

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الزَّوْجَىٰ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَاحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

... لَا يَخْلُونَ رَجُلٌ بِامْرَأَةٍ إِلَّا كَانَ ثَالِثَهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ...

## ONE OF THE MAJOR SINS THAT CORRUPTS THE SOUL AND LINEAGE: ZINA

### Honorable Muslims!

One of the major sins prohibited by our exalted religion, Islam, is zina (fornication/adultery), which corrupts both the soul and lineage. Zina is defined as the sexual intercourse between a man and a woman without a valid marriage contract, both religiously and legally. It is the gravest assault against the institution of the family. Zina is an open act of shamelessness that causes the breakdown of homes, shatters the hopes of the youth, and destroys their dreams. It is a vile act that fundamentally shakes the moral values of society and paves the way for the spread of numerous physical and spiritual diseases.

### Dear Believers!

Islam not only prohibits zina itself but also forbids all paths that lead to it. Indeed, Allah the Almighty declares: **“Do not go near adultery. It is truly a shameful deed and an evil way.”**<sup>1</sup> Therefore, whether in real life, the virtual world, or in written and visual media, all words, attitudes, and behaviors that lead a person to zina are haram. It is haram to expose the human body, which Allah has entrusted to each individual, or to wear clothing that is not in accordance with the principles of tasattur. It is also haram for a man and a woman, between whom there is no religious impediment to marriage, to be alone together or to live together under the name of being housemates.

This great sin can never be portrayed as innocent through concepts such as “flirting, living as partners, friendship, a fling, or cheating.” Attempting to legitimize zina with expressions like “a romantic relationship, forbidden love, a youthful desire, or a respectful relationship” is to open the door to the path of what is haram. What is proudly referred to as “womanizing” is, in reality, zina, coveting another’s honor, and is haram. Even more so, what is being imposed upon the world under the guise of “freedom,” namely homosexuality, which led to the destruction of the people of the Prophet Lut (as), is a perversion cursed by Allah. It is forbidden and a grave sin.

### Esteemed Muslims!

Illicit images that infiltrate our homes and pockets through smartphones, digital devices, and media are making the paths to zina more accessible. Obscene advertisements that disregard Islamic and human values, along with immoral theater performances, films, and television series disguised as art, aim to portray zina as

something legitimate. Chat and marriage websites that have become widespread on digital platforms, while exploiting the institution of marriage, are distancing youth from marriage and dragging them toward zina. Friendships between men and women that begin under the pretext of companionship or emotional support often pull individuals into the mire of zina. In short, the eye becomes accustomed to zina by repeatedly looking at haram; the ear becomes desensitized to zina by constantly listening to sinful content; the tongue normalizes zina by speaking of it—until eventually, committing this vile act becomes an ordinary behavior.

### Dear Believers!

Committing evil is a grave sin, but so is facilitating its spread—it carries a heavy burden of responsibility. Allah the Almighty draws our attention to this matter in the Holy Qur’an with the verse: **“Indeed, those who love to see indecency spread among the believers will suffer a painful punishment in this life and the Hereafter...”**<sup>2</sup> For this reason, it is absolutely unacceptable to use zina, which tramples human dignity, and the paths leading to it as material for magazine programs. Making a rare and vile incident or a distorted relationship the focus of daytime television programs, films, or series for the sake of ratings is a grave act of irresponsibility that disregards the religious and moral values of society. Those who commit zina, which harms the unity of the family, and those who broadcast their immoral acts on screens, or share them on social media are partners in the same sin.

### Dear Muslims!

The antidote to zina is marriage. A legitimate marriage is a strong shield and a fortified castle in which a person can take refuge from all forms of evil. As stated by the Prophet Muhammad (saw), marriage protects one’s gaze from what is haram and preserves chastity.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, let us encourage our youth toward marriage. When they reach the age of marriage, both religiously and legally, let us support and assist them in getting married. Let us facilitate marriages. We must not neglect our individual, societal, and institutional responsibilities in eliminating all forms of shamelessness and immorality that threaten the institution of the family. Each of us, especially those in the media sector, should prioritize programs that reflect sensitivity to what is halal and haram, and promote examples of modest and virtuous families, instead of content that disregards our core values. Let us bring these positive examples to screens, social media, and digital platforms more prominently.

I would like to conclude this week’s khutbah with the following warning from the Prophet Muhammad (saw): **“A man is not alone with a woman but the third of them is Satan.”**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Isra, 17/32.

<sup>2</sup> Nur, 24/19.

<sup>3</sup> Bukhari, Nikah, 3.

<sup>4</sup> Tirmidhi, Fitn, 7.

