

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَفَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ وَأَضَلَّهُ 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

Respected Believers!

Hawā (base desires) is what suppresses a person's intellect and faith, leading them to chase after carnal passions and fleeting worldly cravings. Hawā consists of the false desires and whims of the ego that divert people from the path of truth. Today's khutbah will focus on this idol of Hawā and vain desires.

Dear Brothers

Know that Hawā and vain desires are hidden idols that have destroyed many nations, veiled hearts, and enslaved souls. Whoever worships their selfish desires darkens their heart with love of this world, until they can no longer hear the truth or see reality.

Throughout history, the arrogant disbelievers fabricated false gods like Lāt, Manāt, and 'Uzzā to justify their own interests and selfish desires, leading people astray. Today, the modern-day Abu Jahls deify concepts like scientism, modernity, fashion, and social media, corrupting human nature and eroding our youth and family structure.

Let us not forget—an idol is not merely stone or a statue. There are countless invisible idols erected in hearts and minds!

The Almighty Allah ﷻ says: **"Have you seen 'O Prophet' the one who has taken their own desires as their god? 'And so' Allah left them to stray, despite 'their' knowledge, sealed their hearing and hearts, and placed a cover over their sight. Who then can guide them after Allah 'has done so'? Will you 'all' not then be mindful?"** (Al-Jāthiyah 45:23)

The Prophet ﷺ said: **"The intelligent one is he who holds himself accountable and works for what comes after death. The incompetent is he who follows his desires and indulges in wishful thinking about Allah."** (Tirmidhī, Al-Qiyāmah 25)

"Three things lead a person to ruin: greed that is obeyed, desires that are followed, and a person's admiration for their own self." (Bayhaqī, Shu'ab al-Īmān, 5/346)

Dear Brothers

Hawā is the excessive attachment to carnal desires, love of this world, and selfish whims. Whoever follows Hawā tramples on truth, forgets justice, and lives only for their lusts and personal gain. Such a person no longer recognizes any measure beyond self-interest.

The righteous scholar Hasan al-Baṣrī (raḥimahullāh) warned: *"A single step taken in following Hawā leads a person to an abyss of unknown consequences."*

Imam Ghazālī (raḥimahullāh) said: *"The intellect of one who follows their desires becomes dull, and their heart darkens. Such a person can neither see the truth nor hear the word of guidance."*

Mawlānā Rūmī (raḥimahullāh) said: *"Do not make your ego's desires an idol! For worshipping it is worse than worshipping stone."*

This is why, just as Prophet Ibrāhīm ('alayhissalām) shattered the idols of his time, and just as our Prophet Muhammed Mustafa ﷺ toppled the idols in the Ka'bah, we too must—under the guidance of a perfect spiritual mentor—destroy the idols of Hawā in our hearts through remembrance (dhikr), resisting the nafs, and obeying our Lord.

Yet, this struggle is not easy, for the greatest jihad is the jihad against the inner self.

The Prophet ﷺ said: **"The true mujāhid is the one who wages jihad against his own desires."** (Ibn Hibbān, Ṣaḥīḥ, 4762)

Let us remember: fighting external enemies is a collective obligation (farḍ al-kifāyah), but fighting the naf's desires is an individual obligation (farḍ al-'ayn).

I conclude this khutbah with a warning from our Lord ﷻ: **"The Hour is certainly coming—though I have kept it hidden—so that every soul may be rewarded according to its efforts. Do not let those who disbelieve in it and follow their desires distract you from it, lest you perish!"** (Tāhā 20:15-16)