

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Friday Khutbah – 21/02/2014

The hypocrites and how we should face them

I spoke previously about the hypocrites; their danger, some of their characters and their means to turn people away from the true religion of Allah.

The hypocrites are more dangerous than the *Kuffar*. The *Kufr* show their animosity towards the believers openly, and so the believers know them and take precautions against their evil. The hypocrites appear to be Muslims and perhaps pray and do other things as the *Munafiqoon* used to do during the time of the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) performing *Salat* behind him and fasting and so on. For this reason the believers do not consider them as enemies and thus underestimate their risk. The point which many Muslims miss is that not everyone who prays and fasts and but acts like the hypocrites - is a believer.

Because the *Munafiqoon* are very dangerous, Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) warned Muslim against their danger in His book. The Qur'an went to great length in describing the qualities of the hypocrites and their tricks. The talk about *Nifaq* and *Munafiqeen* is mentioned in seventeen out of the thirty Madinian *suras*. The total number of verses in which *Nifaq* and *Munafiqeen* are mentioned is around three hundred and forty verses.

Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) also mentioned their qualities. The purpose of the repeated mention of the hypocrites in the Qur'an and Sunnah is to alert Muslims against them, and equally important it is to warn Muslims against resembling them in their characters.

1) One of the qualities of the hypocrites mentioned in the Qur'an is that they mock the *Deen* and ridicule the good and righteous slaves of Allah. In *surah al-Baqara* Allah says: "And when it is said to them: believe as the people believe, they say: Shall we believe as the foolish believe..." (13.)

So, they described the believers as foolish, and *Iman* as foolishness.

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says in *surah at-Tawba*: "Those who slander the believers who give charity voluntarily, and such who could not find to give except their hard earnings, so they mock at them, Allah will throw back their mockery on them, and they shall have a painful punishment."

Both the believers who gave little *Sadaqah* - because they don't have much- and those who gave a lot - were not safe from the criticism of the hypocrites. They said regarding those who gave little: Allah does not need their tiny spending and they said regarding those who gave a lot - they were showing off.

Today the *Munafiqoon* make fun of those who adhere to the *Deen* calling them names such as backward, fanatic, extremists and so on. They ridicule the *Deen* and its scholars and *Du'at* in order to make people turn away from them. So, mocking the *Deen* is a quality of the hypocrites and at the same time it is one of their means to turn people away from the way of Allah.

2) One of the qualities of the hypocrites is that they put their hands into the hands of the *Kuffar* who are enemies of Islam. Their hearts are with the enemies of the *Deen* while their bodies are with the Muslims. They fear them and so they hurry to their friendship as Allah

(*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says: "And you see those in whose hearts there is a disease (of hypocrisy), race towards them, saying: "We fear that some misfortune may befall us. Perhaps Allah may bring a victory or something else from His own side, whereupon they will become regretful over what they concealed in their hearts." (Al-Maeda 52.)

This is the way of the *Munafiqeen* yesterday, today and tomorrow. Their excuse was always that they fear some misfortune from the *Kuffar* may befall them. So, they fear them but do not fear Allah.

Among their qualities mentioned by the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) are four qualities mentioned in the *Hadith* reported by Abdullah Ibn Amr (*radhiya Allahu anhu*) that the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) said: "Whoever possesses four qualities, he is a pure (complete) *Munafiq*, and whoever possesses one of them, he possesses one of the qualities of the hypocrites until he gives it up. When he is entrusted, he betrays. When he speaks, he tells lies. When he promises, he breaks his promise. And when he disputes with someone, he transgresses in his dispute."

As for their wicked means to turn people away from the *Deen* of Allah these include their resort to stirring up the public, politicians, governments and the forces of *Kufr* against the *Ulama, Du'at*, Islamic adherents making false claims against them under the pretext of fighting against radicalism, extremism and terrorism and the likes of these terms.

One of their means to turn people away from the *Deen* is their exploitation of the media, which they control, in their war against Islam. They use the media to distort the facts, fabricate lies and throw doubts over the Islamic convictions. Some of the methods which they employ include dividing Islam into political and non-political Islam, distorting the Islamic concept of loyalty to the believer and disloyalty to the disbelievers and attempting to weaken and perhaps eradicate the Islamic rite of *al-Amr bil-Marouf wan-Nahi 'anil-Munkr* (enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong).

These are just a few of their planning and plotting. "They plot and plan and Allah too plans but the best of planners is Allah."

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As to what the position of the believer towards the hypocrites should be, I will summarise this in four points:

- 1) One must not take hypocrites and those who mock the religion as allies or friends even if they there the closest of people to one. Whoever does so only brings the anger of Allah upon himself. Allah says: "You will not find any people who believe in Allah and the Last Day having affection for those who oppose Allah and His Messenger even if they were their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their kindred...."
- 2) One must not try to defend them or find excuses for them as Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says: "And plead not on behalf of those who betray their own souls. Allah does not like one who is treacherous and sinful."
- 3) One must strive against them and be strict and harsh with them. Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says: "O Prophet! Strive against the disbelievers and the hypocrites! Be harsh with them. Their ultimate abode is Jahannam (hell) - and worst indeed is that destination."
- 4) One must not show any respect or give importance to them. One should rather look down at them. In the tradition by *Buraidah* – which he relates to the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*): "Do not call a hypocrite *Sayyid*. If you make him so, then you anger your Lord."

There remain two points which I would like to mention in conclusion of the talk about the hypocrites.

The first point is that we should differentiate between '*Mudahanah*' which is one of the qualities of the hypocrites and '*Mudarat*.' '*Mudahanah*' is conciliation and going along the falsehood of the people of *Kufr* and *Fisq* compromising a religious principle in order to get some worldly benefit; material or non-material. What is meant by '*Mudarat*' is to treat an evil person gently instead of being harsh with him because you are being cautious with him or you are fearful of his evil or otherwise you want to soften and win his heart.

The person who commits the sin '*Mudahanah*' is the one mentioned in the *Hadith* of Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*): "You will find the worst people on the Day of *Qiyamah* the double-faced who meets these people with one face and meets the others with another face."

'*Mudahanah*' is prohibited unlike '*Mudarat*' which Rasulullah (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) adopted with some people at some times as in the *Hadith* reported by Ayesha (*aadhiyah Allahu 'anha.*) She said: A man took permission to see the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam.*) He said: 'Let him in! What an evil man! When he entered and sat the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) smiled in his face and spoke to him nicely. Ayesha later asked him about that and he said: Was I ever rude? The most evil person is one who people avoid for fear of his vile deeds."

The scholars explained the difference between '*Mudahanah*' and '*Mudarat*' and why the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) dealt with that man in that way. *al- Qadhi Aiyadh* said: "The difference between '*Mudahanah*' and '*Mudarat*' is that '*Mudarat*' is to offer something worldly for the betterment of *Deen* or *Dunya* or both of them. It is permissible and could be recommended. '*Mudahanah*' is to offer *Deen* in exchange for *Dunya*. The Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) offered the man (mentioned in the *Hadith*) his kind treatment and gentleness in speech – which are worldly things. He did not praise him or compromised his principles and so there was no contradiction between what he said and the way he dealt with him. What he said about him was true and what he did to him was good treatment."

2) The second point is that we should make a distinction between accepting the truth from any person whether he is a *Mu'min*, *Kafir* or *Munafiq* and loyalty or love to that person. If the hypocrite says something correct, we should be accept it from him and at the same time we should hate him and taken him as an enemy for his *Nifaq*. On the other hand if a good scholar or a truthful *Da'iyah* makes a mistake over some issue, we refuse his opinion but we should not hate him or deny him the right of Islamic loyalty in accordance with his *Iman* and *Taqwa*.

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