

## Dangers of Excess and Immoderation

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Moderation is very difficult. Prophets of Allah had moderation in the highest degree.

It is possible that some fifty years from now some slaves of Allah are born, gifted with foresightedness and are totally devoted to Allah. They may bring about changes in the methods of the propagation of Allah's message according to the changing needs of the time. If some group started opposing that system only on the basis that their predecessors had been following certain other methods, it would be a wrong attitude and their insistence would be sheer obstinacy.

We already feel that a certain section of our people have started thinking that theirs is the only way and theirs is the sole method of serving Allah's "*Deen*" valid for all times, all places and all circumstances and that if this certain method is not adhered to every effort will be a mere waste of time and energy. This immoderation and this attitude are dangerous. It is this way of thinking that has given rise to many different sects.

The basic fact is only this that we have reached so far on a certain path as a result of our deliberations and our experiences and we have found them useful. Therefore we should continue to adhere to those methods so long as they are useful. But if any one method seems to acquire the sanctity of tradition it will become a religion its own right and will introduce an innovation (*bidah*) in religion and create a schism in Muslim society. In that situation it will be the duty of true reformers to put in their best endeavours to wipe such innovations off Muslim society.

Many movements have been started with good intentions and with pious prudence but have later taken a wrong turn. It is in such cases that to draw a clear line of distinction between fact and tradition, between "*sunnah*" and innovation (*bidah*), between duty and what is permissible, is the work of experts in Islamic jurisprudence.

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