Imam Jafar al-Sadiq on using deductions and analogies to ascertain religious truth

by NANOWISDOMS ARCHIVE

"People, who believe in speculation, search for knowledge on the basis of speculations and surmises. These speculations and surmises only take them further away from the truth. The Religion of God has nothing to do with surmises."

-- Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (p)

Usul al-Kafi, Book 2, Chapter 19, Tradition 7

"Abu Hanifa (an Islamic jurist of the Sunni sect) came to see Imam Jafar as-Sadiq (p).

Imam Jafar as-Sadiq (p): Abu Hanifa, I gather that you deduce (religious matters) on the basis of analogies.

Abu Hanifa: Yes.

The Imam (p) advised him: Never do that. The first one who did that was Satan, when he said: 'O God! You have created me from fire and Adam from clay' (Q, 7:12). He compared fire with clay on the basis of guesswork. If he had compared the elegance and quintessence of Adam with the elegance and quintessence of fire, he would have realized which one was superior."

-- Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (p)

Usul al-Kafi, Book 2, Chapter 19, Tradition 20

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