

THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF QURBANI

The nearest translation of the Jumu'ah Bayaan delivered by Shaykh-ul-Ḥadīth Ḥaḍrat Mawlāna Ādam Ṣāhib رَحْمَةُ اللهِ at Jame Masjid, Leicester.

My dear respected friends and elders, last week I was talking to you about Qurbani and I said the deed of Qurbani is in the form of sacrificing an animal, which the Shariah has made it Waajib (incumbent) upon us, therefore, it is necessary for us to do Qurbani.

Last Friday, you heard and you have probably heard it before that in these days of Qurbani there is no better deed in terms of reward, it is not that a person cannot or should not do any Sadaqah in these days of Qurbani but the point is that no deed can supersede this deed of Qurbani. For example, a person without doing a Qurbani gives £10,000 and on the other hand there is a person who does a Qurbani, the person simply doing the Qurbani will earn greater reward, because this deed is ordered by Allah Subhana-Ta'ala.

It comes in a Hadeeth outlined by Hakeemul Ummat Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanawi Rahmatullah Alaihe who is such a great 'Mujaddid' (reviver of Deen) that for every Ayat there is a Zaahir (apparent) aspect and a Baatin (hidden) aspect. For example, there is the body and there is its soul. I was explaining to you last Friday that there is the grape and there is its juice. In Shariah and in actions Allah Subhana-Ta'ala has also kept a Zaahir and Baatin aspect.

By praying salah a person is able to create concentration, devotion and humility. Our pious predecessors have said that if a person cannot create humility in his heart, then he should try to pray salah with concentration and devotion, Insha Allah after spending a period of time in this way he will notice humility in himself.

Where Allah Subhana-Ta'ala has commanded us to fast then in conjunction, Allah Subhana-Ta'ala has said that through this fasting a person will acquire the fear of Allah (Taqwa) - this is the soul of fasting. Let me reiterate to you again, as sometimes a person has misconceptions (May Allah Subhana-Ta'ala safeguard us from such people who create these misunderstandings intentionally, Ameen), they say that deeds that are Zaahir are not necessary, they are nothing - [na oozubillahi min zalik!]. If a person wants to create humility and devotion and does this in some other way but does not pray his salah then he will be called a Faasiq, and if he renounces salah (which is Fardh-compulsory) he will be classified as a Kaafir. The way shown to us by Allah Subhana-Ta'ala is that both Zaahir (apparent) and Baatin (hidden) are both Maqsud. If you have no grapes then how will you derive its juice?

If you have no apples then where will you get its juice from? If a person was to leave a Zaahir action and claim to have the Baatin he will be under the influence of Shaytan, if a person says I do not need the Zaahir he will be called a Faasiq, and if he renounces a Fardh [compulsory act] then he will become a Kaafir. The deed of Qurbani is necessary; a person, who renounces it, is renouncing a great command of the Shariah!

You have probably seen in the world that in order to enter England, the Government has made some 'access points'. You can enter from either Birmingham Airport, Manchester Airport, Heathrow or Gatwick, or from Dover if you have come by ferry, there are probably even some more 'entrances' - where the Government has set up Immigration where your documents will be checked. If you come via Heathrow / Gatwick then your immigration documents will be checked there. Similarly, if you come via Birmingham your documents will be checked there. If a person has a passport and visa but comes from an illegal entry point, he will be arrested immediately. He has all the necessary documents, but he will be suspected of being a thief due to coming from that direction. If you have a

passport then why did you not come from Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester, Dover...? Why did you not come from those places where the Government has established immigration? Even if the person says he has his passport and all the relevant documents he will still be suspected of being a criminal. If a person coming from another country wishes to enter England but attempts to enter where there is no official entry point, that person will be suspected of being a criminal. This is the example that Allah Subhana-Ta'ala has put in my heart at this moment.

Similarly, in order for us to create humility Allah Subhana-Ta'ala has directed us towards salah, if a person was to use any other method he will be called an associate of Shaytan. There are groups of people who say that what is the point of Qurbani? We should spend our money elsewhere - these people are Mulhid and they are very far from Deen! What the Shariah has established is what a person will have to follow and do. Allah Subhana-Ta'ala says in the Quran regarding fasting, that fasting will create Taqwa (the fear of Allah) in a person, now if a person says that I will create this Taqwa in another way, why should I go hungry? This person will be called a thief as he is stealing from the Shariah, and if he were to deny that fasting in the month of Ramadhan is compulsory, he would become a Kaafir!

If a person wants to extract the juice of grapes and they say I will bring the grapes later, it will not work, he will not be successful. First the grapes should be washed, presented and then passed through the machine - then its juice will come out. In the same manner, in Qurbani there is a Zaahir aspect which is the slaughtering of the animal according to the rules and regulations laid down by the Shariah. Most of you know them, if you do not then you should ask.

If a person was to do a Qurbani taking into account only the apparent aspects of it, then his Qurbani will be done, but he will not get the spirituality which Allah Subhana-Ta'ala wants to give us, details of which can be found in the Quran and Hadeeth.

In the seventeenth juz of the Quran is Surah Hajj, in which Allah Subhana-Ta'ala says the purpose of Qurbani is that you have a firm conviction and belief in the oneness of Allah Subhana-Ta'ala and have belief in Him.

A person should be aware and acknowledge that everything happens only through the will and commandment of Allah Subhana-Ta'ala. Even a leaf is not able to move without the commandment of Allah Subhana-Ta'ala, the Being whom in front we prostrate ourselves is Allah The One. Allah Subhana-Ta'ala further explains the soul of Qurbani. We should prostrate before Allah, where Allah Subhana-Ta'ala tells us to do something, we should do it; where He tells us to refrain we should refrain; when Allah Subhana-Ta'ala tells us to perform salah we should pray, and when He tells us not to pray salah we should not pray. Allah Subhana-Ta'ala even tells us when not to pray salah. When the time for Fajr, Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Eisha comes we should pray our salah but when the sun is rising etc. then we should not perform salah as it is prohibited. When Allah Subhanahu Ta'ala tells us to fast then we should fast, when he tells us to refrain from fasting then we should refrain; He has made it Fardh (compulsory) for us to fast in Ramadhan and Haraam for us to fast in these days of Udhiyah.

Once I was at a place with some associates many years ago. It was the second day after Eid. At home we had roasted meat. It is Mehmani from Allah Subhana-Ta'ala. My friends and I sat down to eat but one of them did not sit with us. He sat on the sofa. I asked him to join us but he refused.

Some pious leaders were allergic to the meat of certain animals but on these days of Eid they did not abstain. I can distinctly remember when I was teaching in Jamia Islamia Dahbel that the Principal, Moulana Saeed Rahmatullah Alayh was told not to eat the meat of sheep by doctors because he was ill, but for these five days he really used to eat the meat saying that 'I will eat this meat, O Allah, even

if it kills me!' And I saw with my own eyes that for the duration of these five days nothing used to happen to him. I am not saying that all of you should do this, some pious leaders used to just taste the meat in order to gain its Barkat.

As I was saying, that person sat on the sofa, I again asked him to join us but he again refused. I said if you are avoiding the meat (due to health), at least have a little for its Barkat(blessings), if nothing else. He went on to say after some persistence that I cannot tell you the reason for me not eating this meat. I then asked him that are you fasting? He replied yes. I told him to break his fast, as to fast on these days it is Haraam and that if he did not break his fast, he would be committing a sin. Because he did not know the relevant laws of Islam there is no Kaffarah and sin for him if he breaks his fast. Furthermore, Allah Subhana-Ta'ala states in Surah Hajj that O Prophet Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam, give good news and glad tidings to those who are humble.

By the means of Qurbani, one is able to annihilate his soul and create devotion in one's heart and be the ones who follow the Commandments of Allah. By doing Qurbani the following quality is instilled into a person: that when a person begins to remember Allah Subhana-Ta'ala his heart begins to shiver through the fear of Allah; their hearts are not hard but are soft. When the words of Allah are recited in front of them and they hear the commandments of Allah their faith increases and through the deed of Qurbani they create within themselves such qualities that they solely rely upon Allah Subhana-Ta'ala's oneness. Learn to have so much Tawakkul (reliance in Allah Subhana-Ta'ala) in your youth, middle age and old age that when you are sick and when the time of death approaches you think to yourself that until now I relied on Allah Subhana-Ta'ala and He fulfilled everything, similarly He will [fulfil everything] in the grave also.

My dear respected friends and elders, learn to rely on Allah Subhana-Ta'ala in everything that you do. If you are involved in the process of immigration, on whom should you rely? Allah! You are working to earn wealth but your reliance should be on Allah Subhana-Ta'ala. You are sick and taking medication to get well, your reliance should be on Allah Subhana-Ta'ala. You are leaving this world and entering the life of the grave - until now every act was performed on reliance (Tawakkul) and Insha-Allah in the grave every act will be performed on Tawakkul!

Especially for Qurbani, an Ayat in the Quran states clearly: the meat you obtain after sacrificing the animal does not reach Allah Subhana-Ta'ala. You cut the meat and you eat it. It is necessary as Allah Subhana-Ta'ala has commanded us and by doing this a person will gain Taqwa. What reaches Allah Subhana-Ta'ala? The bones, blood...? By doing the Qurbani you will be obtaining the qualities of Taqwa (the fear of Allah Subhana-Ta'ala). This will reach Allah Subhana-Ta'ala and it will be a means of your respect in this world and in the hereafter. This is the 'juice' of Qurbani according to the Holy Quran.

From Hadeeth we learn of an incident when the Sahabah Radhi Allahu Anhum asked Rasulallah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam regarding Qurbani. The Sahabah Radhi Allahu Anhum asked very few questions to Rasulallah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam, they only asked when it was necessary and when they did ask it was with great respect. Of all the previous nations, the Sahabah Radhi Allahu Anhum were the ones who asked their messenger Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam the least questions. Before asking they use to look at the disposition of Rasulallah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam and act on everything he would say. They were afraid to upset Rasulallah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam, because they would be losers in this world and in the hereafter. Allah Subhana-Ta'ala had announced in the Quran that, by raising the voice in the presence of Rasulallah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam. all the good deeds and rewards would be erased and one would not even realise. You will find this ayat in the 26th Juz of the Quran. Today, we get hold of a Moulana and ask him twenty questions at once! - the

issue of disrespect and respect does not even arise. They asked Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam a question regarding Qurbani. Even during the days of ignorance people use to carry out a Qurbani which is explained in detail in the eighth juz of the Quran. The Sahabah decided to ask Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam regarding the reality of Qurbani, so the Kuffar and Mushrikeen realise and come to know that the Qurbani they do is different to the Qurbani of the Muslims.

They asked him that 'O Muhammad Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam, what is Qurbani?'. He replied that it is the Sunnat of your spiritual father Ibraheem Alayhis Salaam. What was the Sunnat of Ibraheem Alayhis Salaam? It was that he first sacrificed his Nafs and then the animal. Why? Because Ibraheem Alayhis Salaam did not go to sacrifice an animal. He saw a dream to go and sacrifice his son (the dream of a Prophet is also revelation.)

He told his son that he saw a dream in which he was commanded to sacrifice him. His son was ready. The purpose here is not to narrate the story which you all know of, but to explain its spirituality. Ibraheem Alayhis Salaam was told to sacrifice his son. You all know that he took him to sacrifice him. Ibraheem Alayhis Salaam annihilated his Nafs! To take your own life is easier than to take the life of your son. Because if a person wants to take his own life it will take a few minutes but if a person was to kill his son he will have his memories for the rest of his life. He will keep on remembering the scene in which he killed his son. If a person was to slit his own throat, he will be conscious and aware of what is happening for only a few minutes, before he becomes unconscious. But a person will never forget slitting the throat of his son! Ibraheem Alayhis Salaam took a knife along with his son, he was not going to sacrifice an animal, but his Nafs, his own self.

'That whatever Allah Subhanahu Ta'alaa has commanded me to do I will do it, even if it means killing my own son' - this is the Sunnat of Ibraheem Alayhis Salaam. Later Allah Subhanahu Ta'ala told him that he had become successful. Allah Subhanahu Ta'ala says in the Quran that there was a great examination of Ibraheem Alayhis Salaam and that Ibraheem Alayhis Salaam was successful as he annihilated [sacrificed] his Nafs. When doing a Qurbani, it is necessary that we remember this incident, and annihilate ones Nafs in front of Allah Subhanahu Ta'ala. Until the Nafs (soul) is not made, one will not attain his goal. Zaahiree (apparent) deeds or actions are necessary and Wajib (incumbent), but until the person does not acquire the main thing he will not reach the stages of excellency. To annihilate ones Nafs is to stop and prevent our Nafs from pride, enmity, hatred, jealousy, backbiting, causing pain to others, etc. Our Nafs wants us to do all these things. Annihilate and strike our Nafs by stopping it from doing these things, this is the real Qurbani.

May Allah give us all the inclination to practice on what has been said. (Ameen)