
DOUBT: THE WORD “MANHAJ” WAS NOT USED DURING THE TIME OF THE MESSENGER AND DIVIDES THE PEOPLE

Shaykh Muhammad Akoor

Question: There is a man — and we would like to know how to respond to him — he says that the word Manhaj was not used during the time of the Messenger of Allaah, and this word (i.e., Manhaj) divides the people. How do we respond to him?

Answer: Tell him that Allaah, the Majestic and High, says:

لِكُلِّ جَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمِنْهَاجًا ؕ

“To each among you, We have prescribed a law and a methodology (Minhaaj).” (Al-Ma’idah 5:48)

The meaning of Manhaj is *path*. (It is) the path of the Messenger ﷺ and his companions and the Taabi’oon; and those who follow them in excellence until the hour is established. The Manhaj is the methodology of the pious predecessors; the Path of the Messenger ﷺ and his legislation; his religion. He who rejects the Manhaj; meaning, he says that the word Manhaj divides the people, then what does he traverse upon? Does he traverse upon (a path of) chaos? Clarify to him; tell him that the Manhaj is the Qur’aan and Sunnah and the understanding of the pious predecessors who have passed; those who took from the Messenger ﷺ. They clung to his Sunnah and his way. They clung to his Manhaj and they are the saved sect concerning whom the Messenger said, clarifying that there will be 73 sects, all of them in the fire except one. They (the companions) said: *“Who are they, O Messenger of Allaah?”* He said: *“Those who are upon the likes of that which I and my companions are upon today.”*

This is that which the person must understand. How does the Manhaj separate the people? Rather, it (indeed) separates; it separates between the people of truth and the people of falsehood. He who clings to the Manhaj then he is from the people of truth. He who chooses other than it; following his desires then he has abandoned the correct Manhaj. May Allaah give you life.

Translated by Raha ibn Donald Batts

Source: Weekly Lessons in Kitaab At-Tawheed: Class Fifteen