بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَّا اَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ اٰمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِنَ الظَّنِّ اِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ اِثْمٌ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَبْ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا اَيُحِبُّ اَحَدُكُمْ اَنْ يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ اَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا اللهَ اِنَّ اللهَ تَوَّابٌ رَحِيمٌ

وقال النبى ﷺ: لَا تَحَاسَـــدُوا وَلَا تَبَاغَضُــوا وَلَا تَقَاطَعُوا وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللهِ إِخْوَانًا

Dear Believers,

Today's khutbah will be about gossip, suspicion, and spying, which our religion strictly forbids. Unfortunately, in our time, immoral acts like prying into others' affairs, gossip, slander, and suspicion have become very common.

My dear brothers,

It is considered a sin to pry into someone's private life or secrets, which is known as spying. Gossip, on the other hand, is to reveal a person's flaws or secrets, whether they are present or absent, through words, writing, gestures, winks, or imitations. If the person being gossiped about feels hurt or displeased by this, then it is considered gossip. Anyone who listens to gossip is also a partner in that sin. If one is unable to silence the gossiper, they should leave the place. If they cannot do that, they should deny it in their heart.

If the flaw or incident being discussed does not exist in that person, then a greater sin than gossip has been committed, which is called slander. Rabbul Alameen says in the Quran: ***"Woe to every backbiter, slanderer"*** (Al-Humaza, 104:1).

To prejudge a person or situation without any knowledge or information and to assume that they are bad is called suspicion. Allah ﷻ says in the Quran: ***" O believers! Avoid many suspicions, ˹for˺ indeed, some suspicions are sinful. And do not spy, nor backbite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of their dead brother? You would despise that! And fear Allah. Surely Allah is ˹the˺ Accepter of Repentance, Most Merciful."*** (Al-Hujurat, 49:12).

Beloved Jama'ah,

Islamic morality is based on respecting the privacy, honor, and dignity of every human being, Muslim or non-Muslim. It is essential to think positively and interact kindly with our Muslim brothers and sisters, our neighbors, and other people. Slandering, belittling, and mocking people based on their character, physical appearance, culture, or beliefs are behaviors that are not befitting of Islamic morality and honor.

My brothers, let us therefore follow the example of our Prophet, peace be upon him, and focus on our own shortcomings and faults so that we don't have time to concern ourselves with the hidden affairs and faults of others.

I will conclude my khutbah with a hadith: ***"Do not envy one another, do not hate one another, and do not sever ties with one another. O servants of Allah, be brothers!"*** (Muslim)