

FITNAH: THE ENEMY'S KEY TO ENTERING THE HOMES OF MUSLIMS

Friday Sermon¹ by | Dr M. Saeed Ramadan Al-Bouti

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All praise is due to Allah, praise that complies with His blessings and compensates His abundance. Our Lord, for You is all praise as befits the majesty of Your countenance and the might of Your authority.

O Allah, I cannot sufficiently enumerate praises upon You; You are as you have praised Yourself. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone and He has no partner, and I bear witness that our Master² Muhammad is His slave and Messenger and His sincere and intimate friend, the best Prophet that Allah sent to the entire world as a herald of glad tidings and admonition. O Allah, pray upon, give peace and give blessings upon our Master Muhammad and upon the family of our Master Muhammad, prayers and peace that last inseparably until the Day of Judgment. I advise you and my sinning self to have fearful awareness of Allah the Exalted.

To proceed, o slaves of Allah!

There is no doubt that the occupation of any Islamic territory is one of the most severe disasters that befalls the Muslims. However, it happens only through one way, which is the *fitnah*³ that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, has warned us against. It is through this door that the enemies can easily invade the Muslims' territories in addition to imposing their power and usurp the Muslims' rights. What is the meaning of *fitnah*, in brief, which the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, has clearly talked about?

¹ It was given on 30th of Muharram 1426 H. , 11th of March 2005

² Arabic: *Sayed*, which only applies to human beings.

³ In this sermon it means trials or temptations that test the unity of the Muslim community. The term may be used to describe insurrection, sedition, or civil warfare or, more specifically, to define a tribunal over doctrinal issues.(Translator)

In brief, it is the enmity and aggression of Muslims towards one another. Everything that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, has mentioned about sedition (*fitnah*) and its types can be summarized in this: the enmity and aggression of Muslims towards one another. The Prophetic traditions in this respect are numerous and all of them revolve around this meaning.

For example, listen carefully to what at-Tirmidhī and Ibn Mājah have reported with an authentic chain of transmission, which is that Sa'd ibn Abī Waqqāṣ narrated that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said **"The Hour will not be established until you kill your ruler and fight one another with swords, and your world is inherited by the evilest among you."** Listen also to what at-Tirmidhī and Abū Dawūd have reported with an authentic chain of transmission, in which the keeper of the secret of the Messenger of Allah, Hudhayfah ibn Al-Yaman, narrated that he, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, **"By the One in Whose hand is my soul, there will be *Fitnahs* during which the person sitting is better than the person standing, the person standing is better than the person walking, and the person walking is better than the person running."** He said, **"What do you think I should do if he enters upon me in my home and extends his hand to kill me?"** He said, **"Be like the better son of Adam."** All of the Prophetic traditions about *fitnah* revolve around that meaning, dear brother! They are embodied in the enmity and aggression of Muslims towards one another through different expedencies that are justified by Satan. Nevertheless, Allah, Exalted and Glorified, warns against it. I remember, and perhaps all of you remember, when the seeds of this *fitnah* were planted in order to bear their fruits today. It was implanted through books which were being distributed freely everywhere. These books held inside its pages the ideas of *takfīr*⁴ of other Muslims, alleging that they commit innovations in religion and declaring the permissibility of killing Muslims. I was saying then, "O people! They are the seeds of *fitnah*. If they grow, they will only bring bitterness. They will burst into the *fitnah* that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, has warned

⁴ In Islamic law, *takfīr* or refers to the practice of one Muslim declaring another Muslim an unbeliever or *kāfir* (pl. *kuffār*). The act that precipitates *takfīr* is termed the *mukaffīr*. (Translator)

against.” Nevertheless, those who were spreading these seeds never listened to these warnings. There were definitely hands behind the scene in order to open the door of *fitnah*, at which point enmity aggression would prevail.

O brothers, here you see the harvest of these seeds. Who is being killed severely nowadays? They are not the occupying enemies but rather tens of your fellow Muslims are being killed even though they have not committed any murder, have not worshipped another god than Allah and have not committed adultery. They have not committed any of these acts for which Islam legislates the killing of a Muslim. Nevertheless, every morning we open our eyes to see this *fitnah* not being represented in fighting the occupying enemy, but as I told you, in killing Muslims.

What is the justification, brothers?

Go back to the seeds of *fitnah* that are found in these *takfīrī* books. They allege, "They are regime supporters, so they are disbelievers and must be killed!" Which religion calls for this? Which verse in the Qur'an gives such an absolute judgment? Which authentic Prophetic tradition stated by the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, mentions this?

The Muslims know well that Islam never includes such things. I do not know someone who helped the enemies of the Muslims more than Ḥāṭib ibn Abī Balta'ah. This Muslim secretly sent a letter to the polytheists of Makkah warning them that Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, had mobilized an army to conquer Makkah, so they needed to be careful. However, did the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, shed his blood? Did he kill him?

When one of the Companions thought about this, Al-Mustafa, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, **“And what do you know, perhaps Allah might look with pity on those who were present at Badr and say “Do what you wish, I have forgiven you.”** Whenever a Muslim draws near to Allah through doing a good deed, Allah makes it an intercession for the sins His slave has committed. The clearest evidence for this is what Allah, Mighty and Majestic, says regarding that occasion, warning about Ḥāṭib's fault. What does Allah, the Exalted, say? Allah describes Ḥāṭib and whosoever does like

his act as being a *mu'min* (believer), **"O you who believe! Take not My enemies and your enemies (i.e. disbelievers and polytheists, etc.) as friends, showing affection towards them"**, [Surat Al-Mumtahanah, 60:1]

What is the justification for what is going on nowadays, brothers?

They defy and turn away from repetitive warnings in the traditions said by the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, for he says, **"By the One in Whose Hand is my soul! The Hour will not begin until you kill your rulers and fight one another with swords"**. Although the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, says this, every day we hear about crippling wars between Muslims. When we look at the enemy who occupies our territories and usurps our rights we find him happily clapping his hands. Do you call yourselves *Mujahidin*⁵? Is this Jihad when you bring happiness to the faces your enemies?

O brothers, the Jihad for the cause of Allah should not be like this. If a Muslim strays from the principles of Allah's religion, or the words of the Messenger of Allah, he should never be ignorant of the threatening words of Allah, Who says,

"He has power to send torment on you from above or from under your feet, or to cover you with confusion in party strife, and make you to taste the violence of one another. Look how We propound the signs that possibly they would comprehend. And your people have cried it lies; and it is the Truth. Say, "I am not a constant trustee over you." [Surat Al-'An`ām, 6: 65-66]

Here we taste the bitterness of humiliation as Allah says **"or to cover you with confusion in party strife, and make you to taste the violence of one another"**. This is what is happening nowadays. The Muslims taste the violence of each other and transgress against each other. Is this the religion the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, was sent with?

⁵ . The ones who fight for the cause of Allah