

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوَامًا

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَالْبَسُوا وَتَصَدَّقُوا فِي غَيْرِ سَرْفٍ وَلَا مَخِيلَةٍ

Respected Believers!

The subject of today's sermon will be the harms of wastefulness (israf).

Our religion, which encourages moderation in all matters, commands us to avoid wastefulness in eating and drinking, in dressing and adornment, and in the use of our numbered breaths and physical strength. Israf means spending wealth unnecessarily, excessively, or in ways that Allah the Almighty does not approve. Frugality is not stinginess, just as wastefulness is not generosity. True generosity is spending wealth in lawful and beneficial ways, in a balanced manner.

The Exalted Lord has bestowed upon humanity many blessings for eating and drinking, dressing, spending on good causes, and to avoid hardship in times of difficulty. We should adopt the advice of the Prophet ﷺ to value time before poverty comes. (Bukhari)

Today, people often consume not according to their needs but according to their desires. However, Islam accepts neither stinginess nor extravagance. A Muslim is balanced. The end of wastefulness is regret. Many fortunes have been depleted through waste, many families crushed under debt, and many people have lost their Hereafter in pursuit of worldly greed.

Allah ﷻ says in the noble verse I have recited: **"They are those who spend neither wastefully nor stingily, but moderately in between."** (Al-Furqan, 25:67)

This is the way of the believer: neither squandering for show nor holding back tightly in stinginess.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: **"Whoever asks Allah for the best will not be disappointed; whoever seeks counsel will not regret; and whoever acts with frugality will not fall into poverty."** (Tabarani)

Dear Believers!

Our Exalted Lord has surrounded humanity with blessings and bestowed countless favors upon them. However, the continuation of blessings is through gratitude, and their abundance is through frugality. Wastefulness is not only in wealth. There is waste of time, waste of health, waste of knowledge, waste of life. Many people have been ruined not by wasting their wealth but by wasting their lives.

If a person spends a single coin unjustly, that is waste. But however much they spend in the path of truth, that is not waste. However, one should not give away all their wealth and leave their family in need. When Hazrat Abu Bakr

(may Allah be pleased with him) wanted to give all his wealth as charity, the Prophet (peace be upon him) did not permit it.

We do not live to eat; we eat to live. Eating and drinking are not the purpose of life but a means to live a healthy life. Eating as much as our bodies need is sufficient. Any excess beyond need is wastefulness.

The Exalted Lord, the Almighty, says: **"Eat and drink, but do not waste. Indeed, He does not like the wasteful."** (Al-A'raf, 7:31)

Our Prophet ﷺ, who showed contentment with what he found, said to us: **"Eating everything you desire is wastefulness."** (Ibn Majah)

Respected Brothers and Sisters!

Islam has set a wide boundary against wastefulness and does not permit even the wasting of water while performing ablution by a flowing river. Every person of sound mind acts frugally. This is the path to be followed by one who foresees the future and thinks of tomorrow. The Prophet ﷺ said: **"Being frugal in one's lifestyle is a sign of a person's understanding."** (Al-Musnad)

Shaitan seeks to incite the children of Adam to evil paths, to make them waste the capital of their lives, and to prevent them from doing deeds beneficial to the Truth. Allah the Almighty warns His servant not to fall for the devil's schemes, saying: **"Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the devils, and Satan is ever ungrateful to his Lord."** (Al-Isra, 17:27)

Today we complain about the lack of abundance, the scarcity of time, our income not meeting our needs, increasing debts, and the loss of peace. Yet the solution to these problems lies in making frugality dominate our lives, being content, and staying away from wastefulness.

I conclude my khutbah with the command of our Lord, the Exalted and Almighty: **"Do not be so tight-fisted, for you will be blameworthy; nor so open-handed, for you will end up in poverty."** (Al-Isra, 17:29)

