

Friday Khutbah 15/11/2013

### The struggle between truth and falsehood

“Had your Lord willed, He would have made human kind a single community, but they will not cease to differ ....” (*Surah Hud* verse 118)

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) tells us that if he had wished, he would have made all of humankind Muslims submitting to Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) and to the truth. However, in His infinite wisdom, He decided to give them the freedom to choose, and so some chose truth and good while others chose falsehood and evil. As a result of this free choice they differed, and from this difference conflict and enmity arose between people.

The first conflict between good and evil was demonstrated in the enmity of *Shaytan* to Adam and his plotting against him. This came after Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) had commanded the angels to prostrate themselves before Adam, which they did with the exception of *Iblis*. He was arrogant, and so he refused and disobeyed. *Iblis* envied Adam and made an oath to mislead him and all of his children. Allah says in the Qur'an: “He said, “Then, I swear by Your Might, that I will definitely lead them astray, all of them.....”

From then struggle began between *Iblis* one side and Adam and his children on the other side.

The first thing *Iblis* did was to mislead our parents (Adam and Hawwa) into eating from the tree which Allah had prohibited them to eat from. After they had eaten, Allah decreed that they be expelled from *al-Jannah* and made to descend to earth.

The first known conflict between good and evil on this earth was that of the two sons of Adam *Qabeel* and *Habeel* (Cain and Abel). Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says in the Qur'an: “And recite to them the story of the two sons of Adam rightly: When both of them offered a sacrifice, it was accepted from one of them, and was not accepted from the other. He said, “I will kill you.” He said, “Allah accepts only from the God-fearing. If you stretch your hand towards me to kill me, I am not going to stretch my hand towards you to kill you. Indeed, I fear Allah, the Lord of the worlds. I would rather let you bear my sin and your sin, and then become one of the people of the Fire. That is the punishment of the unjust.”

Despite the admonishing the result was as Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) described in the Qur'an: “His soul; however, prompted him to kill his brother, so he killed him and became one of the losers.”

That was the first murder crime on earth. The guilt of this crime continues to burden the son of Adam who murdered his brother until the Day of Judgement as the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) said in the *Hadith*: “No soul is killed unjustly but the first son of Adan would get a share of the guilt because he was the first one to introduce this practice.”

When Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) sent His messengers to their nations, they were met by animosity from their people. This led to conflict between the prophets and their followers on one side and the enemies of the prophets on the other side. This conflict and confrontation between the followers of truth and the followers of falsehood continues until our present day.

So, struggle between good and evil is an old one which began from the time when Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) created man, and will continue until the hour of the last day. It is not possible that the people of the world would live in peace and harmony as some people dream.

The so-called peaceful co-existence is a false slogan – unfortunately. It is the people of evil and falsehood to blame. They would not tolerate truth and its people even if they tolerate them and do them no harm.

The motto of the people of falsehood has always been like that of the people of Lut. "Drive out the family of Lut from your city. Verily, these are men who want to be clean and pure!" (*Surah an-Naml* verse 56.) So, their crime was that they were men who wanted to be clean and pure.

This is the Sunnah of Allah in His creation. One who adheres to the truth should not aspire or dream of living a quiet life that is not disturbed by the plotting of the enemies and the injustices of the wretched ones. On the contrary, a Muslim should rather accustom himself and prepare it for a long struggle against *Iblis* and his soldiers for *Shaytan* is not alone in this war against truth and its followers. He is assisted by countless number of human beings; Jews, Christians, hypocrites, atheists, secularists, liberals- and even by some who pray like us and attend public occasions such as Friday and the two Eid prayers; however, at the end of the day they work for *Iblis* and *Iblis* is pleased with them.

When one reflects on what is happening in our world today, one would clearly see the struggle between good and evil at its peak with evil victorious and having the upper hand over good. Making a mockery of religion and its symbols, violation of the sanctities, fierce battles against Islam and its advocates – these are only a few examples which demonstrate the dominance which evil has.

As a result of all that is happening, a Muslim stands bewildered and unaware of his role and duty in supporting the truth and good and in resisting evil and falsehood. This is the only option for a Muslim. He/she has no option other than this. Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says: "You are the best nation ever raised for mankind enjoining what is good, forbidding what is evil and believing in Allah."

The Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) said in the *Hadith*: "There will always continue to be a group among my *Ummah* upholding the *Deen* of Allah. They will not be harmed by those who let them down and those who differed with them until the commandment of Allah comes and they are victorious over other people."

Have *Taqwa* of Allah O servants of Allah! Do not despair. Be firm and hold fast to the truth.

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Supporting the oppressed is a religious obligation upon a Muslim especially if the oppressed is a Muslim- because he would then find none to stand by his side. Standing firm against the oppressor until he stops his aggression is a duty. And there so many Muslims who are wronged and oppressed!

A Muslim should never be party to any injustice or approve of it. One who approves of an injustice is like one who commits it.

The Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) prohibited a Muslim from washing his hands from the oppressed Muslims. He said (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*): A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim. He does not wrong or surrender him."

Supporting the oppressed Muslims in any part of the world by words and action is a duty. This support is especially important in areas where Muslims are suffering most such as in

Syria, Palestine, Myanmar and in other places in which we hear their cries, see their blood flowing and their bodies ripped apart.

One form of support is by spending our money to provide food, clothing, accommodation and medication for them.

One of the most important forms of support is *dua*', There is no excuse for any Muslim not to assist his brothers and sisters with *dua*'. Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) used to make *Qunut* against those who persecuted Muslims and harmed them. He would mention them by name and supplicate against them.