

Gold Coast Mosque

Summary of Jumma Kuthba 27 February 2015

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Muslim Ummah once unified, merciful, and cohesive, but transformed into differing, conflicting, warring entities.

One of the deadly diseases that have weakened the Muslim Ummah universally is "ASABIYYAH JAAHILIYAAH" (communal/tribal/ethnic pride)

Linguistically, 'Asabiyyah' comes from the word 'asabah', which is the relatives of the person from the father side. These relatives are called Asabah, because they strengthen and defend the person that makes him/her stronger.

Idiomatically and according to Shar'iah, 'Asabiyyah' is man's supporting his people to whom he belongs, whether they are right or wrong, oppressing or oppressed.

'His people' to whom he belongs can be kith and kin, ethnicity, colour, birthplace, citizenship, school of thought, or a group of people with common interest.

Name calling was not the practice of our beloved Prophet.

The drive that causes Asabiyyah is the feeling of being better than others, a kind of arrogance like the mentality of Iblis (Satan), which led him to disobey the command of Allah...

The Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) warned us when he said, "No one enters Paradise if they have in their heart a grain weight of arrogance."

The scale/gauge to judge in society is not based on race, language, nationality, it is righteousness and good deeds, Allah (S.W.T.) says in Surat Al-Hujurat,

عَلَيْمِ اللّٰهِ إِنَّ ۖ أَتَقَاكُمْ اللّٰهِ عِنْدَ مَكْمَأَكْرَ اِنَّ ۖ فَوَالْتَعَارَ وَقَبَائِلَ شُعُوْبًا كُمْ جَعَلْنَا وَأَنْتَى ذَكَرٍ مِّنْ خَلَقْنَاكُمْ اِنَّا النَّاسُ اِيْهَا يَا ۖ
خَبِيْرٌ

Asabiyyah is harmful in many ways. It destroys the Ummah, and changes the unity and harmony to disunity and disharmony. This is beneficial to the enemies of the Ummah.

The Asabiyyah in Jaahiliyyah before the coming of Islam turned the Arab tribes into enemies.... TURNED into BATTLEFIELDS

فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ فُلُوْبِكُمْ بَيْنَ فَاَلْفَ اَعْدَاءٍ كُنْتُمْ اِذْ كُمْ عَلَي اللّٰهِ نَعْمَتٍ وَاوَاذِكُرُ ۖ فَوَاتَفَرَ وَلَا جَمِيْعًا اللّٰهِ بِحَبْلِ وَاَعْتَصِمُوْا
تَهْتَدُوْنَ لَعَلَّكُمْ اَيَاتِهِ لَكُمْ اللّٰهُ يَبِيْنُ كَذٰلِكَ ۖ مِنْهَا فَاَنْفَقَكُمْ النَّارِ مِّنْ قَحْفَرٍ شَفَا عَلَى وَاَكُنْتُمْ اِخْوَانًا بِنِعْمَتِهِ

"And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allah, and be not divided among yourselves..."

It is transmitted by at-Tabarani and al-Hakim that in one incident some people spoke very lowly about Salman al-Farsi. They spoke of the inferiority of the Persian in relation to the Arabs, and upon hearing this the Messenger of Allah (saw) declared: "Salman is from us, the ahl al-bayt (the Prophet's family)."

It was as if the Prophet directed Abu Dhar that such a phrase does not belong and should never belong to the Muslim community. That instance was so alarming to Abu Dhar who, realizing his mistake, rushed to seek forgiveness from his brother Bilal and placed his head on the ground asking Bilal. Yet Bilal, who realized that Abu Dhar had understood the lesson, and that the insult was completely unintentional, took his hand and hugged him in a brotherly gesture.

Also, the messenger of Allah called upon all Muslims to be united, regardless of ethnicity, race, language or tribe. The following are some examples:

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said: *"The believers, in their love, mutual kindness, and close ties, are like one body; when any part complains, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever."* [Muslim].

And: *"the believers are like a body, if one organ is sick, the whole body comes to rescue"*

And: *"An Arab is no better than a non-Arab. In return, a non-Arab is no better than an Arab. A red raced man was not better than a black one except in piety. Mankind are all Adam's children and Adam was created out of clay."* [Al-Bukhari and Muslim, on the authority of Abu Musa].

In Surah Rum, Qur'an Allah says, ***"And of His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your tongues and colours. Indeed there are Signs in this for men of sound knowledge."***

Muslims, whether they are of Chinese, African, European or Asian origin, are all one Ummah and they cannot be separated from each other. No tribal ties should ever break their unity. We are taught to respect every human being even the non-Muslims.