

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَفَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ وَأَصْلَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عِلْمٍ وَخَتَمَ عَلَى سَمْعِهِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَجَعَلَ
عَلَى بَصَرِهِ غِشَاوَةً فَمَنْ يَهْدِيهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ : أَعْدَى عَدُوِّكَ نَفْسُكَ الَّتِي بَيْنَ جَنْبَيْكَ

Hawa is a person's excessive attachment to his carnal desires, love of this world, and egotistical wants. Whoever follows whims tramples upon the truth, forgets justice, and lives in pursuit of his lust and interest. Such a person recognizes no measure other than his own nafs' benefit.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: **"There are three things that lead a person to destruction: miserliness that is obeyed, whims that are followed, and a person's self-admiration."** (Bayhaqi, Shu'ab al-Iman)

Therefore, we must break the modern idols of the end times and the false deities established within ourselves, just as Ibrahim (peace be upon him) broke the idols. Just as the Prophet (peace be upon him) destroyed the idols in the Kaaba, we too must, under the guidance of a perfect spiritual mentor (kamil murshid), demolish the idols of whims in our hearts one by one through knowledge, remembrance of Allah (dhikr), opposing the nafs, and worship.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: **"The true fighter (mujahid) is the one who strives against the whims of his own nafs."** (Ibn Hibban, Sahih, 4762)

Let us not forget that the struggle against the nafs is the greatest struggle, being an individual obligation (fard al-ayn).

I conclude my khutbah with the warning of our Lord, the Almighty and Glorious: **"Indeed, the Hour is coming. But I have kept its time hidden, so that every soul may be recompensed for what it strives for. So do not let the one who disbelieves in it and follows his own whim turn you away from it, lest you be destroyed."** (Ta-Ha, 20:15-16)

Respected Believers!

Hawa (whims and caprice) means a person's intellect and faith being suppressed as he follows his carnal desires and fleeting worldly wants. Hawa is the false desires and wishes of the nafs (the inner-self) that lead a person astray from the truth. The topic of today's khutbah is the harms of following the whims of the nafs.

The Almighty Lord states: **"Have you seen the one who takes his own desire as his god, and Allah, knowing [him as such], leaves him astray and seals his hearing and his heart and puts over his vision a veil? So who will guide him after Allah? Then will you not be reminded?"** (Al-Jathiyah, 45:23)

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: **"The intelligent person is the one who calls himself to account and works for what comes after death. The sinful person is the one who lets his nafs follow its whims and indulges in wishful thinking about Allah."** (Tirmidhi, Qiyamah, 25)

Whims and desires are hidden idols that destroy a person, veil hearts from the truth, and enslave souls. The one who worships his carnal desires darkens his heart with love of this world, and eventually becomes unable to hear the truth or see reality.

Mawlana Jalal al-Din Rumi (may Allah have mercy on him) said: **"Do not make the whims of your nafs into an idol! For worshipping it is lower than worshipping a stone."**

Respected Assembly!

Throughout history, oppressive tyrants produced false deities like Lat, Manat, and Uzza to legitimize their own interests and carnal desires, dragging people into falsehood. Today, the Abu Jahls of our era have deified concepts such as scientism, modernity, fashion, and social media, corrupting human nature and eroding our youth and family structure.

Let us know that an idol is not just a stone or a statue. There are many invisible idols erected in hearts and minds!

Hasan al-Basri (may Allah have mercy on him) warns us: **"A step that begins with following whims leads a person to an unfathomable abyss."**

Dear Brothers and Sisters!