

## The Legal Status of the Sunnah in The Qur'an

By Maulana Muaz Billoo

An alarming number of Muslims are unaware that Allah ﷻ commands the Muslims to obey the Prophet ﷺ in the Qur'an. A common idiom overheard when discussing Islamic Law goes, "Where in the Qur'an is (topic of discussion) prohibited?" When a Hadith is quoted to substantiate a claim, the Hadith is rejected on the mere grounds of "all I need is the Qur'an." To their chagrin, we present the following brief compilation, displaying numerous instances in the Qur'an<sup>1</sup> wherein Allah ﷻ commands us to not only obey Him, but to also obey His Messenger ﷺ, thereby making the his ﷺ Sunnah legally binding. We hope that Allah ﷻ makes this article a gateway for informing the uninformed, and a means of coming closer to Him. We choose to limit our own words and explanations, as the verses themselves are self-explanatory. Allah ﷻ tells us in the Qur'an that He sent His Messenger ﷺ as:

### 1. A propagator:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ﴾

"O Messenger, **propagate** that which has been revealed to you from your Lord." (5:67)

### 2. An elucidator:

﴿وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ﴾

"And We sent down the Reminder (The Qur'an) to you (Muhammad), so that **you may elucidate** to the people what has been revealed for them." (16:44)

### 3. A teacher:

﴿لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ﴾

"Allah has surely conferred favor on the believers when He raised in their midst a messenger from among themselves who recites to them His verses and makes them pure and **teaches them the Book** and the Wisdom, while earlier, they were in open error." (3:164)

<sup>1</sup> This is in not an exhaustive list.

#### 4. A judge

﴿وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ وَلَا مُؤْمِنَةٍ إِذَا قَضَى اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمْرًا أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ  
وَمَنْ يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا مُبِينًا﴾

“It is not for a believing man nor a believing woman, once **Allah and His messenger** have **judged** on a matter, that they should have a choice about their matter; and whoever **disobeys Allah and His messenger**, he indeed gets off the track, falling into an open error.” (33:36)

﴿فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّى يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِي مَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِمَّا  
قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا﴾

“So, never by your Lord! Never shall they become believers, unless they make **you** (Muhammad) the **judge** in the disputes that arise between them, then (they) find no discomfort in their hearts against what **you** (Muhammad) have decided, and surrender to it in total submission.” (4:65)

﴿إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِتَحْكُمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ بِمَا أَرَاكَ اللَّهُ﴾

“Surely, We have revealed to you the Book with the truth, so that you may **judge** between people according to what Allah has shown you. Do not be an advocate for those who breach trust.” (4:106)

#### 5. As an excellent example:

﴿لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ  
كَثِيرًا﴾

“There is indeed an **excellent example** for you in the Messenger of Allah - for the one who has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah profusely.” (33:21)

6. To love Allah ﷻ, one must follow His Messenger ﷺ:

﴿قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ﴾

“Say (O Prophet): “If you really love Allah, **then follow me**, and Allah shall love you and forgive you your sins.” (3:31)

7. Allah ﷻ commands the Muslims to take up whatever the Messenger ﷺ commands, and to abandon that which he forbids:

﴿وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا﴾

“And whatever the Messenger gives you, **take it**, and whatever he forbids you from, **abstain (from it)**.” (59:7)

8. Allah ﷻ commands the Muslims to obey His Messenger ﷺ:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ﴾

“Obey Allah and **obey the Messenger**.” (4:59)

﴿وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ﴾

“And obey Allah and **His Messenger**.” (8:46)

﴿وَإِنْ تُطِيعُوهُ تَهْتَدُوا﴾

“And if you **obey him (The Messenger)**, you will be guided.” (24:54)

9. Allah ﷻ stresses the importance of obeying The Messenger ﷺ to such a degree that He has made obedience of The Messenger ﷺ akin to the obedience of Allah ﷻ Himself:

﴿مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ﴾

“Whoever **obeys the Messenger** has indeed obeyed Allah.” (4:80)

The Qur’anic message is unequivocal: none can obey Allah ﷻ without adopting the teachings of His Messenger ﷺ, which requires the acceptance and study of the Hadith corpus.