

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 وَمَنْ يُوقَ شَحَّ نَفْسِهِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ
 وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ الشَّهِيدُ لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ

Honourable Muslims!

The topic of today's khutbah is miserliness and the harms of miserliness. The Almighty Allah has warned those who do not share the blessings bestowed upon them, who do not extend a helping hand to the needy, and who fail to look after their relatives and close ones. Miserliness is a vile, ego-driven disease that constricts the heart, weakens compassion, and loosens the bonds of brotherhood. A miser forgets that the sustenance in his possession is a gift from Allah; he says, "I earned this—why should I give it away?" Whereas sustenance is from Allah, and extending a hand to one in hardship is the duty of a believer.

Dear Believers!

Miserliness is like an illness that disturbs a person at night and suffocates them during the day. For this reason, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "**What illness could be worse than miserliness?**" (Bukhari), thereby pointing to how dangerous it is.

In another noble hadith it is stated: "**Two qualities do not coexist in the heart of a believer: miserliness and bad character.**" (Tirmidhi)

Honourable Muslims!

At times, our Lord tests His servants by placing a needy person before them. The hand that reaches out to one in need is, in truth, reaching out to the pleasure of Allah. Indeed, in sacred (qudsi) hadith it is said: "**On the Day of Judgment, Allah the Exalted will say: 'O son of Adam! I was ill and you did not visit Me. The servant will say: 'O my Lord! How could I visit You when You are the Lord of all worlds? Allah will say: 'Did you not know that My servant so-and-so was ill and you did not visit him? Had you visited him, you would have found Me with him. Then He will say: 'O son of Adam! I asked you for food and you did not feed Me. The servant will say: 'O my Lord! How could I feed You when You are the Lord of all worlds? Allah will say: 'My servant so-and-so asked you for food and you did not give it to him. Did you not know that had you fed him, you would have found its reward with Me? Then He will say: 'O son of Adam! I asked you for drink and you did not give Me drink. The servant will say: 'O my Lord! How could I give You drink when You are the Lord of all worlds? Allah will say: 'My servant so-and-so asked you for drink and you did not give it to him. Did you not know that had you given him drink, you would have found its reward with Me?'"** (Muslim)

Dear Brothers!

So, what is the cure for this disease? The Noble Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah have shown the way. Let us not forget: nothing given in the path of Allah ever decreases; rather, it becomes blessed and multiplies.

Our Lord, Glorious and Exalted, says: ***The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and knowing.*** (Baqarah 2:261)

And in noble hadith it is said: "***There are three qualities; whoever possesses them will be saved from miserliness: one who gives the zakat of his wealth willingly, one who honours and serves guests, and one who gives help and support in times of hardship and calamity.***" (Tabarani)

Dear Believers!

Those who gave generously of their wealth and those who sacrificed their lives had a great share in the rise of Islam. Miserliness, however, corrupts a person's character and weakens the Muslim community. For this reason, the warning of our Prophet ﷺ is deeply meaningful: "***The miser will not enter Paradise.***" (Fayd al-Qadır, vol. 4, p. 172)

Honourable Brothers!

Let us protect our souls from miserliness. Let us give our zakat, increase in charity, honor our guests, look after the needy, and care for our relatives. Let us seek the blessing of wealth in generosity and the peace of the heart in giving.

I conclude my khutbah with a noble verse: "***Whoever is protected from the miserliness of their own soul—those are the ones who will attain success.***" (Hashr 59:9)