

Are scholars in latter days better than some Companions?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

The following is a summary translation.

Question: May Allaah grant you good. O noble Shaykh, there are those who say, perhaps you will find in latter days, individuals who are better than the Companions although the Companions are better collectively. And they use the example of some of the Bedouin Companions. And they say perhaps you will find in latter days some scholars and those devoted to worship who are better than some of them. Thus what is your view concerning this statement?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: This speech is false. There are none better than the Companions, those who saw the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)². They achieved what those after them will never achieve even if they are from the scholars and the worshippers; because they never saw the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). Thus there are none better than the Companions. Therefore this speech is not permissible; ever.

When the people asked some of the Salaf: 'Who is better Umar ibn Abdul Azeez or Mu'aawiyah ibn Abee Sufyyaan? They responded by saying: The dust which entered the nose of Mu'aawiyah while he was with the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is better than Umar ibn Abdul Azeez. The dust only; this is because no one will equal the Companions; ever.

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him