

Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى created man to worship him:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

“And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me.” ad-Dhariyat (The Winds that Scatter) 51:56.

Out of His سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى mercy, he sent to us Prophets with guidance so that we may be on the right path; remaining firm upon it. Messengers with good news and warning so that people cannot say on the Day of Judgement that, that we didn't have proof come to us. However man has always deviated. Every time man deviated, from His سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى mercy, He سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى sent another Prophet, another Messenger.

But man always chose to be stubborn, to be arrogant, to reject.

وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَا فِي هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَثَلٍ وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَكْثَرَ شَيْءٍ جَدَلًا ؕ هـ

“And indeed We have put forth every kind of example in this Quran, for mankind. But, man is ever more quarrelsome than anything.” al-Kahf (The Cave) 18:54.

أَقْتَرَبَ لِلنَّاسِ حِسَابُهُمْ وَهُمْ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مُّعْرِضُونَ

“[The time of] their account has approached for the people, while they are in heedlessness turning away.” al-Anbiya` (The Prophets) 21:1.

Every time man moves away from the messages of the Prophets [Allah be pleased with them all], and their Messengers, they fall into jahaliyyah. And this continued until Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى sent the best of them all صلى الله عليه وسلم. The one who is most beloved to Him سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. The One who is most perfect.

The One who is most complete. Muhammad Ibn 'Abdillah صلى الله عليه وسلم . He صلى الله عليه وسلم came and eradicated jahaliyyah once and for all.

Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى commands him to say:

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۖ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ ۖ فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ
وَرَسُولِهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ الَّذِي يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَكَلِمَاتِهِ وَاتَّبِعُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ ١٥٨

Say, [O Muhammad], "O mankind, indeed I am the Messenger of Allah to you all, [from Him] to whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. There is no deity except Him; He gives life and causes death." So believe in Allah and His Messenger, the unlettered prophet, who believes in Allah and His words, and follow him that you may be guided." al-A`raf (The Heights, The Elevated Places) 7:158.

So whoever hears of him and follows him, will be saved. And whoever hears of him and rejects and chooses to be stubborn and arrogant, like mankind have been from before, such a person will live in jahaliyyah. Such a person will never be successful.

Just as the pagans of Arabia have jahaliyyah, the pagans of Europe, the land that we stand in right now, had their own jahaliyyah. They even created acts of worship and festivals connected to these false beliefs in this jahiliyyah. From them, we have the Greeks. They used to believe it is time and not Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, time used to have the control of destiny and decree. They used to believe anything good that happened, it happened because of time and anything bad that happened, happened because of time and not because of Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى tells us that this was belief in pagan arabia also.

وَقَالُوا مَا هِيَ إِلَّا حَيَاتُنَا الدُّنْيَا نَمُوتُ وَنَحْيَا وَمَا يُهْلِكُنَا إِلَّا الدَّهْرُ ۗ

“And they say, “There is not but our worldly life; we die and live, and nothing destroys us except time.”

al-Jathiyah (The Kneeling, Crouching) 45:24.

They used to believe then, that anything good that is going to happen, in the coming year, it is because of time. And anything bad that is going to happen in the coming year is also because of time: illness, poverty, tests. It is all because of time and what they did was they created a festival because of this false Aqeedah. At the start of every new year, hoping in time, that time will give them a good year, they created a festival. And because of that festival, they had hoped that if they had sacrifices, that time would be good to them, so they will have a good year in the coming year. Not believing in the qadr of Allah at all سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

How many Muslims today are saying the same thing as pagan Greeks and the pagan Arabs said before? How many are wishing one another a good year? How many are celebrating and enjoying in this festival; laughing and joking, while it Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى who controls what is good and bad. His is the Decree سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

قُلِ اللَّهُ يَنْجِيكُمْ مِنْهَا وَمِنْ كُلِّ كَرْبٍ ثُمَّ أَنْتُمْ تُشْرِكُونَ

Say, "It is Allah who saves you from it and from every distress; then you [still] associate others with Him."

al-An'am (Cattle, Livestock) 6:64.

One false belief always leads more false beliefs. So then we have another generation in another era of people, in another empire after the Greeks, the Romans. And what they did is, they took the Greek Aqeedah and false festivals and they created their own God. And they called him Janus. The same name of the month that January is derived from.

They believe that Janus was a God who had two faces; one face was facing the previous year and it used to look back and either laugh or cry. Because they believe it is this deity, not Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى who had the control and the other face was looking forward with resolutions, that we will become better next year. So they used to celebrate the new year, just like the Greeks used to, hoping that this false deity, Janus, will grant them good. In here:

مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَّا أَسْمَاءٌ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنْتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُمْ مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ ۗ إِنْ الْاِحْكَمُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ ۗ أَمَرَ اَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اِيَّاهُ ۗ
ذَلِكَ اَلدِّينُ اَلْقَيِّمُ وَلَكِنَّ اَلْاَنَاسَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۝ ٤٠



“You worship not besides Him except [mere] names you have named them, you and your fathers, for which Allah has sent down no authority. Legislation is not but for Allah . He has commanded that you worship not except Him. That is the correct religion, but most of the people do not know” Yusuf (Joseph) 12:40 .

A Muslim must be proud of his Eman, he must be thankful to Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى that he has sent to us a Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم, a book and a religion which teaches us Aqeedah and Tawheed. And it gives us the right way for us to follow so that we can remain upon the Siratu-ul-Mustaqeem, but at the same time, the believer must be wise. The believer must realise that mankind will always end up rejecting.

Are you going to follow what they have followed? Will you prefer jahaliyyah over Eman?

Allah says in al-Baqarah (the cow) 2:170:

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا ۖ أُولَئِكَ كَانُوا فِي سَبِيلٍ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ ۙ ١٧٠

“When it is said to them: “Follow what Allah has sent down.” They say: “Nay! We shall follow what we found our fathers following.” (Would they do that!) Even though their fathers did not understand anything nor were they guided.”

If you don't hold firm to Tawheed, you will fall into jahaliyyah and after Eman has come to us, we will leave what the Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم came with and this exactly the same call he came with صلى الله عليه وسلم.

And history is your lesson as it repeats it. Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says:

إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا أَسْمَاءٌ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنْتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُمْ مِمَّا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ ۗ إِنْ يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَمَا تَهْوَى الْأَنْفُسُ ۖ وَلَقَدْ

جَاءَهُمْ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ الْهُدَىٰ ۙ ٢٣

“They are not but [mere] names you have named them - you and your forefathers - for which Allah has sent down no authority. They follow not except assumption and what [their] souls desire, and there has already come to them from their Lord guidance” an-Najm (The Star) 53:23.



There is no festival in society today except that it has something of a jahalee Aqeedah connected to it. And there is a well known principle in Islam among the scholars of Ahlus Sunnah. Qadi Iyad رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ said there is an ijma on this principle. Ibn Hazm رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ said there is an ijma on this principle. Musa al - Hajaawi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ said in 'Kashaf al-Qinaa', a very famous fiqh book, "whoever doesn't believe that people who follow another religion are not following something correct; or he believes we are following the same thing- all religions are the same; or he has a doubt about Islam- or some areas are okay in other religions; or a person believes their religion is correct and a person has a right to believe in what they believe in because it's correct- such a described person has committed an act of kufr which could eliminate his Eman".

Ibn Taymiyyah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ said, "all religions have either become corrupted or abrogated".

Either they had a Messenger in the beginning or Prophet but it became corrupted. Or it became abrogated with the coming of Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. So if a person was to approve of any Aqeedah other than the Aqeedah that the Messenger صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ left us with, Islam, or he doubts Islam, the religion that the Messenger صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ came with, or he says that we are right, Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ what he came with is right, and what they are right is also okay, then that is self contradictory as Ibn Taymiyyah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ has said. And this now explains why this is a very important principle for every single Muslim to understand.

How can a Muslim say he is a Muslim with firm conviction but then also testify to something else? Or follow something else? Or engage in festivals which are based upon baatil? How can a person say La Ilaha Illallah and be unsure about the kufr of this jahaliyyah that people are following? How can a person engage in the worship of Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى but then also congratulate and celebrate kufr with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى?

Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى sent Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام to this dunya. Him and his wife as consequence of sin; they were not chosen to live here. The life of this dunya is passing.



يَقُومُ إِنَّمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا مَتَّعٌ وَإِنَّ الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ دَارُ الْقَرَارِ

“O my people! Truly, this life of the world is nothing but a (quick passing) enjoyment, and verily, the Hereafter that is the home that will remain forever.”-Ghafir (The Forgiver, The Forgiving One) 40:39

Al-Zubayr ibn ‘Adi reported: We came to Anas ibn Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, and we complained to him of what we suffered from the ruler Al-Hajjaj. Anas said, “Be patient, for an era will not come upon you but that what comes after is worse, until you meet your Lord. I heard it from your Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him.”

Source: Şaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 7068

Grade: Sahih (authentic) according to Al-Bukhari

The fitnah is getting greater. The hour is approaching closer.

What are people actually celebrating? Are they celebrating living in a land of sin? A land where Adam عليه السلام and his progeny were sent because of the consequence of sin or are they celebrating that they are getting closer to the anger and punishment of Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى؟

As you learn and benefit from Ustadh Ariff Olla’s jumu’ah sermons from which are these notes- don’t keep it to yourself! Share & teach these notes - please do not edit or manipulate this content.

“One who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of its doer”- Saheeh Muslim vol.3, no.4665.