Wisdom: The Qur'an, Prophet and Imams on speculations, deductions and analogies vs guidance from 'custodians of knowledge'

"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

"One who bases his mind on conjectures will always remain in ambiguity and one who bases the Religion of God on his guesswork will always remain in doubt."

Hazrat Ali
Usul al Kafi, Book 2, Chapter 19, Tradition 17

"Sleeping with certainty is better than praying with doubt."

Hazrat Ali
Justice and Remembrance, IIS, pp 50

"Beware of treating anything as permissible without due knowledge."

Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (p)
Usul al Kafi, Book 2, Chapter 11, Tradition 2

"Most of them follow not but conjecture. Assuredly conjecture can by no means take the place of Truth."

Qur’an 10:36
"A little truth repels much falsehood, just as a little fire burns a lot of wood."

Hazrat Ali
Maxims of Ali

"Whoever acts on the basis of faulty conclusions (in religious matters) is doomed and brings others to their doom and whoever issues a prescript (an edict) without any knowledge of the abrogated verses (of the Noble Qur'an) and of those verses that have abrogated them and without any knowledge of those verses which are precise in meaning and of (those that are) ambiguous, meets his doom and brings others to their doom."

The Prophet (pbuh)
Usul al-Kafi, Book 2, Chapter 11, Tradition 9

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

"Beware of commenting on a fact that you do not know to the bottom, and with exactitude. Your speaking reflects your intelligence and your words the extent of your knowledge."

Hazrat Ali
Maxims of Ali

"Speak only about what you know. Regarding what you do not know say 'God knows best'. Verily, a person may single out any verse from the Noble Qur'an (and interpret it wrongly) and may fall down deeper than the distance between the Heaven and the Earth."

Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (p)
Usul al Kafi, Book 2, Chapter 11, Tradition 4

"[T]he one who has no knowledge of religious jurisprudence will have to depend on others and the one who depends on others will be led by them through the gates of ignorance and the members of our community will remain unaware of this misguidance."

Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (p)
Usul al Kafi, Book 2, Chapter 2, Tradition 6

"Attain knowledge, therefore, from those who are the custodians of knowledge and impart this knowledge to your brothers like the learned scholars have imparted it to you."

Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (p)
Usul al Kafi, Book 2, Chapter 4, Tradition 2

"To devote oneself to the religious life without being taught is to resemble the mill-donkey going round and round without moving from the place."

Hazrat Ali
Africa Ismaili, December 1977

"To listen to the words of the learned and to instil into others the lessons of science is better than religious exercises."

The Prophet (pbuh)
Marmaduke Pickthall, 1927 Madras Lecture on Islamic Culture, Africa Ismaili, 9 May 1969, pp 9
"Correctness of opinion goes along with changes of the times; it comes with them and goes with them."

Hazrat Ali
Living and Dying with Grace, Counsels of Hadrat Ali, Thomas Cleary, pp 53

"The speech of pundits is therapeutic if what they say is correct, but it is unhealthy if what they say is mistaken."

Hazrat Ali
Living and Dying with Grace, Counsels of Hadrat Ali, Thomas Cleary, pp 46

"When two biddings differ, one of them is misleading. | When answers compete, correctness is concealed."

Hazrat Ali
Living and Dying with Grace, Counsels of Hadrat Ali, Thomas Cleary, pp 33

"The suppositions of a wise man is nearer being right than an ignoramus' knowledge."

Hazrat Ali
Maxims of Ali

"Use your intellect to understand something when you hear about it -- the intellect that examines, that is, and not just the intellect that repeats what it hears, for surely there are many who repeat the knowledge that they hear, and there are few who examine it."

Hazrat Ali

"If interpretation is well founded and based on good observation, it can then be used as logic."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2001 Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Awards' Dinner address (London, United Kingdom)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/5911/
"The man most secure in his knowledge is he whose convictions are not weakened by doubt."

Hazrat Ali
Maxims of Ali

"Unification means you do not entertain any imagination about God and justice that you do not entertain any suspicions about God."

Hazrat Ali
Living and Dying with Grace, Counsels of Hadrat Ali, Thomas Cleary, pp 107

"A judgment on a trust made on the basis of supposition is not just."

Hazrat Ali
Living and Dying with Grace, Counsels of Hadrat Ali, Thomas Cleary, pp 41

"If the intellect is given free rein, and if it is not imprisoned by the desires of the self or by religious customs or by partisanship, then it will lead the one who possesses it to salvation."

Hazrat Ali

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