

Lessons from the life of Umar bin Abdil Aziz Rahimahullah - The way taught by Shariah is sufficient and cannot be changed

Yahya Al-Ghassaani Rahimahullah said: "When Umar ibn Abdil Aziz Rahimahullah appointed me as the governor of Mosul, and I arrived there, I found it to have a very high rate of theft and burglary.

I wrote to Umar ibn Abdil Aziz Rahimahullah informing him of the prevailing conditions, asking him: "(Due to the circumstances here), should I take the people to task based on mere suspicion and punish them based on allegations or should I only punish them once proper proof has been established as is taught in the Sunnah?"

(Note: In Shari' law, very stringent proof is required to punish a person for theft. Yahya Rahimahullah thought to himself that if he were to follow such stringent procedures, it would take a very long time to bring about law and order. Given the circumstances, it may be easier to circumvent some of the procedure and punish people on mere suspicion of theft)

Umar Rahimahullah replied: "Only take them to task once proof has been established as taught in the Sunnah. If the correct way isn't enough to rectify them, then may Allah never rectify them! (In other words, if following the procedure taught in Shariah isn't going to rectify them, then nothing else will).

Yahya Rahimahullah says: "I did exactly as he advised and by the time I left Mosul, it was the best of places with the lowest rate of theft and burglary!"

Taareekh Al-Khulafaa (pg. 237)

