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## Advice to students of knowledge

Translated by Raha ibn Donald Batts

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

**Question:** Noble Shaykh, may Allaah give you success. The questioner says: A statement was issued a few days ago by the Center for Religious Verdicts (Daar al-Iftaa) criticising splitting and differing. He says: Some are preoccupied with it, and applying the speech in a general manner, saying it is not permissible to refute the opposer, ever, nor to refute the innovator.

**Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan** (حفظه الله)<sup>1</sup>: There is nothing in the statement to imply this. There is not—within the statement—anything in to imply that one is not to refute the opposer or to clarify the truth from falsehood. This is a lie regarding the statement. The statement was (merely) advice to the students of knowledge to abandon bickering between themselves and abandonment of each other, as well as enmity between themselves due to trivial issues or misunderstandings; and for them to mutually advise one another. This is the intent behind the statement. As for them interpreting it upon their desires then they will be asked about this. The statement is clear and does not have any ambiguity within it. Many people interpret the Speech of Allaah based upon their desires and explain it away based upon that which they intend; so this is not something unique to the statement. The person of falsehood follows behind his falsehood and seeks that which will aid his falsehood, even if it is a lie upon the people, or the Qur’aan, or upon the scholars.

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<sup>1</sup> (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him