

### Meaning

الْجَاهِلِيَّةُ: الْحَالُ الَّتِي كَانَتْ عَلَيْهِ الْعَرَبُ قَبْلَ الْإِسْلَامِ

**It is the condition the Arabs were in prior to Islaam.**

### Explanation

Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan

*Jaahiliyyah* - it is the condition which the Arabs were in prior to Islaam, by way of ignorance of Allaah and His Messengers and of the Revealed Laws of the Religion - and boasting about lineage, and pride and behaving in a haughty manner, and other than that.

(It is named *jaahiliyyah*) as an ascription to *al jahl* (ignorance) which is: lack of knowledge or a lack of following knowledge.

(After quoting some speech from Shaykh ul Islaam ibn Taymiyaah *rahimahullaah* about this, the Shaykh states):

So a summary of that is that *jaahiliyyah* is an ascription to *al jahl* (ignorance), which is lack of knowledge, and it is divided into two categories:

i) general *jaahiliyyah* - and it is that which was before the sending of the Messenger, Muhammad *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*; and it came to an end with his being raised (as a messenger)

ii) specific *jaahiliyyah* - (occurring) in some nations and some countries and (in) some people. And this will not cease to remain.

And through this, the error of those who try to make *jaahiliyyah* general in this time becomes clear; so they say "the *jaahiliyyah* of this century" or "the *jaahiliyyah* of the twentieth century" and the like of that.

And what is correct is that it be said:

"the *jaahiliyyah* of some of the people of this century" or "of most of the people of this century".

As for making it universal, then this is not correct and it is not permissible because the general *jaahiliyyah* finished with the raising of the Prophet *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*.

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### **Taken from**

*Aqeedatut Tawheed* of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan, page 90

Translator Nasser ibn Najam - words in brackets and footnotes are the translator's