

# **My Enemies, I Thank You**

**Dr. Salman al-Oadah**

Copyright © 2012 IslāmToday

Edition 2024

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or means – electronic, mechanical, or otherwise – without the prior permission of the publisher.

**ISBN: 978-603-90003-5-8**

**e-mail:** [salman@Islāmtoday.net](mailto:salman@Islāmtoday.net)

**website:** <http://en.Islāmtoday.net>

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/drsalmantv](http://www.youtube.com/drsalmantv)

**Facebook:** [www.Islāmtoday.net/fb](http://www.Islāmtoday.net/fb)

# Contents

---

Introduction .....	5
My Enemies, I Thank You .....	10
Why Don't You Argue Your Point? .....	14
Thank You, Abū Bakr and 'Umar .....	18
Between Myself and Ibn Jibrīn .....	22
Defending Our Faith Comes First .....	36
If Your Brother or Sister is Right, Be Content .....	43
A Modern Culture of Insults .....	50
Using Scripture for Our Own Petty Ends .....	57
Hiding Behind the Sacred Texts .....	60
Slips of the Mind, Trends in Thought .....	65
Whatever You Say, Be Just .....	69
Criticism Requires Courtesy .....	75

My Enemies, I Thank You

Criticism Requires Introspection .....	82
Criticism Requires Self-Control .....	86
Taking a Neutral Stance .....	94
Two Ways to Exert Yourself .....	98
A Crisis Mentality .....	104
Inner Peace .....	107
We Must Learn to Coexist .....	115
Coexistence is Strength .....	122
A Truly Distinctive Involvement .....	128
The Sunnah of All the Prophets .....	133
Individual Responsibility .....	140
Will We Be Remembered? .....	146
Calm .....	150
Tests of Moral Character .....	153
Retaining Your Composure in Anger .....	159
I'm So Good... ..	168
Let Us Be Reconciled .....	173

# Introduction

---

It gives me satisfaction to recall the times I have been able to swallow back my bitterness and restrain my anger when one of my dear brothers (who may not think of me as such) abused me because they disagreed with me on some point. However, I mean it when I say: there are far more things that we have in common than the points of contention in which we disagreed.

I feel happy when I recall how Allāh helped me to restrain myself and therefore avoid getting into useless and base arguments, the type that is heated and impassioned, where I would have inevitably stooped – witting or unwitting – to the level of disputing for the sake of my own ego instead of for the truth.

In the heat of the moment, there is a strong impulse to “clarify” the “truth” or “give full disclosure”, or any other justification for mean-hearted and vain disputation. We enter into a wild and barren desert when we let ourselves succumb to that impulse.

## My Enemies, I Thank You

The strength of religious conviction – which should make us exemplary, well-mannered individuals and guide our interpersonal dealings in a positive way – unfortunately makes some people mean hearted, bitter, and resentful of others. Sometimes, their zeal makes them always seek out faults in others or reasons to despise them. They become the type of people everyone else tries to avoid, since everyone expects them to come with questions to interrogate their faith: “What ideology do you subscribe to? What methodology do you follow? Who is your sheikh? What is your stance on such and such?”

I remember once when a young man came up to my teacher Salih al-Bulayhi and asked to speak with him in private. My teacher got up and went with him a distance to where the two could talk alone. As soon as they were together, the young man burst out: “I despise you for the sake of Allāh!”

My teacher smiled and said: “Now why is that?”

The man said: “Because you say we can pay the *Zakah al-Fitr* in rice and that we can offer the *Tarawih* prayer as five units of prayer!”

To this my teacher replied: “Our Prophet ﷺ advised us that when we love someone for Allāh’s sake, then we should tell them that we love them. This, we know, is related by Abū Dāwūd. However, I do not recall where the Prophet said when we hate someone for Allāh’s sake, we should tell them that we hate them.”

He wisely averted getting into a dispute over trivial matters that would have done nothing but harden both their hearts.