

The Companions asked about that which was beneficial

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

With regards to the eagerness of the Companions to ask about that which would benefit the people, the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ states:

The third benefit (of the hadeeth number seven in an-Nawawee's forty ahaadeeth):

The eagerness of the Companions (رضي الله عنهم)² for knowledge and that they did not leave anything, which the people needed to understand, except that they (the Companions (رضي الله عنهم)) asked about it.

And from that is when the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)³ mentioned the Dajjaal would remain upon the Earth for forty days, the first day being like a year. They (the Companions) said:

“O Messenger of Allaah, this day which will appear like a year; will a single prayer in it be sufficient for us?”

So they asked. And a ramification of that is: that those matters of the religion which the Companions (رضي الله عنهم) did not ask about, then we do not ask about them (either) – especially with regards to that connected to the Names of Allaah and His Attributes.

And for this reason Imaam Maalik (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) considered the person who asks about the kayfiyyah of Allaah's istiwa (how He ascended upon the Throne) to be an innovator because he had innovated a question which the Companions (رضي الله عنهم) did not ask about.

(Sharh al Arba'een an Nawawee (p123) of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ))

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (رضي الله عنهم) (rad iyallahu 'anhum) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with them

³ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him