

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِعَصَاهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ إِلَّا تَفْعَلُوهُ تَكُنْ فِتْنَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ وَفَسَادٌ كَبِيرٌ. **صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ**

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: سَتَكُونُ فِتْنٌ يُصْبِحُ الرَّجُلُ فِيهَا مُؤْمِنًا وَيُمْسِي كَافِرًا، إِلَّا مَنْ أَحْيَاهُ اللَّهُ بِالْعِلْمِ. **صَدَقَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ فِي مَا قَالَ أَوْ كَمَا قَالَ.**

Honorable Muslims!

The subject of today's khutbah is fitna (tribulation/strife).

Throughout history, many fitnas have emerged, and the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ informed us that they would continue until the Day of Judgment. These fitnas have extinguished love among Muslims, turned brother against brother, caused bloodshed, and made relatives hostile towards each other. Fitna is such a falsehood that it renders those who succumb to it blind, deaf, and mute. One who falls into the fire of fitna prefers the evil of their own self and the people they support over the good of others. The measure of justice disappears, and personality and self-interest become the criteria.

Rabbul Alameen says in the Holy Quran: **"The disbelievers are allies of one another. If you do not do likewise, there will be great fitna and great corruption on earth."** (Al-Furqan, 55-56)

Fitna appears in various meanings in the Quran and Hadith. The end-of-time fitnas mentioned in the Hadith refer to a conspiracy or any destructive activity that corrupts the unity and integrity of the Ummah, their faith, and their deeds.

The Prophet ﷺ said about fitna: **"After me, there will be fitnas; a person will be a believer in the morning and a disbeliever in the evening, or a believer in the evening and a disbeliever in the morning. Only those whom Allah, the Exalted, keeps alive and alert with knowledge from the disease of ignorance and heedlessness will be saved."** (Ramuz al-Ahadith)

Furthermore, the one who is saved is the one who avoids fitna and shows patience when afflicted by calamity. (Abu Dawud)

Honorable congregation, getting involved in events during times of fitna is forbidden. The first hadith about fitna found in Hadith books states: **"Soon there will be fitnas. At that time, the one who is sitting will be better than the one standing, the one standing will be better than the one walking, and the one walking**

will be better than the one running." In this hadith, the attitudes to be adopted in the face of clashing groups are expressed in a metaphorical style. The continuation of the hadith states: **"He who does not turn his face away from the fitna and tries to observe it will be affected by it. Whoever finds a refuge and a place of protection, let him save himself by taking refuge there."** (Bukhari)

During times of fitna, our Prophet ﷺ advised us to be like the oppressed son of Adam, Habil, not like his oppressor son, Qabil.

Honorable congregation

Any deed, word, or action that stands against the truth, presents truth as falsehood and falsehood as truth, and contradicts the religion of Allah ﷻ is called fitna.

In these days when we feel the breath of the end-of-time fitna on our necks, the duty incumbent upon everyone is to preserve unity, brotherhood, and affection. For it is informed that each new day will continue to come upon us with increasing fitna.

I conclude my khutbah with this verse from our Lord: **"Then tell me, is he who walks falling on his face more rightly guided or he who walks upright on a straight path?"** (Al-Mulk, 22)