

# A CURE FOR THE HEART

EPISODE 9: HARMONY AMIDST DIVERSITY





## KNOWLEDGE-BASED DISAGREEMENT

وَأَتَيْنَاهُمْ بَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ<sup>ص</sup> فَمَا اخْتَلَفُوا إِلَّا مِّنْ  
بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ<sup>ج</sup> إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي  
بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ

*And We gave them clear proofs of the matter [of religion]. And they did not differ except after knowledge had come to them - out of jealous animosity between themselves. Indeed, your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection concerning that over which they used to differ. (Surah Al-Jathiyah 45:17)*





# THE ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE

- In the Quran, the phrase “people of the scripture,” refers to the Christians and Jews. In this Ayah, Allah SWT states that they did not differ **until knowledge was revealed to them.**
- **People often differ due to different levels of knowledge.** For instance, if you have personally dined at a restaurant and enjoyed it, while your friend hasn't, and relies solely on reviews online, both of you will have different perspectives. You'd advocate for the restaurant based on your experience, whereas your friend hesitated due to the lack of personal information. Thus, the disagreement stems from differing levels of information.

## Point of reflection:

Usually, when we have the same information we will agree with each other. Here Allah SWT asks us to reflect: **Why did they differ after receiving knowledge?**





# EXPLOITING THE RELIGION

- Kak Natasha in the past studied European and British history, particularly the Reformation of the Church and its significant events.
- During that period, **religion served as a tool for exerting control over people—a phenomenon that persists today.** Religion and politics are intertwined, often driven by political motives. Where people exploit the authority of God to dictate what people can or cannot do.
- For instance, if two priests were to deliver the same messages, they would attract the same followers. **To distinguish themselves and gain popularity, authority, and influence, they gave themselves the license to innovate on the word of God.**





- In Jewish and Christian societies, knowledge of scripture was monopolised by the clergy class. This class included various religious officials, such as priests, pastors, bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and the Pope.
- **These individuals held the custodianship of the religious language, unlike in Islam, where individuals can read the Quran independently.** As a result, the clergy class had the authority to dictate things to people.
- **The outcome was the manipulation of people by the church,** dictating what they could and couldn't do, controlling education, and soliciting money. Eventually, people questioned why they should allow the church to govern, leading to a period in European history of the separation of church and state.
- Muslims must recognise that **in Islam, religion and state are one where the Khalifa also serves as the Imam.** Our approach differs significantly from theirs because they innovated theirs.



# WITH KNOWLEDGE COMES RESPONSIBILITY

- Allah SWT often refers to past nations, urging us to learn from their mistakes and avoid falling into the same traps.
- Kak Natasha has observed that despite the Quran and Sunnah is meant to unite us, religious frictions still exist, even within the *Sunnah wal Jamaah*.
- Knowledge is meant to humble us. A *Jahil* (ignorant) person, those with unintentional temporary ignorance will be forgiven for their actions during their period of ignorance.
- But for someone who sins with knowledge, the level of accountability for one who possesses knowledge is far greater. Thus, **knowledge is a responsibility—an Amanah—not something to be arrogant about.**



# PERSONALITY VS. CONTENT

- Unfortunately, **there are cultures that tend to attack personalities as opposed to the content.**
- However, the truth is, that everyone is bound to make mistakes at some point. Rasulullah ﷺ continuously guided by Allah, was an exception, as for the rest of us, we are prone to errors.
- If someone makes a mistake, it's better to challenge the content with respect by saying, *"I respectfully disagree because of this other evidence. Let's have a discourse and see how we can reconcile or juxtapose the different evidence."*



Point of Reflection:



Do you attack  
the personality  
or challenge  
their content?







# INTELLECTUAL LAZINESS

- Attacking personalities rather than addressing content is considered **intellectual laziness—it's the easier route.**
- However, everyone, even the best of the best may say something incorrect or uncomfortable.
- For instance, when we read books by highly respected scholars and encounter a chapter or passage that raises questions or makes us uncomfortable, do we discard everything they've written? No, we don't. Instead, we determine what we want to keep and what we feel is consistent.
- **Writing off people because of one mistake is unjust.** It would be intellectually lazy of us to just lump personality and content together.

Hate  
the Sin,  
not the  
Sinner.





# THE DIFFERING OPINIONS

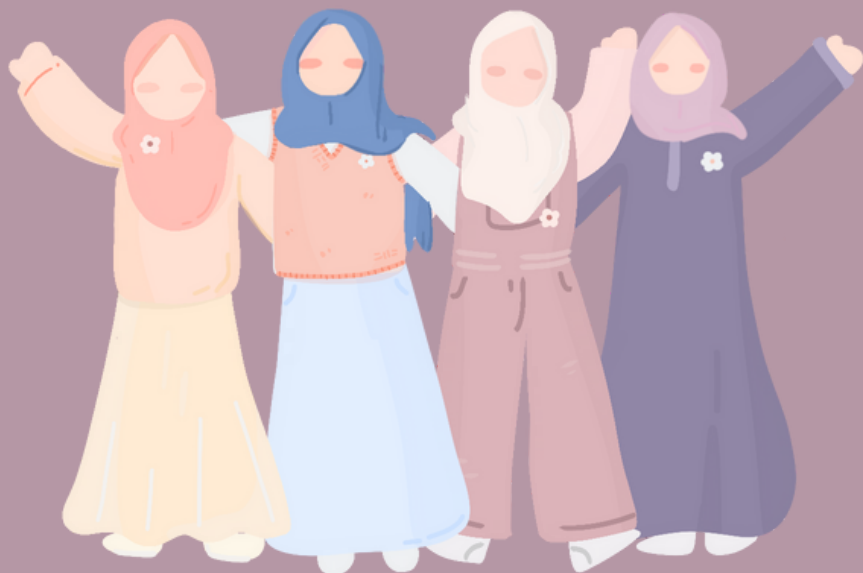
- Another observation Kak Natasha made was that sometimes when we study under a particular teacher or sheikh, out of their sincere intention to simplify matters for students, they may unintentionally teach one point of view.
- **However, it's essential to recognise that there are differing opinions on various issues.** For example, there are differences in opinions on whether women can read the Quran during menses or on the ruling regarding replacing missed first or third Rakaahs if one only manages to catch the first two Rakaahs of Maghrib in the mosque.



- When teachers or scholars impart teachings based on one opinion, **it's crucial to ensure that students are aware of the existence of differing opinions.** This awareness prevents students from judging others' practices as incorrect merely because there are legitimate differences from what they've been taught.
- Even different *Madhhabs* mutually complete one another. There's no such thing where one Madhhab is considered superior to another!
- One of Aida's teachers explained that the Madhhab permitting women to recite the Quran during menstruation for Wirid without touching the Mushaf does so **out of respect for the woman's love for the Quran.** Conversely, the other ruling prohibiting such recitation **respects the sanctity of the Quran.** SubhanAllah.
- The differences in opinion, or *Khilaf*, are beautiful and they shouldn't be divisive. They're grounded in deep thinking and mercy, representing diverse methodologies for deriving the *Hukum*.



Our real  
enemies are  
out there,  
not with one  
another.





# DIVERSITY IN WORSHIP

- When we visit Mecca, **we witness the melting pot of our religion**, where we stand beside individuals who may appear vastly different from us. Yet, despite our differences, we are all speaking to the same Rabb.
- We pray that anyone who does their acts of worship differently does so with the best of intentions, and we ask Allah to forgive us for any ignorance on our part.
- Moving forward, whenever we encounter someone practising something differently from us, we pray for increased knowledge for both parties, our knowledge and theirs. And, we pray for acceptance of both our Ibadah. May Allah SWT us to always be harmonious with one another.

May Allah grant us  
the grace and  
gentleness to be  
with one another  
without judgment  
or arrogance, but  
with love and  
harmony, just as  
our beloved  
Prophet ﷺ would  
have wanted.



# HEART WORK

## ACTION:

When you see someone makes a mistake, try your best to **'challenge their content and not attack the personality'**.

## REFLECTION:

How long have you been seeking knowledge about the religion? Have the knowledge increased you in humility or has the opposite happened? How do you remain humble with increasing knowledge?

## CONTRIBUTION:

We all have someone in our lives we tend to have differing opinions with. Today, make an intention to see from their perspective!