

# 15 Basic Principles / Manhaj ASWJ for UMMAH UNITY

## MANHAJ AR-RASUL ﷺ AND THE COMPANIONS

**ASWJ** ASWJ hold on to the Manhaj of Ar-Rasul ﷺ during his lifetime and the Manhaj of the Companions (Sahabah) after him. That Manhaj is the Noble Quran that was revealed by Allah to His Messenger. Following that His Messenger explained and clarified it to his Companions via the authentic hadith. All Muslims have been commanded to adhere to both the Al-Quran and Al-Hadith. Allah said in the Holy Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَلَا تَبْطُلُوا أَعْمَالَكُمْ  
(Surah Muhammad: ayah 33)

Translation: Believers, obey Allah and obey the Messenger: do not let your deeds go to waste

1

## PUTTING FORWARD THE COMMANDS OF ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER ABOVE ALL OTHER

**ASWJ** ASWJ do not put forward the commands / words of others before the commands / words of Allah and His Messenger because they act upon the word of Allah in the Holy Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْدِمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيِ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ  
(Surah Al-Hujurat: ayah 1)

Translation: Believers, do not put yourselves forward before the presence of Allah and His Messenger

2

## RECOURSE TO ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER IN ANY DISAGREEMENT

**ASWJ** ASWJ refer to the Qalam (writing/ word) of Allah and His Messenger in any disagreement or dispute appropriate with the command of Allah in the Holy Quran:

فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ  
(Surah An-Nisa: ayah 59)

Translation: If you are in dispute over any matter, refer it to Allah (Al-Quran) and the Messenger (As-Sunnah).

3

## NOT FANATICAL EXCEPT TOWARDS ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER AND RESPECTING THE MUJTAHID (JURIST) IMAMS

**ASWJ** ASWJ are not obsessed/ fanatical except to the words of Allah and His Messenger who is infallible and who do not speak out of his own desires. They respect the mujtahid imams and take the fiqh rulings from the Al-Quran, the authentic hadith and from the opinions of all the mujtahid imams who themselves have commanded to reject any opinion (of theirs) that goes against the Al-Quran and the authentic hadith. Any person other than the Messenger – however dignified they may be are prone to making mistakes as was told by Rasulullah ﷺ:

كُلُّ بَنِي آدَمَ خَطَاةٌ، وَخَيْرُ الْخَطَاةِينَ لِلنَّوَابِئِ  
(Hasah hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad)

Translation: "All the sons of Adam are sinners, but the best of sinners are those who repent."

4

## OBSERVANCE OF THE PRACTISE AS-SUNNAH IN THEIR LIVES

**ASWJ** ASWJ live the practise of the Sunnah of Ar-Rasul ﷺ in their worship, actions and in their daily lives. Because of this they are considered as if they are strangers and out of place in their community as mentioned by Rasulullah ﷺ:

بَدَأَ الْإِسْلَامُ غَرِيبًا وَسَيَعُودُ كَمَا بَدَأَ غَرِيبًا فَطُوبَى لِلْغُرَبَاءِ  
(Narrated by Imam Muslim and others)

Translation: "Islam was initiated as something strange, and it would revert to its (old position) of being strange. So good tidings (heaven) for the strangers."

5

## TAWHEED (ONENESS OF ALLAH) AS THE BASIS OF LEADERSHIP IN ISLAMIC GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION

**ASWJ** ASWJ consider Tawheed i.e. the establishment of the Oneness of Allah in all types of worship; as a mandatory foundation where governance/ leadership/ state/ authentic Islamic jamaah are built upon. It is mandatory to avoid any forms of kufr (disbelieve) or shirk (polytheism) that are present in many Islamic countries and societies. It is impossible for a jamaah that neglects Tawheed as well as not fight against kufr and shirk in any way, shape or form to achieve success because this was the main task of all the Messengers of Allah. They reject any man-made system of laws of governance that goes against the 'Syara' (Islamic Jurisprudence)

وَمَنْ لَمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ  
(Surah Al-Maidah: ayah 44)

Translation: Those who do not rule according to what Allah has sent down are kufurs [rejection of Allah's teachings]

6

## AMAR MA'RUF NAHI MUNKAR (Enjoin Goodness, Forbid Evilness)

**ASWJ** ASWJ practise amar ma'ruf nahi munkar (enjoining good and forbidding evil):

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ  
(Surah Al-Imran: ayah 110)

Translation: You are the best community singled out for humanity: you enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong

7

## JIHAD (STRIVE) IN THE WAY OF ALLAH

**ASWJ** ASWJ call to all Muslims to do jihad in path of Allah. It is an obligation upon every Muslims according to their capabilities. Doing jihad in the path of Allah can be in one of 3 ways i.e. to do jihad with the tongue (speech) or writing, doing jihad with your wealth and the greatest jihad is the one with your life/soul. Rasulullah ﷺ said:

جَاهِدُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ وَالسَّبِيحَةَ  
(Authentic hadith narrated by Abu Dawood)

Translation: "Strive hard using your (sacrifice) wealth, your life and your tongues in striving against the polytheists."

8

## REJECTION BID'AH (INNOVATIONS) THAT DIVIDES AND DESTROY THE UMMAH

**ASWJ** ASWJ reject any path that has any element of bid'ah or innovation in religious matter that creates factions which consequently divide and destroy the ummah especially in issues regarding Aqeedah (faith). These make the Ummah to turn away from the Sunnah of Ar-Rasul ﷺ and his Companions. Rasulullah ﷺ said:

أَوْصِيكُمْ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، وَالسَّمْعِ وَالطَّاعَةِ وَإِنْ تَأْمَرَ عَلَيْكُمْ عَبْدٌ حَبَشِيٌّ، وَإِنَّهُ مِنْ بَيْتِكُمْ فَمَنْ سَبَّيْتُمْ فَمَنْ سَبَّيْتُمْ فَمَنْ سَبَّيْتُمْ فَمَنْ سَبَّيْتُمْ فَمَنْ سَبَّيْتُمْ  
(Authentic hadith narrated by Abu Dawood and Al-Tirmizi)

Translation: "I admonish you to fear Allah, to listen and obey even if an Abyssinian (black) slave is appointed as your leader. Because whoever among you who live after me, will see much conflicts. So hold fast to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs who will come after me. Adhere to them and hold fast to it. Beware of new things (in religious matter) because every Bid'ah is a misguidance".

9

## ALJAMA'AH (CONGREGATE) TOGETHER IN UNITING THE MUSLIM UMMAH BASED ON THE RIGHT AQEEDAH (FAITH)

**ASWJ** ASWJ obligate being in a group or congregation as the cause for success in this world and the Hereafter. They unite the Muslim Ummah upon the correct fundamentals of Aqeedah. They leave behind disagreements and disputes that can lead to division especially in issues of furu' or trivial matters. They prioritize their effort to cooperate in upholding the Manhaj Aqeedah of the As-Salaf As-Soleh (the earlier scholars) in this world. Rasulullah ﷺ said:

ذُرُونِي مَا تَرَكَتُمْ فَإِنَّمَا هَلَكَ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ بِكَثْرَةِ سَوَالِهِمْ وَاجْتِلَاؤِهِمْ  
عَلَى أَنْبِيَائِهِمْ فَإِذَا أَمَرْتُمْ بِشَيْءٍ فَأَتُوا مِنْهُ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ  
(Authentic hadith narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Translation: "Leave me (responsible) with what I have left to you, for those who were before you were destroyed because of excessive questioning, and their opposition to their apostles. So when I command you to do anything, do it to the best of your capability"

10

## INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND ACTIONS AS WELL AS PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL CONDUCT

**ASWJ** ASWJ practise Islam by uniting knowledge and actions as well as the physical and spiritual aspects without any separation between them as practised by Ar-Rasul ﷺ and his Companions. Allah said in the Holy Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَافَّةً  
(Surah Al-Baqarah: ayah 208)

Translation: Oh you who believe, enter into (the religion of) Islam fully (entirely)

11

## BALANCED AND MODERATION

**ASWJ** ASWJ are people of balanced and moderation. They are not extremists in elevating (honoring) or putting down an individual, group or opinion without any basis in the religion. This is what is meant by Sirat al-Mustaqim or the Straight Path. Allah said in the Holy Quran:

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ  
(Surah Al-An'am: ayah 153)

Translation: This is My Straight Path, so follow it, and do not follow other ways: they will break you up away from this path (of Allah).

12

## SHARIA (LAW) OF THE PROPHET ﷺ

**ASWJ** ASWJ act according to the Sharia (law) of Rasulullah ﷺ. No one can be outside of it (the law). This Sharia (law) encompasses every aspect of the religion including the fields of Aqeedah, Fiqh, Planning, Worship, Manners, Politics, Community and others. Allah said in the Holy Quran:

لِكُلِّ جَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمِنْهَا جَا  
(Surah Al-Maida: ayah 48)

Translation: We have assigned a Sharia (Law) and a Manhaj (program / principal) to each of you (in every matter)

13

## DIFFERENCE IN RANK CAPABILITIES AMONGST THE MUSLIM UMMAH

**ASWJ** ASWJ fully realize upon the reality of the difference in rank amongst the Muslim Ummah in terms of their knowledge, understanding and patience in their process of implementing it. Therefore there are differences in terms of the opinions contained in their ijihad due to the different levels of knowledge that they have regarding their understanding of As-Sunnah. Regardless, they endure to accommodate these differences of opinion in this ijihad by emphasizing to the need to protect the unity of the Ummah and to avoid the elements of division. Allah said in the Holy Quran:

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ  
(Surah Al-Mujadilah: ayah 11)

Translation: Allah will raise up, by different degrees, those of you who believe and those who strive seeking for knowledge.

14

## THE SCOPE OR FRAMEWORK OF THE ASWJ COMMUNITY ENCOMPASSES THE MIX OF MANKIND

**ASWJ** ASWJ are a mix of normal people. From amongst them are those who are true and righteous. There are also those who commit vices due to their own weaknesses whether knowingly or unknowingly. Regardless, overall they are still better if we were to make the comparison with other groups of people. Allah said in the Holy Quran:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ  
(Surah An-Nisa: ayah 47)

Translation: Allah does not forgive the people who enjoins partners with Him: (polytheists). However He forgives other than such sin to whomever He wishes.

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