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The Grand Muftee

Soldier shaving his beard when commanded

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بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: What is the ruling on a soldier shaving his beard when commanded?

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)[1]: It is not permissible to shave the beard or trim it, for the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, [**Trim closely the moustache and let the beard grow! Be distinguished from the Mushriks (those who associate others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship).**"] He (peace be upon him) also said, [**Trim closely the moustache and let the beard grow! Be distinguished from the magi.**] Moreover, it is the duty of a Muslim to obey the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) in every matter. Allaah (Glorified be He) says: [**O you who believe! Obey Allaah and obey the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), and those of you (Muslims) who are in authority.**] Those in authority refer to rulers and Muslim scholars who must be obeyed unless their command contradicts Sharee'ah (Islamic law). In this case, it is not obligatory to obey them.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, ["**Truly, obedience is only in what is good.**"] Further, he (peace be upon him) said, ["**There is no obedience to a creature in matters related to disobedience to the Creator.**"] All praise be to Allaah, our government does not command a soldier or anyone to shave their beard, this may be the order of some officials. They are not to be obeyed in this regard and they should be addressed politely until they understand that obeying Allaah (Exalted be He) and His Messenger (peace be upon him) takes precedence over obeying anyone else.

[1] (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him