

Friday Khutbah 07/06/2013– Kufr and its Types

Our Prophet Muhammad (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) used to seek refuge with Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) from *Kufr*. He knew that the hearts of the children of Adam are held between the fingers of Allah, and that He turns them in whatever way He wills. He used to say when he entered the day and when he entered the evening: “O Allah! I seek refuge with You from *Kufr* and poverty, and I seek refuge with You from the torment of the grave! There is no god except You!

He used to repeat this three times in the mornings and in the evenings

If *Rasulullah* (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) who was *Masoom* (infallible), yet used to do this – what about us then?

Surely, we are in more need to do the same and to know what is meant by *Kufr* and its types – so that we can avoid it.

What is the reality of *Kufr* that the Prophet (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) used to seek refuge from?

The scholars said: *Kufr* is of two types; major *Kufr* and minor *Kufr*.

The major *Kufr* is the one that throws a person outside Islam. By exploring the texts of the Qur'an, major *Kufr* is of five types.

i) The first type is the *Kufr* of arrogance and refusal. It is to protest against and refuse to obey Allah and His Messenger. One such example is that of *Iblis*, the accursed. Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) ordered the angels to prostrate themselves to Adam. They did except *Iblis* who objected and refused. He said to Allah: I am better than him; You created me from fire and created him from clay, and so he became one of the infidels (disbelievers.)

Iblis did not deny the existence of Allah, but was haughty and refused to obey.

ii) The second type of *Kufr* is to turn away from the truth. It is to hear the verses of Allah read to one and see His signs, but take no notice. One would live and die without knowing *Tahara* or *Salaat* or *Zakaat*; not knowing the commandments or prohibitions; not recognising what is good and not rejecting what is evil.

iii) The third type of *Kufr* is the *Kufr* of denial. It is to deny and reject something explicitly mentioned in the Qur'an or in an authentic *Hadith* of *Rasulullah* (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*.)

iv) The fourth type of *Kufr* is the *Kufr* of doubt. It is to doubt an established fact of the *Deen* such as *Qiyamah* (resurrection), the torment and bliss of the grave or the doubt the prophet hood of Muhammad (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*).

I don't mean by doubting here the passing thoughts that go through the mind which none is safe from them. I mean the doubt which is firmly established and completely overtake one's heart. One would perhaps express such doubt with one's tongue. An example of this was that loser mentioned in the Qur'an: “He went into his garden in a state (of mind) unjust to his soul: He said: I do not think that this will ever perish. Nor do I think that the hour (of Judgement) will ever come.” (Surah *al-Kahf* 35-36)

v) The fifth type of *Kufr* - which is the most serious- is the *Kufr* of *Nifiq* (hypocrisy.) It is to pretend to be a Muslim while harbouring *Kufr* and hatred for Islam and Muslims.

The second type of *Kufr* is the minor *Kufr*. These are sins which are less serious than the major *Kufr*; nevertheless, they had been called *Kufr* in the religious texts. *Rasulullah* (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) said: “Abusing a Muslim is *Fusooq* (transgression) and fighting against him is *Kufr*.”

He also said (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*): “There are two things in my *Ummah* which are *Kuf*: These are making accusations regarding lineages and wailing over dead people.”

Making the judgement of *Kufr* is a matter for the legislator. It is the right of Allah and His messenger only. No one has the right to pass the judgement of *Kufr* against another person unless there is a clear proof from the Qur’an or Sunnah.

Slaves of Allah! Everyone of us hates *Kufr*. None like to be called *Kafir*. *Rasulullah* (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) prohibited and warned us severely against calling one another *Kafir* or *munafiq*. He said (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*): If a man says to another you are *Kafir* or *Munafiq*, then one of them will have i.e. if the only who was described does not deserve this description, then the one who said it will get it.

Salves of Allah! We have to be careful and avoid all forms of *Kufr*. We have to follow the ways and means that prevent it, and we have to seek refuge with Allah from it.

O Allah! Keep us Muslims as long as we are alive! When you take our souls, take us as Muslims, and raise us to the ranks of the righteous.

Having pointed out the seriousness of describing one as *Kafir*; however, for the sake of clarity and in order to avoid *Kufr* and protect ourselves from *Kufr*, it is important to know who is included in the description of *Kufr*.

The description of *Kufr* includes the original *Kafir*- one who has always been *Kafir* (in contrast to one who was Muslim and then renegades). Included in the description of the original *Kafir* are the Jews, Christians, Magian (fire-worshippers), atheist, agnostic, those who worship stones or animals, etc.

Some Muslims might feel uneasy to call a Christian or Jew *Kafir* and instead prefer to call him/her *Kitabi*. However, the truth in which there is no doubt is that whoever continues to be Christian or Jew after the mission of Prophet Muhammad (*salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) while the call of Islam has reached him/her and was properly conveyed to him/her and yet denies, then he/she is *Kafir* and he is one of the people of the Hell-fire. If the call of Islam has not reached one or was conveyed to one in a distorted manner which is not enough to establish the proof against one, the most correct opinion in this case is that the affair of such person rests with Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala.*)

In *Saheeh Muslim*, *Abu Hurairah*, may Allah be pleased with him, said: *Rasulullah* (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) said: By the One in Whose hands the soul of Muhammad is, none of this *Ummah* (*Ummat ad-Da’wah*); a Jew or a Christian dies without believing in that with which I have been sent but he will be one of the people of the Fire.

Secondly, the word *Kafir* includes the apostate who gives up Islam by one of three things; by committing ideological (belief) *Kufr* or *Kufr* of the heart, or by committing verbal *Kufr* or *Kufr* of the tongue or by committing action *Kufr*.

Ideological *Kufr* (of the heart) includes denying the existence of Allah or one or more of His attributes. It also includes denying *Al-Qiyamah*, *al-Jannah* and *an-Nar*, *Sirat*, the balance etc. All of these and the likes are *Kufr* and throw a person outside Islam.

Verbal *Kufr* (of the tongue) includes making a mockery of Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) or His Messenger (*salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam*) or His *ayat*. It also includes denying something which is well known and established in the religion or abusing Allah or one of His angels or one of His messengers. All of these and the likes are *Kufr* and throw a person outside Islam.

The action *Kufr* includes desecrating the Qur'an by burning, tearing it apart or throwing it in a dirty place. It also includes prostrating to the sun or the moon. All of these and the likes are *Kufr* and throw a person outside Islam.