

First khutbah

My brothers, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى created man to worship Him. From His mercy, He sent Prophets with guidance, so that we would remain on the right way:

رُسُلًا مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ لِنَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى اللَّهِ حُجَّةٌ بَعْدَ الرُّسُلِ ؕ

“[We sent] messengers as bringers of good tidings and warners so that mankind will have no argument against Allah after the messengers” an-Nisa` (Women) 4:165

However after Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى sent Prophets and Messengers and books, man chose to deviate every single time. But from His mercy again, سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, He sent another Prophet and this one is the best of them all, Muhammad صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم. Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى even describes him as being a mercy to all of us:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ١٠٧

**“And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds” al-Anbiya`
(The Prophets) 21:107**

The most beloved one, the one whose name is mentioned and elevated the most.

وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ ۚ

“And raised high for you your repute” al-Inshirah (Solace, Consolation, Relief, The Expansion) 94:4

He came with a complete way صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم to eradicate jahaliyyah once and for all. Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى tells him and commands him to say:

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

“Say, [O Muhammad], “O mankind, indeed I am the Messenger of Allah to you all...”

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 him will never be successful.

My brothers, may Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى preserve us all upon eman, just as the pagans of Arabia had their jahaliyyah, the pagans of Europe had their own jahaliyyah. They created their own festivals connected to their own jahili beliefs, and from them were the Greeks. They used to believe that time and not Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, but time, controlled over decree. They used to believe that time used to decree that which is good and that which is bad, and this is actually similar to what was found in jahaliyyah in Makkah. They used to say to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم, they used to say to Muhammad صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم:



“This is the life of the dunya, we live and we die and it is only time that makes us die. After that, there isn't anything”

So they used to believe the Greeks, they used to believe that any good that happens in a year is because of time and anything bad that happens in a year, is because of time. Illness, poverty, war, all of this is connected to time. So what they did, the Greeks, is they started a festival connected to this belief, hoping that time, meaning the coming year, will be a year of goodness and when celebrating this festival, by celebrating this festival in time, the coming year will be a year where there will be no badness. سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى what they say about Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى is far great.

Today brothers, how many Muslims are saying the same things as the pagans of Greece and Arabia? How many people are saying, that this year was a bad year and next year is going to be a good year? How many people are laughing and joking, when Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى is actually testing us:

قُلِ اللَّهُ يَنْجِيكُمْ مِنْهَا وَمِنْ كُلِّ كَرْبٍ ثُمَّ أَنْتُمْ تُشْرِكُونَ ٦٤

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

This was the Greeks. They created a festival at the beginning of a new year to celebrate time.

But realise my brothers, one false belief always creates more false beliefs. So the Roman Empire that came after the Greek Empire, they used to believe in a God called Janus and this is why we have the month January, named after their God Janus. They used to believe that this God had two faces, one which faced the previous year and one which faced the forthcoming year. As for the Lord or the face that faced the previous year, it used to look back and either laugh or cry. As for the coming year, the Romans used to make dua and worship and wish upon Janus, and have resolutions for the coming year. So they used to celebrate the Romans, the coming year, having resolutions in this God, Janus, that this coming year will be a year of goodness and they used to make sacrifices for this false deity. Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** tells us about jahaliyyah:

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

My brothers, a Muslim must be proud of his faith. He must thank Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**, that Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** has guided him to eman and Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** has given them a Book and a Messenger and Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** gives us the ability to act upon what Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** has given us. The Believer with all of this must be wise and he must realise that there are beliefs in society which go against eman and they call back to the going of jahaliyyah and if you don't hold firm upon tawheed and the hidayah of Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**, you have seen what has happened to nations upon nations. Man in his oppressive ignorant state will always fall into jahaliyyah unless if he holds on to eman. Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** tells us in the Qur'an:

Khutbah: New Years in Jahiliyyah

Ustadh Ariff Olla

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أَفَعَيَّرَ دِينَ اللَّهِ يَبْتَغُونَ وَلَهُ أَسْلَمَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ طَوْعًا وَكَرْهًا وَإِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُونَ ۝ ٨٣

“So is it other than the religion of Allah they desire, while to Him have submitted [all] those within the heavens and earth, willingly or by compulsion, and to Him they will be returned” al-Imran (The Family of Imran, The House of Imran) 3:83



Second khutbah

My brothers, fear Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** as He should be feared. Obey Him and stay away from His disobedience. And also realise my brothers that there is no festival in society today except that it is connected to some kind of jahili aqeedah, therefore we have a well-known principle in Islam with Ulema of Ahlus Sunnah, Qadi Iyad **رحمه الله** said that there is ijmah on this:

“Anyone who believes that anything other than Islam is correct, or what they have and what we have is correct, or a person doubts their kufr, or doubts their shirk, then that person has committed an act of disbelief”

It is not something that the Believer has any kind of compromise in. He has to understand the Oneness of Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**. Ibn Taymiyyah **رحمه الله** explains:

“That all religions have been corrupted or abrogated, so if a person was to approve of any kind of aqeedah or Islam, or he doubts his own Islam; or he says that they are right and we are also right, the reason why this is disbelief is because the person has contradicted eman”

Also my brothers, we are Muslims and we live in a non-muslim country. We are amongst different faiths and different practices. We all know that it is not permissible for a Muslim to celebrate what they celebrate, but also, it is not permissible for us to oppress; or for us to transgress; or for us to insult; or for us to abuse. It is something that we need to stick to when it comes to tawheed, our religion and our festivals. And it's not permissible for a person to engage with the festivals of those people who have false beliefs, but at the same

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time holding on to his identity, but at the same time he must respect others and treat others in the best possible manner.

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