

Manner of Eid Celebration and Reminders for the future

EID al FITR Khutbah (13th October 2007) delivered by Shaykh Muhammad Taher

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

The Shaykh's reminder was in five parts:

1. Importance and manner of celebrating Eid
 2. Remembering the less fortunate
 3. Having perspective if in personal difficulty during Eid
 4. 11 short advices
 5. One advice for women in particular
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1. Celebrating Eid

Eid is an occasion in which believers feel glad for attaining ALLAH's mercy, and provisions. They feel glad for attaining the greatest blessing, guidance, when many have gone astray. Eid brings together Muslims in an atmosphere of brotherhood, and so they rejoice and thank ALLAH for making them part of this blessed ummah, and part of this great deen, and they are therefore grateful for ALLAH's favour and that ALLAH has guided them whilst others are kept astray.

In Eid we feel glad for having observed the month of Ramadan, and for receiving ALLAH's guidance to perform a share of righteous deeds during blessed nights in which believers stood side-by-side remembering their lord, supplicating to Him, until the tears flowed and souls trembled as though they had ascended to the skies with the angels and seen the Heaven and the Hell with their eyes.

In Eid we feel happiness for completing the month of fasting. So praise be to ALLAH for this gift, "Say, in the grace of ALLAH and His mercy let the believers rejoice, for they are far greater than (the wealth) that they amass"

Scholars say "expressing happiness and joy on the days of Eid is a religious ritual"

Anas RA reported that when the Prophet Mohammed PBUH arrived at Madina he found them celebrating two days, annually. He Said to them "ALLAH has replaced these with better ones: The day of Fitr and the day of Al-Ad'ha"

And so, enjoying the days of Eid is recommended, provided that we refrain from forbidden forms of entertainment.

Aisha RA reported "The Prophet PBUH entered her house once while two of her servants were singing with drums (or daff). He lied down on His bed, facing the wall and covered his face with his gown. Abu Bakr RA then entered and rebuked the servants, "The flute of the devil (i.e. music) is

playing in the Prophet's household? And so the Prophet PBUH uncovered his face and went to Abu Bakr and said, "leave them. For every people there is a day of joy, and today is our Eid"

Another example of the Prophet Mohammed PBUH's celebration of Eid is when the Abyssinians gathered in the mosque to perform a traditional dance with spears and shields. People gathered around to watch, and passing by, the Prophet Mohammed PBUH allowed Aisha RA to watch as he stood by her and said "Perform of tribe of Arfadah. Let the jews see that our religion is lenient and tolerant"

2. Less fortunate

O Muslims! While we enjoy and celebrate these blessed days with our families and Muslim brothers, we must not forget the plight of less fortunate brothers of ours.

How many of our brothers live under suffering and calamity having fled their homes and deported their lands, finding no means or glare of joy with which to celebrate these days. Our hearts ache for them because they cannot share with us the happiness of Eid. Do not forget, o Muslim, that those brothers of yours have a right upon you, to remember them, pray for them and support them (with charity).

But be certain o Muslim of the glad tidings that the age of submission to God (Islam) extends far longer than our short lives, and the land of those who submit to God extends beyond the borders of the Muslim nations, and the calamities upon us are not eternal. Those who submitted to God (at the time of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH) were under siege, surrounded and outnumbered in the battle of the trench, but after a few years they opened Makkah, Baghdad fell, and after two centuries, Constantinople was opened. ALLAH's relief will come, so be patient and do not hasten.

3. How to deal with person difficulty

Let us remember in this Eid ALLAH's infinite bounties and favours upon us. Orwa ibn al Zubair's leg was amputated and his son had died and he said 'O ALLAH you have taken one limb and left me many limbs, taken one son and left me many sons, unto You I express gratitude'. Thus we must say, when a calamity befalls us, that ALLAH has left for us many opportunities, and if we were afflicted with evil, ALLAH has left us with many blessings and bounties. And if you were to count the blessings of ALLAH then surely you will not be able to amount them.

We need to have optimism that will motivate us to work and to achieve as those who are pessimistic are drowned in their worries, sorrows and fears. ALLAH has the power over all our matters, but many people know not of this.

4. 11 advices

- a) **O Muslims** - I remind you and my deficient self of the Prophet Mohammed PBUH's command to us in his final moments on this world "Salah, Salah, by what your hands have earned"... certainly there is no fortune in Islam for those who abandon their prayers. You must pray in congregation, at the mosque, whenever possible. The Prophet PBUH said, "By him in whose hands is my soul, I am about to command that the Prayer is established, and

then I shall go to a people who don't attend us with our congregation and (it is as thought) their houses (may as well be) burnt down with (the Hell) fire"

- b) And perform the Zakah kind heartedly. ALLAH says: "Alms are only for the poor and the needy, and the officials (appointed) over them, and those whose hearts are made to incline (to truth) and the (ransoming of) captives and those in debts and in the way of Allah and the wayfarer; an ordinance from Allah; and Allah is knowing, Wise"
 - c) Beware from disobeying your parents for it is among the gravest sins. ALLAH says "and your lord commands that you do not join anyone with Him in worship, and that you remain dutiful to your parents". The Prophet PBUH says "Shall I not tell you what are the gravest of sins? To (firstly) associate (partners in authority) with ALLAH (in obedience) and to disobey your parents."
 - d) Beware from severing your ties of kinship. ALLAH says "As for those who fail to fulfil ALLAH's covenant, and they sever the ties which ALLAH ordered to honour and they cause destruction upon the earth, upon them descends a curse from ALLAH, and for them is an evil abode"
 - e) Avoid oppression for it will bring darkness on the day of judgement, ALLAH says "And do not think Allah to be heedless of what the unjust do; He only respites them to a day on which the eyes shall be fixedly open". The prophet PBUH also said, "Avoid the supplication of the oppressed, for there is no veil between it and ALLAH"
 - f) And lower your gazes from sighting what ALLAH made unlawful, and do not approach the act of fornication for it will bring about destruction in this life and the hereafter "And do not go near to fornication; surely it is an indecency and an evil way"
 - g) Avoid dealing with usury, for it is forbidden in ALLAH's book, "ALLAH allowed trading and forbade usury"
 - h) Refrain from backbiting, slander, evil saying and actions, and insulting other peoples honour as they will eat away your good actions on the day of judgement.
 - i) Be honest and just in all your dealings and transactions.
 - j) Show kindness to all your neighbours as the Prophet Mohammed PBUH "Jibreel kept advising me about my neighbours until I thought they will inherit me"
 - k) Repel peoples bad actions towards you with good ones, ALLAH says "Unequal are the good and evil actions. Repel evil with that which is good, and you will find him with whom you had animosity as though he is a dear companion. And none shall attain this status but those who persevere, and none shall attain it but those of great fortune"
 - l) Raise your children on the obedience of ALLAH, teach them to pray in the mosque with the congregation, and protect your women and daughters so that they grow in ALLAH's obedience. ALLAH says "Protect yourselves and your children from a fire whose fuel are people and stones"
5. Advice to women

And O dear sisters, who have come here to witness this blessed occasion, I ask ALLAH the exalted to make myself and yourselves among those to whom he says “The Muslims, men and women; and the believers, men and women; the devout, men and women; and the truthful, men and women; the fasting men and women; and those who guard their chastity, men and women; and those who remember ALLAH abundantly, men and women; ALLAH prepared from them forgiveness and great reward”

I remind you that the Prophet PBUH on this great day, delivered a sermon to men and women in which he recited the verse of the pledge of allegiance in the chapter of Al Mumtahana “O Messenger of ALLAH, when the believing women come to you to pledge allegiance that they will not associate anything with ALLAH, nor will they steal, nor will they fornicate, nor will they slay their children, nor will they slander from between their hands or their feet, nor will they disobey you in any good, then pledge for them and ask ALLAH to forgive them, indeed ALLAH is all forgiving, merciful”

Thereafter the Prophet asked “Will you pledge on that matter?” A woman replied, “yes, o prophet of ALLAH”,

He then commanded them to give charity and said “Give in charity, as you (i.e. women) shall be the greatest amount of firewood for jahnnam”, so one of them asked “why so, o Prophet of ALLAH?”, he said, “You complain a lot and dishonour spousehood”, and so they disposed off all their earrings, rings, and necklaces in Bilal’s gown for charity, may ALLAH be pleased with them all.

O sisters and mothers, fear ALLAH and be the best followers of the best predecessors (the mother of the believers)

Fear ALLAH and be mindful of his boundaries and fulfil the rights of your husbands and children

O ALLAH, your servant have come to this place seeking your reward and bounty, fearing your wrath and punishment. O ALLAH, grant us what we seek and safeguard us from what we fear,