

Friday 9th September 2005

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا
وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

All Praise be to **الله**.

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness in ourselves and from our own bad deeds. Whom-so-ever God guides to the truth no one will lead astray, and whom-so-ever He leads astray, no one will ever guide.

I testify that there is no God but **الله** to whom there is no partner
and I testify that Muhammad **ﷺ** is his servant and messenger

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيداً ☆ يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ
لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ، وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزاً عَظِيماً ﴾ (الأحزاب، 1-70)

"O you who believe, fear Allah, and say what is the truth. That He may make your conduct whole and sound and forgive your sins. He that obeys Allah and His messenger has attained the great victory" (S33, A70-1)



رَبَّنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا مُتَادِيًا يُنَادِي لِلْإِيمَانِ أَنْ آمِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ فَآمَنَّا
رَبَّنَا فَاعْفُفْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَكَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّئَاتِنَا وَتَوَفَّنَا مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ ﴿١٩٣﴾

"Our Lord, we have heard the call of one calling us to faith, 'Believe you in the Lord', and we have believed. Our Lord, forgive us our sins, blot out from us our inequities, and take to Yourself our souls in the company of the righteous" (S3, A193)

Dear Brothers and sisters, ASA.

The topic of today's khutbah is: **Aspects of Diseases of the Heart**

At the beginning of each khutbah, we open by saying: We ask Allah for protection from the evilness within ourselves and from out our own bad deeds. Many would agree that the evilness within ourselves include the diseases of the heart. We heard many times that these diseases include jealousy, envy, arrogance, hatred, greed and the like.

We all know that there is nothing better in life than living in tranquillity with a clean and a clear heart. No room for grudges, resentments, ill feelings, anxieties and hatred. When a Muslim witnesses someone who has been blessed with something, whether that be wealth, health, family, status, personality or whatsoever, the response of this Muslim should be along the prayers of the Prophet^(SAAWS), which we recite every morning:

☆ اللهم ما أصبح بي من نعمةٍ أو بأحدٍ من خلقك فمنك وحدك لا شريك لك ، فلك الحمد
ولك الشكر ☆ (أبو داود)

"O Allah, what ever blessing has befallen me this day or befallen any one of your creation, it is from you alone to whom there is no partner, to you is all praise and to you is all thanks" Abu Dawood.

When this prayer is said every morning, it reminds the Muslim that all blessings are from Allah, and Allah alone. Every blessing that befalls you is from Allah alone. Every blessing that befalls everyone else is from Allah alone. And specifically, it is from Allah alone to whom there is no partner. When you witness a blessing on a Muslim brother or sister, or to that matter, on any one else, the way a true Muslim should feel is that what a wonderful blessing from Allah. A true Muslim should

realize that Allah most wise, has a reason for what you are witnessing, and we can never achieve enough knowledge to comprehend Allah's wisdom.

Equally so, when we witness an ill event affecting any one of Allah's creation, Muslim or otherwise, we should feel the sorrow in our hearts for such an affliction, and should ask Allah for His mercy. In deed, it was through such acts that people witnessed the merciful message of Islam. We all know of the story of the neighbour of the Prophet^(SAAWS), when he regularly put garbage at the doorstep of the Prophet^(SAAWS). One day, the Prophet^(SAAWS) found that there no garbage at his doorstep and was worried that his neighbour may have fallen ill. So the Prophet^(SAAWS) visited his neighbour to ask about his health and his needs. When this neighbour witnessed what the message of Islam entailed, through the behaviour of the Prophet^(SAAWS), he wilfully accepted Islam. He saw that the message of Islam is able to clean the heart and is able to rid it from its disease.

The reaction of the Prophet^(SAAWS) could have been much different. We all come across such belligerent, aggressive and intolerant people in our everyday life, Muslim or otherwise. How do we respond to their intimidation? Should we behave as if we feel that we are messengers of Islam? The message is very clear. Tolerance, clean heart and a merciful response. No intolerance, no resentment, no hatred and no aggression. Spreading the message of Islam has never, ever been easy, and it seems to get harder as we get weaker. If we, however, feel that we want to spread the message of Islam, the first thing we need to do is **to adopt the message ourselves**. One of the first, and most important, things to do is for us to rid ourselves from the diseases of the heart.

A Muslim with a clean heart, is a Muslim who is content with what Allah has given him or her. A Muslim with a clean heart, is a Muslim who is comfortable with himself and has no feelings of aggression or hatred. A Muslim with a clean heart, is a Muslim who is able to spread the message of Islam through tolerance and understanding and lead by example.

Remember the message of Islam:

إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ لِلْعَالَمِينَ

"For I was sent as a mercy to all mankind"

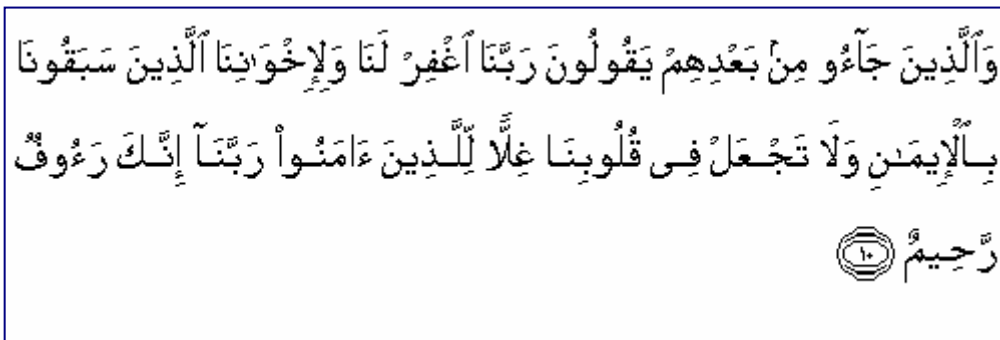
عن عبد الله بن عمرو: **قيل: يا رسول الله، أي الناس أفضل؟ قال: كل مخموم القلب، صدوق اللسان.**
قيل: صدوق اللسان نعرفه، فما مخموم القلب؟ قال: هو التقي التقى، لا إثم فيه ولا بغي، ولا غل ولا حسد. ابن ماجه

From Abdullah bin Amrou: The Prophet^(SAAWS) was asked who is the best of people? He replied, it is the one who is "makhmoum al-qalb" and of a truthful tongue. They said, we know what a truthful tongue is, but what is "makhmoum al-qalb". He replied, it is a heart that is clean and that is fearful of Allah, a heart that has no oppression and no aggression, and a heart that is free of bitterness and free of envy and jealousy.

(Narrated by Ibn Majeh)

It is very dangerous for a Muslim to allow these diseases to infiltrate his or her heart. In doing so, it is very easy for Iman to sieve through such a heart, like water seeping through a sieve. The message here is that allowing our hearts to be affected by envy, jealousy, aggression, hatred, greed, arrogance and the like, is a prelude to a gradual but definite decline in our Iman. And slowly, but surely, we give satan a very fertile heart for him to do his work. Let us be very clear on this point. Just as vitally important it is for us to maintain our acts of worship to maintain our Iman, it is also vitally important, if not even more crucial, for us to maintain our hearts clean, as the Prophet^(SAAWS) described: "makhmoum al-qalb".

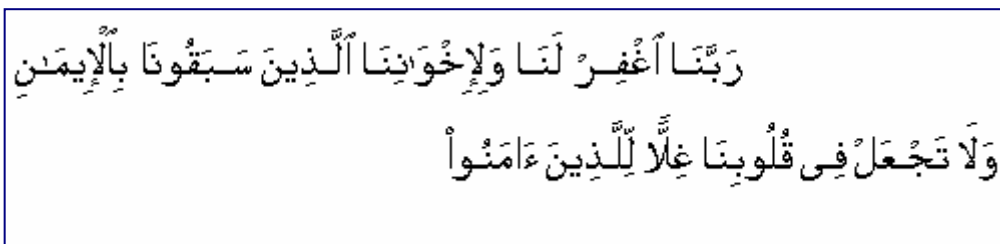
The true Muslim community is that community that is based on mutual love, friendship and respect. Mutual kindness and cooperation. There is no room in this community for selfishness and arrogance. Listen to this beautiful verse of the Quran:



"And those who came after them say: Our Lord, forgive us, and our brothers who came before us into the faith, and leave not, in our hearts, resentfulness against those who have believed. Our Lord, You are indeed full of Kindness and Most Merciful" (S59, A10)

We have to ask ourselves, why does the Holy Quran has such a verse in it. Is it conceivable that Muslims will be resentful against brothers and sisters in Islam? Is it conceivable that brothers and sisters in Islam can actually hate each other? What a frightening thought. Let us ask ourselves, here in this mosque today. Do you have a Muslim brother or sister that you bear a grudge against, or are resentful of? Isn't that a frightening thought. Not only do we have to face the resentfulness of none Muslims, we also have to face the resentfulness of our brothers and sisters in Islam. For this reason, Allah^(SWT) gave us the examples to follow and the words to say.

Should we ever get these feelings, we must realise very quickly that satan is gaining access to us through one of the diseases of the heart, and we should remember this Dua'a:



"Our Lord, forgive us, and our brothers who came before us into the faith, and leave not, in our hearts, resentment against those who have believed."

Maintaining harmony within the Muslim community is a very important part of the duty of a Muslim. Allowing discord and disharmony to fester in the Muslim community will inevitably lead to the erosion of Iman, and to the decline of one's faith. This is what the Prophet^(SAAWS) said:

قال رسول الله ﷺ ☆ ألا أخيركم بأفضل من درجة الصيام والصلاة والصدقة؟ قالوا بلى. قال: إصلاح ذات البين، فإن فساد ذات البين هو الحالقة؛ لا أقول تحلق الشعر، ولكن تحلق الدين ☆ الترمذی

"Shall I tell you what is of a better status than fasting, praying and giving in charity. They replied, yes! He said, reconciliation between yourselves (restoring friendship). For, the disintegration of friendship between yourselves is akin to a shaver. It does not shave your hair, but it shaves your religion" (Narrated by Al-Tirmizi)

Imagine this brothers and sisters, discord among ourselves is like a shaving machine that gradually shaves off our religion layer by layer. So what are we to understand by this hadeeth? We all know the importance of the acts of worship. We all know of the rewards that these acts give us, both in this life and in the hereafter. Well, this hadeeth makes it clear for us that there is something of even a better status than all these. It is the act of reconciliation between brothers and sisters in Islam. Why?

The answer lies in the fact that once diseases of the heart take a grip on us, one of the first things that will happen is that we will start to fall out with each other for whatever reason. Slowly but surely, we start to drift apart. A brother or sister will not want to attend the mosque anymore because they do not want to encounter this person. Discord takes place, then there is resentment, then there is pride and so on, and eventually this will start to affect our Islam. Our religion is gradually being shaved off layer by layer as a result of the discord, perpetrated by the diseases of the heart.

When a Muslim helps in reconciliation, he or she are helping to re-establish the cohesion of the community, are helping to restore the unity between Muslim brothers and sisters, are helping to rid the brothers and sisters of the diseases of the heart and ultimately are helping to maintain the religion and restoring the acts of worship and not allowing "Al-Haliqa" to take effect.

Diseases of the heart will cause discord, and a good Muslim is he or she that will reconcile.

Satan will never make us associate anyone in worship with Allah, but through diseases of the heart, satan can surely drift us away from the worship of Allah. This is what the Prophet^(SAAWS) said:

قال رسول الله ﷺ ☆ إن الشيطان قد يئسى أن يعبد المصلون في جزيرة العرب، ولكنه لم يئس من التحريش بينهم ☆ مسلم

"Satan has given up being worshipped by those who pray in the Arabian peninsula, but he has not given up creating discord between them" (Narrated by Muslim)

Satan knows that as Muslims, we worship Allah, and Allah alone. There is absolutely no way that anyone of us will ever consider, even remotely, to associate anyone in worship with Allah. It is an absolute NO. But, satan knows that there are these diseases of the heart. He knows he can get to us through them, and in doing so, he will surely lead us away from Allah. Let us be clear on this point. Satan is not leading us towards himself or anyone else for satan knows that this is impossible, but he is leading us away from Allah because satan knows that **THIS IS POSSIBLE**.

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي ولكم

2nd Khutbah:

الحمد لله ثم الحمد لله. الحمد لله نستعينه ونستغفره، ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا. أما بعد:

Satan knows that he will never lead us towards himself or anyone else for satan knows that **THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE**. But satan also knows that through the diseases of the heart he is able to lead us away from Allah for satan knows that **THIS IS POSSIBLE**.

Now that we recognise this pitfall, what can we do? Islam recognises that people vary in their temperaments and their understandings. There will always be room for misunderstandings to take place. When this is coupled by one of the diseases of the heart, it is not difficult to imagine that most of us, one day, will fall out with a brother or a sister in Islam. So what is the solution?

This is what the Prophet^(SAAWS) said:

قال رسول الله ﷺ ☆ لا تقاطعوا ولا تدابروا، ولا تباغضوا ولا تحاسدوا، وكونوا عباد الله إخواناً، ولا يحل لمسلم أن يهجر أخاه فوق ثلاث ☆ البخاري

"Do not sever your relationships, do not turn back on each other, do not have hatred among each other, do not envy each other and be brothers in your worship of Allah. It is not permitted for a Muslim to avoid his Muslim brother beyond three days" (Narrated by Al-Bukhari)

Very clear instructions. We are asked to hold on to our friendships. We are asked to control our feelings of envy and hatred, and we are not allowed to let any grievance between ourselves last beyond three days. Once a conflict lasts beyond that, it becomes difficult for us to reconcile. By the third day, should they meet, they should greet with "As-Salam". Should the other respond, they both share the reward from Allah. Should the other ignore the greeting, he becomes sinful, and there is no more obligation to greet him. This is where reconciliation is necessary, but let us listen to this narration about he who refuses conciliation:

☆من تَنصَّلَ إِلَيْهِ فَلَمْ يَقْبَلْ، لَمْ يَرِدْ عَلَى الْحَوْضِ ☆ الطبراني

"If one is approached for reconciliation and refused, he will not be allowed to attend Al-Haoud" (Narrated by Al-Tabarani)

This is a very serious statement indeed for something that seems so minor. If a Muslim brother or sister wants to make up but the other refused, the person who refuses reconciliation will be denied "Al-Haoud" in paradise. Why should that be the case?

It is because a person will only refuse reconciliation if he or she has established in their hearts the diseases we mentioned earlier. It is these diseases that will keep the community in discord and it is these diseases that will eventually shave off their religion, and it is this that will lead them away from the reward of paradise in the Hereafter.

Is there a clearer message to us about what we should do?

In summary, the message of Islam is:

إنما بُعِثْتُ رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

"For I was sent as a mercy to all mankind"

Remember the description by the Prophet^(SAAWS) of "makhmoum al-qalb". It is a heart that is clean and that is fearful of Allah, a heart that has no oppression and no aggression, and a heart that is free of bitterness and free of envy and jealousy.

Remember that even though satan cannot make us associate with Allah, it is through diseases of the heart that he can lead us away from Allah.

Remember the status of the reconciliator in Islam, and remember the effect of discord in the Muslim community "Al-Haliqa", the shaver of the religion.

Remember the advise of the Prophet^(SAAWS): do not sever your relationships, do not turn back on each other, do not have hatred among each other, do not envy each other and be brothers in your worship of Allah. It is not permitted for a Muslim to avoid his Muslim brother beyond three days.

Remember to keep this dua'a close to your hearts:

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ
وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا

"Our Lord, forgive us, and our brothers who came before us into the faith, and leave not, in our hearts, resentfulness against those who have believed."

And finally, let us not forget that we can achieve this by the will of Allah only, as we read in the Holy Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا
يُحْيِيكُمْ وَعَلِمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَحُولُ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَأَنَّهُ إِلَيْهِ
تُحْشَرُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾

"O you who believe, respond to Allah and to His messenger, when He calls you to that which will give you life, and know that it is Allah that comes between a person and his heart, and it is unto Him that you will be gathered" (S8, A24)

This takes us back a full circle to the dua'a at the beginning of each khutbah:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا

All praise be to Allah. We ask Him for protection from the evilness in ourselves and from our own bad deeds.