

Importance and the Status of Sunnah/Hadeeth in Islaam.

In the name of Allaah, all praises be to Him, Lord and Sustainer of the worlds, and may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), upon his family, his companions and all those who follow them till the day of judgement.

It is quite common that we see people discussing and arguing about the issue of the importance of the Sunnah on internet forums and in other gatherings, mostly confusing each other and sometimes misguiding. Insha-Allaah the following article is an attempt to explain some basic facts concerning this important topic which every Muslim should be aware of.

Before going on to the actual topic, I want to explain some essential general issues related to the religion of Islaam.

**The very first thing** a Muslim has to realise is that whole of the Islaam is based on **two root fundamentals**, and these are:

Allaah (Exalted is He) has created us for no reason, except to worship Him alone as Allaah (Exalted is He) says:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ . الذاريات 56

And I (Allāh) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone) 51.56

The worship of Allaah (Exalted is He) cannot be done except by the method which He himself approves. For this purpose Allaah chose and appointed Messengers from among mankind to convey the method for how we worship Him and hence made the obedience of Prophets obligatory, as Allaah says:

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنْ أُعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ . النحل 36

And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taghut (all false deities, etc. i.e. do not worship Taghut besides Allah)." 16.36

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا لِيُطَاعَ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ . النساء

We sent no Messenger, but to be obeyed by Allāh's Leave. 4.64

The last of all Messengers and Prophets was Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) after whom there is no Prophet, but liars and after the way of Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) there is no way but falsehood.

With his prophethood, all the previous books and rules were abolished and nothing is acceptable except what is approved by the Book brought by him and by his Sunnah, as Allaah the most praiseworthy says:

وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ . آل

عمران 85

Whoever seeks a religion other than ISLAAM, it will not be accepted and he will be among the losers. 3.85

وَمَنْ يُشَاقِقِ الرَّسُولَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ وَيَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ سَبِيلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

تَوَلَّىٰ مَا تَوَلَّىٰ وَتُصَلِّهِ جَهَنَّمَ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا . النساء 115

And whoever contradicts and opposes the Messenger (Muhammad SAW) after the right path has been shown clearly to him, and follows other than the believers' way. We shall keep him in the path he has chosen, and burn him in Hell - what an evil destination. 4.115

These two fundamentals are in fact what we affirm when we say:

أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وأشهد أن محمداً عبده ورسوله

*I testify that no one can be worshipped except Allaah alone and that Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) is His slave and Messenger.*

In other words, it means that worship belongs to Allaah alone and it cannot be done except by the method proven from the Sunnah of the last Prophet, Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him).

This is the reason **the Sunnah of the last Prophet is preserved and protected like the Quran, and is not corruptible**, a point which many ignorant people often fail to understand but insha-Allaah I will elaborate on this so that it can be understood properly.

**Secondly**, **creating doubts is an old trick of Shaytaan and is the basis of every misguidance and disobedience that exists.**

Adam (peace be upon him) was informed of the prohibition of eating from the tree by his Lord, he forgot the covenant he made with Allaah and shaytaan made him doubtful and then led him to disobedience of his lord.

This is why Allaah, the exalted says:

الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُمْتَرِينَ . البقرة 147

(This is) the truth from your Lord. So be you not one of those who doubt. 2.147

**Thirdly**, the only way doubts are removed is by acquiring correct knowledge, which is an obligation upon every Muslim. Allaah, the most praiseworthy orders us to not be among the ignorant ones.

قَلَّا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ . الأنعام 35

So be not you one of those who are Al-Jahilun (the ignorant). 6.35

He gives us the abilities and means of acquiring the knowledge:

وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئاً وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ  
وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ . النحل 78

And Allah has brought you out from the wombs of your mothers while you know nothing. And He gave you hearing, sight, and hearts that you might give thanks (to Allah). 16.78

And being ignorant of the rules in the religion is being like an uncivilized person incapable of learning, and a sign of hypocrisy and hardness of the hearts, as Allaah says:

الْأَعْرَابُ أَشَدُّ كُفْرًا وَنِفَاقًا وَأَجْدَرُ أَلَّا يَعْلَمُوا حُدُودَ مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ  
وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ . التوبة 97

*The bedouins are the worst in disbelief and hypocrisy, and more likely to be in ignorance of the limits (Allāh's Commandments and His Legal Laws) which Allāh has revealed to His Messenger. And Allāh is All-Knower, All-Wise.*

**Fourthly**, it is also important to realise that doing or saying anything without knowledge is forbidden for a Muslim, in general whether it is related to religion or otherwise.

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ  
مَسْئُولاً . الإسراء 36

And follow not (O man i.e., say not, or do not or witness not, etc.) that of which you have no knowledge (e.g. one's saying: "I have seen," while in fact he has not seen, or "I have heard," while he has not heard). Verily! The hearing, and the sight, and the heart, of each of those you will be questioned (by Allah). 17.36

And more specifically, in matters of religion;

قُلْ إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّيَ الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ وَالْإِثْمَ وَالْبَغْيَ بِغَيْرِ  
الْحَقِّ وَأَنْ تُشْرِكُوا بِاللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزَّلْ بِهِ سُلْطَانًا وَأَنْ تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا

33 تَعْلَمُونَ . الأعراف

Say (O Muhammad SAW): "(But) the things that my Lord has indeed forbidden are Al-Fawahish (great evil sins, every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse, etc.) whether committed openly or secretly, sins (of all kinds), unrighteous oppression, joining partners (in worship) with Allah for which He has given no authority, and saying things about Allah of which you have no knowledge." 7.33

As it is the way of Shaytaan to speak about Allaah's religion without proper knowledge:

إِنَّمَا يَأْمُرُكُمْ بِالسُّوءِ وَالْفَحْشَاءِ وَأَنْ تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ . البقرة 169

He [Shaitān (Satan)] commands you only what is evil and Fahshā (sinful), and that you should say against Allāh what you know not. 2.169

This is why anyone who writes on internet forums these days concerning religious matters without proper knowledge is either neglectful and disobedient to his Creator or a friend of shaytaan spreading falsehood and mischief.

**Keeping these four important points in mind** i.e. the two fundamental principles related to the purpose of this life, doubts being the cause of every misguidance, obligation of removing the doubts by seeking correct knowledge and recognising that speaking and giving views (freedom of speech and opinions) in Allaah's religion is following the way of Shaytaan, **we now move on to the actual topic.**

The word Sunnah is used by the scholars of Islaam in two different meanings:

The **general term of Sunnah**, as alternative to the term "Hadeeth" which includes all the sayings, actions and approvals of Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him).

The **term Sunnah when used in fiqh** issues means "recommended" as opposed to the term "Fardh" which means obligatory. For example, the two rak'at before fajr prayer is Sunnah as it is recommended to pray these two rak'at and not obligatory.

These two uses of the term "Sunnah" must be distinguished and what I will discuss in the following explanation is the "Sunnah" in the 1<sup>st</sup> meaning i.e. **everything that is reported from the Prophet of Allaah in terms of his speech, actions and approvals in matters related to the religion of Islaam.**

Now, as you know Islaam is based on beliefs i.e. believing in Allaah, His angels, His books, His Prophets, Destiny and the Day of Judgement. The basis of each of these beliefs in Islaam is

the belief in the unseen, as without believing in the unseen there is no belief in Allaah, His angels, His books, His Prophets, Destiny or the Day of Judgement. That's why Allaah, the Exalted says:

تِلْكَ مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ نُوحِيهَا إِلَيْكَ مَا كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُهَا أَنْتَ وَلَا قَوْمُكَ مِنْ قَبْلِ  
هَذَا فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ الْعَاقِبَةَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ هود 49

This is of the news of the unseen which We reveal unto you (O Muhammad), neither you nor your people knew them before this. So be patient. Surely, the (good) end is for the Muttaqun (pious) 11.49

The Unseen cannot reach man except through revelation, as Allaah says:

وَكَذَلِكَ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ رُوحًا مِنْ أَمْرِنَا مَا كُنْتَ تَدْرِي مَا الْكِتَابُ وَلَا الْإِيمَانُ  
وَلَكِنْ جَعَلْنَاهُ نُورًا نَهْدِي بِهِ مَنْ نَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا . الشورى 52

And thus We have sent to you (O Muhammad) Ruhan (an Inspiration, and a Mercy) of Our Command. You knew not what the Book is, nor what is Faith? But We have made it (this Qur'an) a light wherewith We guide whosoever of Our slaves We will. 42.52

For conveying the unseen, Allaah the Exalted appointed Prophets and Messengers:

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُظْهِرَكُمْ عَلَى الْغَيْبِ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَجْتَبِي مِنْ رُسُلِهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ . آل  
عمران 179

Nor will Allah disclose to you the secrets of the Ghaib (unseen), but Allah chooses of His Messengers whom He pleases. 3.179

اللَّهُ يَصْطَفِي مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ رُسُلًا وَمِنَ النَّاسِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ . الحج 75

Allah chooses Messengers from angels and from men. Verily, Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing. 22.75

اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ حَيْثُ يَجْعَلُ رِسَالَتَهُ . الأنعام 124

Allah knows best with whom to place His Message. 6.124

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنْ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ . النحل 36

And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taghut (all false deities, etc. i.e. do not worship Taghut besides Allah)." 16.36

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ الأنبياء  
25

And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad) but We inspired him (saying): La ilaha illa Ana [none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allah)], so worship Me (Alone and none else)." 21.25

The last of all Messengers and Prophets, as we know was Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) about whom Allaah, the Exalted says:

كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا فِيكُمْ رَسُولًا مِّنكُمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِنَا وَيُزَكِّيكُمْ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ الْكِتَابَ  
وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُم مَّا لَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْلَمُونَ . البقرة 151

Similarly (to complete My Blessings on you), We have sent among you a Messenger (Muhammad) of your own, reciting to you Our Verses (the Qur'ān) and purifying you, and teaching you the Book (the Qur'ān) and the Hikmah (i.e. Sunnah, Islāmic laws and Fiqh jurisprudence), and teaching you that which you used not to know. 2.151

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ  
آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي  
ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ . آل عمران 164

Indeed, Allāh conferred a great favour on the believers when He sent among them a Messenger (Muhammad) from among themselves, reciting unto them His Verses (the Qur'ān), and purifying them (from sins by their following him), and instructing them (in) the Book (the Qur'ān) and Al-Hikmah [the wisdom and the Sunnah of the Prophet (i.e. his legal ways, statements and acts of worship)], while before that they had been in manifest error. 3.164

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ  
وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ . الجمعة 2

He it is Who sent among the unlettered ones a Messenger (Muhammad) from among themselves, reciting to them His Verses, purifying them (from the filth of disbelief and polytheism), and teaching them the Book (this Qur'ān, Islāmic laws and Islāmic jurisprudence) and Al-Hikmah ( As-Sunnah : legal ways, orders, acts of worship of Prophet Muhammad). And verily, they had been before in manifest error; 62.2

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمُ الرَّسُولُ بِالْحَقِّ مِن رَّبِّكُمْ فَآمِنُوا خَيْرًا لَّكُمْ وَإِن  
تَكْفُرُوا فَإِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا . النساء

O mankind! Verily, there has come to you the Messenger (Muhammad) with the truth from your Lord. So believe in him, it is better for you. But if you disbelieve, then certainly to Allāh belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. And Allāh is Ever All-Knowing, All-Wise.

4.170

Allaah the most Praiseworthy, declared that the Prophethood is ended on Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him).

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِنْ رِجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا

الاحزاب 40

Muhammad (SAW) is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last (end) of the Prophets. And Allah is ever All-Aware of everything. 33.40

Therefore Allaah perfected His religion on His final Prophet:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا .

المائدة 3

This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion. 5.3

After Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), as we know and believe, there is no Prophet but liars and after the way of Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) there is no way but the way of Shaytaan.

Therefore his obedience is made obligatory till the last day. There are more than thirty places in the Quran where Allaah, the Exalted enjoins the obedience of His messenger, but before we look at some of those one must recognize a couple of extremely important facts which many Muslims are unfortunately unaware of.

All Muslims recognize the importance of obeying Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him). There is no disagreement on this point, in fact if someone refuses to obey Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) then by consensus of Muslim scholars that person is a Kaafir (disbeliever).

However, what many Muslims fail to realise is that obedience of Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) means obeying him in his life as well as after his death, this is because several verses of Quraan order us to obey him and verses of Quraan are for all times unless explicitly known to be abrogated.

And his obedience after his death means nothing except obeying his Sunnah i.e. his statements, his actions and his approvals, of course there is a methodology known to scholars of Islaam how the Sunnah is acted upon and how one determines what part of sunnah is obligatory and what is not, but discussing that methodology is not the subject here and would be beyond the scope of this discussion.

Another fact which many Muslims fail to recognize simply because of their lack of basic knowledge is that “the Sunnah authenticated by the scholars of hadeeth is but revelation”. The proof for this important principle is in the Quran itself as Allaah, the Exalted says:

إِنْ أَتَّبِعْ إِلَّا مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ . الانعام 50

I (Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) but follow what is revealed to me by inspiration. 6.50

وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ (3) إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ . النجم 4

3. Nor does he speak of (his own) desire. 4. It is only an Inspiration that is inspired. 53.3-4

وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ . النحل 44

And We have also sent down unto you (O Muhammad SAW) the [reminder](#), that you may explain clearly to men [what is sent down](#) to them, and that they may give thought. 16.44

The [reminder](#) in this verse is the Sunnah which explains [what is sent down](#) i.e. the Quraan.

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ . الْجُمُعَةُ 2

He it is Who sent among the unlettered ones a Messenger (Muhammad SAW) from among themselves, reciting to them His Verses, purifying them (from the filth of disbelief and polytheism), and teaching them the Book (this Qur'an, Islamic laws and Islamic jurisprudence) and [Al-Hikmah](#) (As-Sunnah: legal ways, orders, acts of worship, etc. of Prophet Muhammad SAW). And verily, they had been before in manifest error. 62.2

وَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَكَ مَا لَمْ تَكُن تَعْلَمُ وَكَانَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكَ عَظِيمًا النساء 113

Allah has sent down to you the Book (The Qur'an), and [Al-Hikmah](#) (Islamic laws, knowledge of legal and illegal things i.e. the Prophet's Sunnah - legal ways), and taught you that which you knew not. And ever great is the Grace of Allah unto you (O Muhammad SAW). 4.113

From the above mentioned verses one can clearly see that the Quraan was not the only revelation that was sent to the Messenger of Allaah but there was a second type of revelation that came to him explaining the verses of Quraan and this what is mentioned in the above verses as “[reminder](#)” or [Al-Hikmah](#)” and this what is preserved and transmitted as the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) .

Now we will look at some of the verses of Quraan where Allaah the Exalted orders the obedience of His messenger. A Muslim should ask five questions about each of these verses.

Is this from Allaah the most Exalted?

Is it abrogated?

Are we obligated to apply it?

How do we apply it while the Prophet of Allaah is not physically present among us?

Would Allaah the Exalted order us to apply something which is corruptible?

Allah the most praiseworthy, says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَوَلَّوْا عَنْهُ وَأَنْتُمْ تَسْمَعُونَ الأنفال

20

O you who believe! Obey Allah and His Messenger, and turn not away from him (i.e. Muhammad SAW) while you are hearing. 8.20

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَحُولُ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَأَنَّهُ إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ الأنفال 24

O you who believe! Answer Allah (by obeying Him) and (His) Messenger when he (SAW) calls you to that which will give you life, and know that Allah comes in between a person and his heart (i.e. He prevents an evil person to decide anything). And verily to Him you shall (all) be gathered. 8.24

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا النساء 59

O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger (Muhammad SAW), and those of you (Muslims) who are in authority. (And) if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger (SAW), if you believe in Allah and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination. 4.59

مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ وَمَنْ تَوَلَّى فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا النساء

80

He who obeys the Messenger (Muhammad SAW), has indeed obeyed Allah, but he who turns away, then we have not sent you (O Muhammad SAW) as a watcher over them. 4.80

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمُ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ

الْعِقَابِ الْحَشْرِ 7

And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad SAW) gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it), and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Severe in punishment. 59.7

وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ وَلَا لِمُؤْمِنَةٍ إِذَا قَضَى اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمْرًا أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ

مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ وَمَنْ يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا مُبِينًا الاحزاب 36

It is not for a believer, man or woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decreed a matter that they should have any option in their decision. And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he has indeed strayed in a plain error. 33.36

فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّى يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ

حَرَجًا مِمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا النساء 65

But no, by your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you (O Muhammad SAW) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission. 4.65

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ

وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا الاحزاب 21

Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad SAW) you have a good example to follow him who hopes in (the Meeting with) Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah much. 33.21

فَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ مَعَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ

الْمُفْلِحُونَ الاعراف 157

So those who believe in him (Muhammad SAW), honour him, help him, and follow the light which has been sent down with him, it is they who will be successful. 7.157

النَّبِيُّ أَوْلَىٰ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ الاحزاب 6

The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves... 33.6

The answer to the above mentioned questions regarding all these verses is that

These verses are all from Allaah the Lord of the worlds,

None of these are abrogated,

It is obligatory to apply each of them in our life,

Applying them now while the Prophet of Allaah is not among us, means applying his authentic Sunnah

And that Allaah the most Exalted will never order us to follow and keep on following till the day of judgement something that is subject to change and corruption. And the only knowledge that is not subject to change or corruption is that which is revealed from Allaah, the most praiseworthy.

Hence, anyone who would read these verses and ask these five questions on each of these seeking the truth with sincerity would clearly see that the authentic Sunnah of the Prophet of Allaah is part of revelation from Allaah the Exalted, it is not subject to change or corruption and obeying the Sunnah is not something recommended rather it is obligatory just like obeying the Quraan and the one who rejects the Sunnah or mocks it, in fact rejects and mocks all the above and other verses of Quraan and does not truly believe in the Quraan.

As for some areas of uncertainty in the Sunnah, then this is a test for the believer as there are verses in the Quraan as well about which Allaah (Exalted is He) says:

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْهُ آيَاتٌ مُحْكَمَاتٌ هُنَّ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ وَأُخْرُ  
مُنْتَشِبَاتٌ فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ زَيْغٌ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ مَا تَشَبَهَ مِنْهُ ابْتِغَاءَ الْفِتْنَةِ  
وَابْتِغَاءَ تَأْوِيلِهِ وَمَا يَعْلَمُ تَأْوِيلَهُ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَالرَّاسِخُونَ فِي الْعِلْمِ يَقُولُونَ ءَأَمَّنَّا بِهِ  
كُلٌّ مِّنْ عِنْدِ رَبِّنَا وَمَا يَذَّكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ . آل عمران 7

*It is He Who has sent down to you (Muhammad) the Book (this Qur'ān). In it are Verses that are entirely clear, they are the foundations of the Book [and those are the Verses of Al-Ahkām (commandments), Al-Fara'id (obligatory duties) and Al-Hudud (laws for the punishment of thieves, adulterers)]; and others not entirely clear. So as for those in whose hearts there is a deviation (from the truth) they follow that which is not entirely clear thereof, seeking Al-Fitnah (polytheism and trials), and seeking for its hidden meanings, but none knows its hidden meanings save Allāh. And those who are firmly grounded in knowledge say: "We believe in it; the whole of it (clear and unclear Verses) are from our Lord." And none receive admonition except men of understanding. ( Tafsir At-Tabarī ) . 3.7*

For someone to say “but Hadeeth are sometimes weak and can also be fabricated” then this kind of statement simply reflects the ignorance of a person, as what is weak or fabricated is well known to the scholars of Hadeeth and exists

For us to be careful about what we act on and what we reject and to distinguish between right and wrong. White can not be known until we know the black and light is not light until there is darkness

This also teaches us the importance of referring to the scholars who have the knowledge of the subject

As well as recognising the enemies of Islaam who fabricate and lie on Allaah and His Messenger.

People who deliberately reject the authentic Sunnah are enemies of Islaam because they in fact reject everything of Islaam. This is because we know that the timings of prayer, the number of raka'at in each prayer, the number of bowing and prostration in a raka'h, the amount of zakaah we pay, the number of tawaaf we do round the Ka'bah are only a few example of obligatory duties Allaah the Exalted has imposed upon us, and are known only through the Sunnah and are not found in the Quraan. So, if someone is to reject the Sunnah, then all that will be left of Islaam is what is on the tongue.

Allaah warns those who disobey, discard or belittle the Sunnah of His Messenger, in a severe manner and calls them true disbelievers:

فَلْيَحْذَرِ الَّذِينَ يُخَالِفُونَ عَنْ أَمْرِهِ أَنْ تُصِيبَهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ أَوْ يُصِيبَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

النور 63

And let those who oppose the Messenger's (Muhammad SAW) commandment (i.e. His Sunnah legal ways, orders, acts of worship, statements, etc.) beware, lest some Fitnah befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them. 24.63

فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكَ فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّمَا يَتَّبِعُونَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنْ اتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ  
بِغَيْرِ هُدًى مِّنَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ القصص 50

But if they answer you not (i.e. do not believe in your doctrine of Islamic Monotheism, nor follow you), then know that they only follow their own lusts. And who is more astray than one who follows his own lusts, without guidance from Allah? Verily! Allah guides not the people who are Zalimun (wrong-doers, disobedient to Allah, and polytheists). 28.50

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَ اللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَيَقُولُونَ  
نُؤْمِنُ بِبَعْضٍ وَنَكْفُرُ بِبَعْضٍ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَتَّخِذُوا بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ سَبِيلًا (150)  
أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ حَقًّا وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا (151) النساء

150. Verily, those who disbelieve in Allah and His Messengers and wish to make distinction between Allah and His Messengers (by believing in Allah and disbelieving in His Messengers) saying, "We believe in some but reject others," and wish to adopt a way in

between. 151. They are in truth disbelievers. And We have prepared for the disbelievers a humiliating torment. 4.150-151

That they will not find any respite or hiding place on the final day:

يَوْمَئِذٍ يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَعَصَوُا الرَّسُولَ لَوْ تُسَوَّىٰ بِهِمُ الْأَرْضُ وَلَا يَكْتُمُونَ  
اللَّهَ حَدِيثًا النَّسَاء 42

On that day those who disbelieved and disobeyed the Messenger (Muhammad SAW) will wish that they were buried in the earth, but they will never be able to hide a single fact from Allah. 4.42

And they are the fuel of hellfire:

وَمَنْ يَعِصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَتَعَدَّ حُدُودَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ نَارًا خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَلَهُ عَذَابٌ  
مُّهِينٌ . النَّسَاء 14

And whosoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad SAW), and transgresses His limits, He will cast him into the Fire, to abide therein; and he shall have a disgraceful torment. 4.14

23 وَمَنْ يَعِصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَإِنَّ لَهُ نَارَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدًا فِيهَا أَبَدًا . الجن

And whosoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, then verily, for him is the Fire of Hell, he shall dwell therein forever. 72.23

We seek refuge in Allaah, the most High from being among the ignorant and careless ones and from the fire of Hell and ask Allaah, the most Exalted to make us from those who obey the Sunnah of His prophet with humbleness, and take it as the source of judgement in all matter of their life.

You must note that so far everything I have mentioned in this explanation is from the Quraan alone, which in itself proves the points I have made concerning the status of the Sunnah and therefore one who criticises or insult the Sunnah, in fact criticises and insult the Quraan.

But anyone who is well aware of the importance of the “Sunnah” also knows many statements of the Prophet of Allaah (may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) such as:

“All of my Ummah will enter Paradise except those who refuse (or reject), so they asked him: O! messenger of Allah, who is the one who refuses? The Prophet said: whoever obeys me will enter paradise and whoever disobeys me he has refused” Reported by Al-Bukhaari.

At-Tirmidhi reported from Abu Rafi` and others that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: “I do not want to see any one of you reclining on his couch and, when he

hears of my instructions or prohibitions, saying 'I don't accept it; we didn't find any such thing in the Book of Allah.'" Abu `Isa (Imaam Tirmidhi) said: This is a good authentic hadith.

And there are more texts of the Quraan and Hadeeth supporting and proving this issue but Insha-Allaah I hope and pray that this much explanation is sufficient to clarify the confusions concerning this issue and will benefit the readers.

It is required of a Muslim to learn what he does not know of his religion and not open his mouth and move his tongue or his pen for something he is not clear about, rather he should try to learn more or ask someone who knows as Allaah the Exalted orders us:

فَاسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الدِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ النحل 43

So ask of those who know the Scripture if you know not. 16.43

This is why we know that this religion is conveyed through scholars who are the heirs of the Prophet of Allaah. Allaah praises the scholars:

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

خَيْرٌ. المجادلة 11

But at the same time we are not to become like those who turn their scholars into their godes:

اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ وَرُهْبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ وَالْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا أُمِرُوا

إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا لَأِلهَ إِلَّا هُوَ سُبْحَانَهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ . التوبة 31

*They (Jews and Christians) took their rabbis and their monks to be their lords besides Allāh (by obeying them in things which they made lawful or unlawful according to their own desires without being ordered by Allāh), and (they also took as their Lord) Messiah, son of Maryam (Mary), while they (Jews and Christians) were commanded [in the Taurāt (Torah) and the Injīl (Gospel)] to worship none but One Ilāh (God Ū Allāh) Lā ilāha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He). Praise and glory be to Him (far above is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him)." 9.31*

So we fulfil our obligation by learning the book of Allaah and the authentic Sunnah of the Prophet of Allaah through trustworthy scholars, asking Allaah at the same time to make this matter easy for us and ask Him to give us knowledge which is beneficial, provision which is pure and deeds which are accepted (free of showing off).

May Allaah Subhanahu-wa-Ta'alaah forgive me for any mistake I have made in this writing, help and guide us to do all that He is pleased with and his Peace and blessings be upon His last Prophet Muhammad.

