

Complex Ignorant

A poem by Shaykh Muḥammad al-Yaqoubi

Written originally in Arabic and translated by the poet

The Calamity of this time is in an ignorant
Who claims knowledge undeterred

He has read a book after which he imagined
That he became the undisputed Mujtahid of the his time

He thinks that knowledge is what he only knows
and tell to his listeners

He is unaware of how much he does not know
As he feels like a satiated person

He claims knowledge of what he does not know
He lies making up unswears like maker of hadith

His ignorance is compound but
evident as he looks like a lamer

He may deceive people by what he tells
But eventually they all discover his real state

He slanders learned people out of animosity
Using every vulgar swear word

He sit in the front of every gathering
But he should be sitting out of the corridor in the street

Even though he does not know grammar,
He unrestrictedly interprets verses of the Qurʾān

He deduces legal rulings without being qualified
like a man wandering off in the darkness

If you ever come across such a person
Never be intimidated or frightened

Just ask him a question in grammar
From subjects such as "the Followed and the Follower"

And about legal compensation in fiqh
of various injuries such as cutting off the nose

And about lifetime leasing of properties
And the likes of such common subjects

Then, there will appear to the people around you
The level of his blatant ignorance

The embarrassment will cause his face
To become pale, dark and yellowish

You may then stand up without fear
To slap him on face in front of people

There are people of Knowledge who are qualified
Everyone of them has an awe-inspiring figure

Everyone admits that he is ignorant
When he is like a vast ocean of knowledge

Due to his silence, you think that such a scholar is ignorant
But he is always like a steady mountain

The moment you ask him a difficult question
You hear the clearest and most interesting answer

Knowledge that increase you of
Arrogance will never be fruitful

Knowledge is light; its gleam
Shines on the faces of people who prostrate and kneel

Faces of scholars who are erudite and proofs
With deep knowledge and courage to speak it up

Light will not be obtained from letters
in lines of printed books

If you wish to become a scholar
And teach in the central mosque

Then pick up the treasures of knowledge
from a qualified person
And accompany him with eagerness

He will grant you knowledge without much efforts
while he has a lowered gaze an eye shedding tears

Knowledge is light that al-Mustafa spread
Then, the companion conveyed to the follower

If you ever attempt to seek knowledge
Be a man of cautiousness and conscience

The people who benefit most of it are
Those who have taqwa of the Al-Wahib al-Wasi'

Those who always guard Allāh
And do not maintain a state of transgression like sinners

Knowledge will consequently loos you to inherit
Access to the vast world of the unseen

Knowledge is a guide in the heart
A distinguishing light that shines and glitters

With it you see things in their realities
Without the deceptions or illusions