

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُوا
الْأَلْبَابِ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ : فَضْلُ الْعِلْمِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ فَضْلِ الْعِبَادَةِ

Respected Believers!

Knowledge is one of the most precious treasures that Allah the Almighty has bestowed upon His servants. Knowledge is a light; it is an inexhaustible capital, a guide that leads a Muslim to the truth. Faith without knowledge is incomplete; for a person cannot love what he does not know, cannot understand it, and cannot act upon it.

Our Exalted Lord says in the Noble Qur'an: **'Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding.'** (Az-Zumar, 9)

Our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"The sin of a knowledgeable person is one, while the sin of an ignorant person is two-fold." It was asked, "Why is that O Messenger of Allah?" Our Prophet replied: "The knowledgeable person is punished for the sin he commits; the ignorant person is punished both for the sin he commits and for abandoning knowledge."** (Daylami)

Respected Brothers!

Human beings are created with the ability to distinguish right from wrong, beauty from ugliness. Happiness in this world and the hereafter can only be preserved through knowledge. Indeed, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) emphasized the importance of knowledge by saying: **"Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim, male and female."** (Ibn Majah)

This is because, before every obligatory act of worship, it is obligatory to learn the knowledge pertaining to that worship. There are many deeds that are rendered worthless due to ignorance. Our religion has prohibited ignorance and made knowledge obligatory. Our scholars have said: **"Knowledge without action is a burden; and worship without knowledge leads a person astray, eventually making them a plaything of Satan."**

Respected Muslims!

Our Lord's first command was **"Read!"** Furthermore, our Lord says: **"Do not be among the ignorant."** (Al-

An'am, 35) **"Turn away from the ignorant."** (Al-A'râf, 199) **"Are those who know equal to those who do not know?"** (Az-Zumar, 9) **"Say, 'Is the blind equivalent to the seeing? Then will you not give thought?'"** (Al-An'am, 50)

Thus, He has forbidden ignorance and encouraged people to question, research, and pursue knowledge.

Our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"One hour spent in learning or teaching knowledge is more virtuous than worshipping throughout the night until dawn."** (Kanz al-Ummal)

Respected Muslims!

Knowledge is learned from qualified scholars and their books. Our Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"Indeed, Allah does not take away knowledge by snatching it away from the people, but He takes away knowledge by taking away the scholars. When no scholar remains, people will take the ignorant as their leaders. They will be asked and will give religious verdicts without knowledge. Thus, they will go astray and lead others astray."** (Bukhari)

Respected Brothers!

Every Muslim is obliged to learn their religious essentials, which include matters of creed, worship, and morality. For our Lord has said: **"So ask the people of knowledge if you do not know."** (An-Nahl, 43)

As Imam al-Shafi'i (may Allah have mercy on him) said, "Saying 'I do not know' is half of knowledge." We must run on the path of knowledge throughout our lives and continue learning with humility. To stop learning and become self-satisfied is to approach the edge of the abyss of ignorance and misguidance.

I conclude my khutbah with a noble hadith: **"Among the signs of the Hour is that knowledge will be taken away, ignorance will become widespread, illicit sexual intercourse will increase, women will become numerous and men will become few, until there will be one man for every fifty women."** (Bukhari)