

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَأَعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: فَإِنَّ أَحَبَّ الْعَمَلِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَدْوَمُهُ وَإِنْ قَلَّ

Dear Muslims!

The topic of our khutbah today will be 'ubudiyyah' (servitude), which is the essence of being a worshipper.

Ubudiyyah is for a person to abandon their pride and arrogance, to bow down to their Lord with complete submission, and to worship Him wholeheartedly. Servitude to Allah Almighty by obeying the commands and prohibitions of the religion with both body and heart is called ubudiyyah.

In the Holy Qur'an, our Lord commands: **"And worship your Lord until there comes to you the certainty (death)."** (Surah Al-Hijr, 99) This verse commands us that we must worship our Lord as long as we breathe.

Venerable Congregation!

Worship, the most fundamental element of servitude, is performed to earn the pleasure of Allah Almighty. It is also the purpose of our creation. If humanity has been made superior to other beings, this superiority is manifested through servitude to Allah.

Allah ﷻ declares this truth as follows: **"And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me."** (Surah Adh-Dhariyat, 56)

Precious Muslims!

The essential thing in acts of worship is not their quantity, but their consistency. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said regarding this: **"The most beloved of deeds to Allah are those that are most consistent, even if they are few."** (Bukhari, Muslim)

The wise sages (Arifs) say: **"Ubudiyyah is to fulfill acts of obedience and worship as they are due. The servant should see every act of worship they perform as deficient and flawed; if any goodness emerges, they should know it not as coming from themselves, but as a grace from their Lord."**

The scholar and sage, Abu Ali al-Daqqaq, stated: **"You are the slave of that which holds dominion over you. If you are a captive of your ego (nafs), you are the slave of your ego; if you are a captive of the world, you are the slave of the world."**

This statement teaches us this: True freedom is only possible through being a servant to Allah. If a person wants to be free from their ego, Satan, and the temptations of the world, they must become a servant to their Lord Allah ﷻ.

I conclude my khutbah with a Hadith Qudsi (a sacred hadith). Our Lord says: **"Whoever shows hostility to a friend of Mine, I have declared war upon him. My servant does not draw near to Me with anything more loved by Me than the religious duties I have enjoined upon him, and My servant continues to draw near to Me with supererogatory works so that I shall love him. When I love him I am his hearing with which he hears, his seeing with which he sees, his hand with which he strikes and his foot with which he walks. Were he to ask [something] of Me, I would surely give it to him, and were he to ask Me for refuge, I would surely grant him it."** (Bukhari, Riqaq 38)