

Dealing with Unjust Criticism and Unjust Praise

Explained by Shaykh Abdur Razzaq Al Badr

Summarized points

حَدَّثَنَا هِشَامُ بْنُ عَمَّارٍ ، قَالَ : حَدَّثَنَا رُدَيْحُ بْنُ عَطِيَّةَ ، قَالَ : حَدَّثَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بْنُ أَبِي عُبَيْلَةَ ، عَنْ أُمِّ الدَّرْدَاءِ ، " أَنَّ رَجُلًا أَتَاهَا ، فَقَالَ : إِنَّ رَجُلًا نَالَ مِنْكَ عِنْدَ عَبْدِ الْمَلِكِ ، فَقَالَتْ : إِنَّ نُؤْبَانَ بِمَا لَيْسَ فِيْنَا ، فَطَالَمَا زُكِّيْنَا بِمَا لَيْسَ فِيْنَا

A man said to Umm Darda: "Indeed a man has criticized you in front of Abdul Malik". She replied: "If we are criticized for faults which we don't possess, then how often have we been praised for qualities we don't possess!?"

- ❖ A man informed Umm Darda that a man was insulting her in front of Abdul Malik ibn Marwan. Thus she responded by saying: "If we are criticized for faults which we don't possess, then how often have we been praised for qualities we don't possess!?" This is from her incredible understanding.
- ❖ It is from the signs of a person's sincerity and truthfulness with Allah that they view praise and criticism the same. If the people criticize him or praise him, it is all the same to him, they are both on the same level to him. He is not concerned with the praise of those who praise him, or the criticism of those who criticize him.
- ✚ If the people's praise contradicts reality, their praise will not increase his status with Allah. Likewise if the people criticism contradicts reality, their criticism will not diminish his status with Allah. Consequently their main concern is the pleasure of Allah and seeking His reward. Thus they pay no attention to the praise or the criticism.
- ✚ It is from the weak sincerity of a person if he is praised with a quality that he does not possess, what does he do? He becomes happy and delighted and perhaps he requests more praise. Although he is being praised for qualities he does not possess.
- ✚ If he is criticized for faults which are present in him, he becomes upset and sad.