

## Is our Dissent with Hamza Yusuf Religiously or Racially motivated?

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Hearing the outrage of some African American leaders within the Muslim community over statements Hamza Yusuf made concerning black on black crime and police brutality reminded me of the incorrect statement from Hassan al-Banna founder of the Muslim Brotherhood: "Our dispute with the Jews is not religious based<sup>1</sup>".

Thus when Hamza Yusuf makes major mistakes concerning Islamic creed and promotes Sufism it's said "*he has put in tremendous work in the American Muslim community*", but when he insults the black community 'the internet is set ablaze by a maelstrom of opinions and fury!'

### ❖ Violating the Rights of Allah is the Greatest form of Oppression

Shaykh Fawzan said: Allah mentioned His rights first, then the rights of the parents, then the rights of the relatives, then the rights of the orphans and the poor. He said when mentioning the advice Luqman gave his son:

*And (remember) when Luqman said to his son when he was advising him: "O my dear son! Join not in worship others with Allah. Verily! Joining others in worship with Allah is a great oppression indeed. And We have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good) to his parents."*<sup>2</sup>

He mentioned the **rights of Allah first**, and His right is that He is worshipped alone without anyone associating partners with Him. Then the rights of the parents were mentioned. (Taken from the lecture: Allah's rights upon the slaves)

Don't be deceived by those who praise Hamza Yusuf with statements like: "I have a **great deal of respect** for Shaykh Hamza Yusuf aside whatever his philosophy is and whatever his approach to Islam is. He is a **scholar** none the less. And he has put in **tremendous work** in the American Muslim community."

But when Hamza Yusuf said: "*The United States is, in term of its laws, one of the least racist societies in the world. We have some of the best anti-discriminatory laws on the planet... We have between 15-18,000 homicides a year, 50 percent are black on black crime... There are twice as many whites that have been shot by police but nobody ever shows those videos. It's the assumption that the police are racist and it's not always the case...*"

---

<sup>1</sup> الإخوان المسلمون أحداث صنعت التاريخ 409/1 لمؤلفه محمود عبدالحليم

<sup>2</sup> (Soorah Luqman 31:13-14)

The same Muslim community leader who said “*he has put in tremendous work in the American Muslim community*” dedicates 20 minutes to refuting his statements concerning the plight of the black man in America.

❖ Where was the outrage and refutation when...

Hamza Yusuf translated “*The Burda of Al-Busiri: The Poem of the Cloak* (Arabic and English Edition Audio CD with contribution from the Fez singers)

This Sufi poem contains blatant and obvious disbelief and heresy that violate the rights of Allah. The Poet says about the Prophet peace be upon him:

- ❖ If he (Prophet Muhammad) were to perform miracles commensurate with his real status, his name would bring dead people back to life.
- ❖ O noblest of creation, I have no one to turn to except you when major calamity strikes.
- ❖ This world and the Hereafter are part of what you control, and part of your knowledge is the knowledge of Preserved Tablet and the Pen

**Shaykh Abdur-Rahman ibn Hasan 'Āli al-Shaykh** رحمه الله said: al-Burdah by al-Busayri, contains major shirk that is not hidden. For example he says “O noblest of creation, I have no one to turn to except you...” and so on until the end of the poem, in which he asks for reward in the Hereafter from the Prophet peace be upon him alone.

**Shaykh Sulayman ibn Abdullah 'Āli al-Shaykh** رحمه الله said about this poem: Think of how much shirk there is in these lines, such as: He denied that there is any refuge when calamity strikes except the Prophet peace of be upon him. But that applies only to Allah alone, with no partner or associate. He is the One in Whom people can find no refuge except Him.

**Shaykh bin Baz** رحمه الله said: The poet is making the Messenger peace be upon him the sovereign and controller of this world and the Hereafter. He described him as having knowledge of the unseen, part of which is knowledge of what is in the Preserved Tablet and the Pen. This is blatant disbelief and ultimate exaggeration; we ask Allah to keep us safe and sound. If he died believing that, and did not repent, then he died in the worst kind of disbelief and misguidance. What every Muslim is required to do is to beware of this exaggeration and not be deceived by al-Burdah and its author.

Is this his philosophy you put aside?!

❖ Where was the outrage and refutation when...

Hamza Yusuf contributed a 24 page essay to the book *"Common Ground between Islam and Buddhism"* written by Reza Kazemi with an introduction by the 14th Dalai Lama! While the author –amid many deviant statements – tries to convince the reader that there are similarities between the Shahada and Nirvana! Hamza Yusuf tries to convince the reader that Al Khidr peace be upon him and Buddha are one and the same!

The permanent committee of scholars said:

Buddha was not a Prophet; rather he was a disbelieving philosopher who followed a religion that was not divinely-revealed. Whoever believes that he was a Prophet is a disbeliever. His people exaggerated about him and believed that he was divine, and they worshipped him instead of Allah. This idolatrous Buddhist religion was adopted by many people in the past and in modern times. The Muslim is obliged to dismiss this religion and its followers, and to disavow himself of it and take a stand against them for the sake of Allah. (Fatwa 26/44)

Hamza Yusuf – may Allah guide us and him – is a Sufi.

Shaykh Fawzan said: There is no Sufism in Islam, this is an innovation. Sufism is an innovation, it is not from Islam. Thus it is upon those who have fallen into Sufism to repent to Allah the Exalted. And it is upon them to return to the Sunnah.

What incensed you more, his violating the rights of Allah and insulting Al Khidr peace be upon him or his commentary on black on black crime?

Perhaps someone will say "I am not aware of his deviant statements."

I say: "If you are not aware of the deviance of Hamza Yusuf then at least refrain from praising him."

May Allah grant us jealousy for the religion of Islam and forgive us for our sins and shortcomings.

Written by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

Masjid Tawheed wa Sunnah Durham, NC