

With regards to the student of knowledge not giving an impression that he has more knowledge than he actually has, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah* comments on the statement of 'Umar ibn al Khattaab *radi Allaahu 'anhu*:

"Whoever adorns himself with that which he does not possess, then Allaah will disgrace him."

Allaahu akbar! This is the reality – when a person gives himself the adornment of being “a student of knowledge” and he begins to hit two mountains against each other¹ and (when) everyone comes to him asking him about issues of knowledge, he rolls up his sleeves and says, “I am the person to (answer) this; this is *halaal*², and this is *waajib*³, and this is *fard kifaayah*⁴ and this is *fard 'ayn*⁵; this is conditional upon such-and-such, this does not have any preconditions”; and he begins to speak in detail and speak in general terms.

However a lesser student of knowledge comes to him and says “Tell us about such-and-such”; so then Allaah exposes him⁶ and makes it clear that he is not a scholar.

And likewise the person who gives himself the adornment of worship, making apparent to the people that he is a person given to much worship – then it is a must that Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, will expose him. It is inevitable that he will be uncovered.

May Allaah protect us and you from *ar riyaa*.⁷ – *aameen*.

(*Sharh hilyah taalib il 'ilm* p35 of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah*)

¹ i.e. enter into discussing matters of importance when it is unbecoming for him to do so

² Permissible according to the Sharee'ah

³ Obligatory according to the Sharee'ah

⁴ A communal obligation according to the Sharee'ah

⁵ An obligation on the individual according to the Sharee'ah

⁶ By rendering the “senior” student of knowledge incapable of answering the question asked of him

⁷ Doing acts of worship for showing off to the people