

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْجَاهِلِينَ

وقال النبي ﷺ : اُغْدُ عَالِمًا , أَوْ مَتَعَلِّمًا أَوْ مُسْتَمِعًا أَوْ مُجِبًّا , وَلَا تَكُنِ

الْخَامِسَ فَتَهْلِكَ

Dear Believers!

The topic of today's khutbah will be ignorance—one of the greatest dangers to humanity—and the grave harm it causes.

Ignorance, whether religious or worldly, means lacking adequate knowledge about a subject or holding incorrect, false, and truth-contradicting beliefs regarding it. In short, everything opposed to knowledge, wisdom, and manners is ignorance. For this reason, it is incumbent upon a person to learn what they do not know.

The Noble Qur'an and the Ahadith frequently mention the harms of ignorance, and believers have been repeatedly warned to free themselves from the darkness of ignorance in both their religious and worldly affairs.

Our Almighty Lord states in a noble verse: ***“Indeed, We offered the Trust to the heavens, the earth, and the mountains, yet they refused to undertake it and were afraid of it. But mankind undertook it—indeed, he is ever unjust and ignorant.”*** (Al-Ahzab, 33:72)

Dear Congregation!

It would be incomplete to view ignorance merely as the opposite of knowledge. For every state and word that opposes the Divine Law, manners, wisdom, and innate human nature is also ignorance. Along with a lack of knowledge, traits such as envy, arrogance, anger, lust, and hatred are forms of spiritual ignorance.

Valuable Muslims!

Ignorance is of two types: Simple Ignorance (Jahl al-Basīṭ): This refers to a person who is aware of their lack of knowledge and accepts it. Such a person is obliged to seek and learn the truth.

Compounded Ignorance (Jahl al-Murakkab): This refers to a person who is unaware of their ignorance and even assumes they know despite having no knowledge. This condition is a disease that prevents one from realizing their need for knowledge, wisdom, and manners. Such a person makes no effort to improve themselves, and sometimes, even when aware of the

truth, they prefer ignorance over truth due to selfish interests.

Our Lord states in a noble verse: ***“When they hear vain talk, they turn away from it and say, ‘We have our deeds, and you have your deeds. Peace be upon you! We do not seek the way of the ignorant.’”*** (Al-Qasas, 28:55)

Dear Brothers!

Ignorance is a calamity that casts a veil over the heart and darkness over the soul. A self-distanced from knowledge and manners cannot distinguish right from wrong, is dragged by whims, and falls into confusion in this world and ruin in the Hereafter. When ignorance spreads in a society, justice weakens, compassion decreases, discord and chaos multiply, and trust and unity collapse. Spiritually, ignorance is like a hidden fire that darkens the heart, traps a person in the snares of falsehood, enslaves them to their ego, and destroys both worldly and Hereafter peace.

Let us not forget that the most effective way to overcome ignorance is education. As families, educational institutions, and a society, we must first enlighten ourselves, then our descendants, with knowledge, manners, and wisdom.

I conclude my khutbah with a noble Hadith: ***“Be a scholar, or a student, or a listener, or a lover of knowledge, but do not be the fifth, lest you be destroyed.”*** (Tabarani)