



THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Ḥazrat Allamah Anwar Shah Kashmiri (rahimahullah) was a **world-renowned Aalim** of the last century. His knowledge was so vast that he was described as a **walking library**. His student, Maulana Aḥmad Riḍa Bijnori (rahimahullah), writes regarding his esteemed Ustadh:

“In my opinion, there was no book in the libraries of India and the Ḥaramain Shareefain, whether still in manuscript form or already published, that Shah Ṣaḥib had not studied. However, **despite his immense knowledge**, and **extensive research**, he would never allow himself to **digress from the way of the Salaf (pious predecessors), even in the smallest of masaa’il**.

When I studied the proofs presented by Allamah Ṭanṭawi—an Egyptian Aalim—regarding the **permissibility of photos**, which were put forward in a **very captivating and persuasive manner**, I was confident that **after examining them, Hazrat Shah Sahib would indicate towards permissibility**, even if only the slightest degree of permissibility could be extracted from it.

However, **what was Shah Sahib’s response?** He gave only one answer:

“This does not conform to the verdict of our senior Ulama.”

The value of this statement can **never be adequately explained**. Nearly **twenty-eight years have passed** since this discussion took place, yet whenever **I recall this statement**, I find myself asking: What did Ḥazrat say?

Be that as it may, **Hazrat’s response** was most **comprehensive, decisive, and all-encompassing**. It is impossible to fully express appreciation for this statement, for it not only answered my question, but also **served as a guiding principle**: that whenever one is **faced with any such perplexity in a masalah**, **one should simply ask oneself: “What was the opinion of our senior Ulama?”** (Malfoozat-e-Kashmiri, pp. 41–42)

