



Performing prayers behind Tafdilis

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Question

It is the unanimous belief of Ahlu's Sunnah wa'l Jama'ah that Sayyidina Abu Bakr al-Siddiq radiyAllahu 'anhu is the best of men after the Prophets 'alaihim assalam. Zayd and Khalid are both Sayyids. Zayd says that whoever gives precedence to Ali radiyAllahu 'anhu over Abu Bakr Siddiq radiyAllahu 'anhu; Salah behind such a person is Makruh. Khalid says that I openly proclaim that Ali radiyAllahu 'anhu has precedence over Abu Bakr Siddiq radiyAllahu 'anhu and every Sayyid is Tafdili and Salah behind Tafdilis is not Makruh. Moreover, whoever says that Salah behind Tafdilis is Makruh; then Salah behind such a person is itself Makruh.

Answer

There is a consensus of all Ahlu's Sunnah that Siddiq Akbar and Faruq A'adham radiyAllahu 'anhuma are greater than Mawla Ali karramAllahu ta'ala wajhahu'l karim. It has been explained by the Imams that whoever gives precedence to Mawla Ali upon these two is an innovator and heretic and Salah behind such a person is Makruh. *Fatawa Khulasa*, *Fath al-Qadir*, *Bahr al-Ra'iq* and *Fatawa Alamgiri* and many other books have it: Inna fadla 'Aliyyan 'alaihima famubtadi' [If someone gives precedence to Ali over Siddiq and Faruq, he is a Mubtadi]. It is in *Ghunya* and *Radd al-Muhtar*: Salah behind a heretic is Makruh in all cases. It is in *Arkan Arba'a*: Salah behind Tafdili Shi'a is strongly prohibited. Strongly prohibited means Makruh Tahrimi; performing it is a sin and it is Wajib to repeat. And Allah ta'ala knows best.