

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَمَكَرُوا وَمَكَرَ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَاكِرِينَ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ : أَرْبَعٌ مَنْ كُنَّ فِيهِ كَانَ مُتَأَفِّفًا خَالِصًا، وَمَنْ كَانَتْ فِيهِ
خَصْلَةٌ مِنْهُنَّ كَانَتْ فِيهِ خَصْلَةٌ مِنَ النِّفَاقِ حَتَّى يَدْعَوْهَا: إِذَا أُوْتِمِنَ حَانَ،
وَإِذَا حَدَّثَ كَذَبَ، وَإِذَا عَاهَدَ غَدَرَ، وَإِذَا خَاصَمَ فَجَرَ.

Respected Muslims!

The topic of today's khutbah will be: The Bond of Brotherhood and the Responsibility of a Believer Towards Another Believer.

Islam is a religion that turns those who believe towards the same Qibla, and it is also a system of mercy that unites hearts through the bond of brotherhood. For this reason, one of the gravest sins unbefitting a believer is to engage in actions that weaken another believing brother or sister, to work against them, or to harm the brotherhood through discord, secret plots, and traps. The hallmark of a believer is loyalty and trustworthiness. Trying to harm a believing brother for the sake of one's own ego leads to disgrace in this world and a severe reckoning and painful torment in the Hereafter.

One of the clearest measures for preserving the rights of brotherhood is the following noble hadith of the Prophet ﷺ: **"A Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand other Muslims are safe."** (Bukhari)

In verses 204 and 205 of Surah Al-Baqarah, our Lord informs us that discord (fitnah) can sometimes be presented under the guise of "fine speech" and "reform." He tells us that many souls, whose speech appears pleasant and sincere to people, when given the opportunity and power, will turn to spreading corruption and discord among people and Muslims. Our Lord, the Almighty and Glorious, has forbidden corruption and clearly stated, **"And Allah does not like corruption."**

The inner-self, which is called '*nafs*', and shaitan sometimes adorn working against the interest of a believing brother as "religion" or "a cause," but the reality of the matter harbors self-interest, hatred, envy, revenge, corruption, and hypocrisy. Precisely at this point, in the Noble Qur'an, our Lord, the Almighty and Glorious, says to us: **"When it is said to them, 'Do not cause corruption on the earth,' they say, 'We are but reformers.' Unquestionably, it is they who are the corrupters, but they perceive [it] not."** (Al-Baqarah, 2:11-12)

My brothers and sisters!

This means that the inner-self can present this corruption and discord as "reform," the plots it devises as "service," and the desires of the self as "a cause."

Respected Assembly!

Treachery and corruption are the deeds of wretched, incapable people who are self-serving, cowardly, hungry for status, and driven by hatred, envy, and the pursuit of their own inner-desires, unable to discipline their inner-selves.

Our beloved Muhammed SAW informs us of the characteristics and signs of hypocrites in this noble hadith: **"Whoever possesses the following four characteristics is a complete hypocrite. And whoever possesses one of them possesses a trait of hypocrisy until he abandons it: 1. When entrusted, he betrays. 2. When he speaks, he lies. 3. When he makes a covenant, he proves treacherous and breaks his word. 4. When he quarrels, he transgresses (behave impudently, falsely)."** (Bukhari, Iman)

When a hypocrite quarrels with someone, instead of seeking his right, he attacks; he abandons decency, insults, resorts to lies, slander, and oppression. He wants things to be his, no matter the cost. His only goal and purpose are the naf's pursuit of "self."

My Respected Brothers and Sisters!

Being unable to tolerate the blessing or goodness in the hand of a believer, wishing for that blessing to leave him and come to oneself, is called envy. Secretly harboring enmity and rancor, thinking, "If I can't have it, neither should he; let it burn, let even an infidel have it, but not him," and making many insidious plans, indicates a sick heart and an undisciplined nafs (inner-self). These egotistical traits first rot a person's faith and values from within, then cast them into "Asfala Safilin" (the lowest of the low), meaning depths lower than animals. Whoever ambushes a Muslim's honor, dignity, unity, and peace has sunk into the swamp of hypocrisy and has clothed his soul in the garment of disgrace and baseness.

Brothers and Sisters!

Let us know that every scheme, conspiracy, plot, slander, defamation, gossip, disclosure of secrets, pitting brothers against each other, manipulation, and discord carried out against believers will not go unanswered in the justice of Allah. A servant may neglect, but the Lord of the Worlds does not neglect. Let us not forget: Those who rise through deceit will fall through deceit. The discord of one who seeks to gather power through discord will turn back upon his own head.

Our Lord, the Almighty and Glorious, says in the Noble Qur'an: **"They planned, but Allah also planned. And Allah is the best of planners."** (Al-Anfal, 8:30)

May Allah, the Exalted, protect all believers from the discord and corruption caused by the treacherous, the hypocrites, and the envious. May He unite our hearts in brotherhood. May He protect us from the plots devised against believers.

I conclude my khutbah with a noble hadith:

"A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim. He does not wrong him, nor abandon him, nor despise him. The blood, wealth, and honor of a Muslim are forbidden to [violate by] another Muslim." (Muslim)