophet clarified about them (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*). They killed ‘Ali, ‘Uthmān and “they kill the people of Islām and leave the people of Anṭihān [idolatry]”¹³ as the truthful one who is believed informed about them (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*).

Their predecessors killed ‘Uthmān and one of them seized the skull of ‘Uthmān after they had severed it from his pure body and said: “this accursed man, by Allāh I never knew a day of Allāh, or a day of jihad, better than this day”. As for the one who killed ‘Ali (*radi Allāhu ‘anhu*), his name

³ [TN]: Saheeh Muslim from Abū Hurayrah (*radi Allāhu ‘anhu*).

⁴ [TN]: Bukhārī and Muslim from ‘Ali ibn Abī Tālib (*radi Allāhu ‘anhu*).

⁵ [TN]: Reported by Bukhārī (Beirut: Dār Ihyā Turāth al-‘Arabi, n.d), hadeeth no.3344; Muslim, hadeeth nos. 1064, 143; Sunan Abū Dāwūd, Muhammad Muhiyydeen ‘AbdulHameed (ed.) (Dār Ihyā as-Sunnah an-Nabawiyyah, n.d.), hadeeth no. 4764; an-Nasā’ī (Mu’asasat ir-Risālah, 2001 CE/1422 AH), Hasan ‘AbdulMun’im Shilbī (ed.)vol.5, p.87, hadeeth no.2577, vol.7, p.4112 – from the *hadeeth* of Abū Sa’eed al-Khudrī (*radi Allāhu ‘anhu*).

⁶ Bukhārī and Muslim from ‘Ali ibn Abī Tālib (*radi Allāhu ‘anhu*).

⁷ Ibn Mājah from Abū Umāmah al-Bāhilī (*radi Allāhu ‘anhu*), hasan.

⁸ [TN]: Tirmidhī, Ibn Mājah and Ahmad from Abū Umāmah al-Bāhilī, and also from Abū ‘Awfī (*radi Allāhu ‘anhum*).

⁹ [TN]: Muslim reported this hadeeth with this wording, hadeeth no.1063 from the hadeeth of Jābir bin ‘Abdullāh (*radi Allāhu ‘anhu*) and it is in Musnad Ahmad, vol.13, p.112, hadeeth no.14804.

¹⁰ [TN]: ibid

¹¹ [TN]: Ibn Mājah from Ibn ‘Umar (*radi Allāhu ‘anhu*), Imām al-Albānī graded is as hasan in Saheeh Ibn Mājah, chapter on the Khawārij

¹² [TN]: Bukhārī and Muslim from Abū Sa’eed al-Khudrī (*radi Allāhu ‘anhu*).

¹³ Bukhārī, Muslim and Musnad Ahmad.

was ‘AbdurRahmān ibn Muljam...his companion ‘Imrān ibn Hattān¹⁴ eulogized him in some Khawārij poetry, saying;

*How excellent was the strike of the pious one,
Who did not want but to reach the pleasure of The Owner of the Throne,
And each time that I remember him,
(I think that) to be the best of creation with Allāh’*

One of Ahl us-Sunnah replied with some counter-poetry;

*It was rather a strike from a wretch,
Who did not want but to attain loss from The Owner of the Throne,
And each time that I remember him,
I think him to be the most wretched of creation with Allāh’*

Of their signs O brothers, is hiding. Is our deen one of candidness or concealment? It is a deen of candidness, there is nothing which we have which we conceal, and for that reason Sufyān (*rahimahullāh*) stated: “If you see a people having secret gatherings away from the public then know that they are upon the foundation of misguidance.” Four days ago I gave some words from al-Masjid an-Nabawī refuting the one who has claimed the Khilāfah and his dajjāl adherents and false claimants who pledge allegiance to him, so I hope that you disseminate it everywhere as perhaps it will be placed in our account [of good deeds] with Allāh. Likewise with this answer, whoever can spread then should do so, yes.

¹⁴ [TN]: The condition of ‘Imrān ibn Hattān is well known and within his similitude is a lesson, for those who reflect. Ibn Hattān used to be on the sunnah and the way of the saḥābah however he married a woman (who was his cousin) in order to try and pull her away from the ideology and madhhab of the Khawārij, which she belonged to. However, even though Ibn Hattān had the intention to change her, she was rather successful in pulling him to the way of the Khawārij!