

Khutba of Eid Al-Adhaa 2008

When Eid comes you feel that the earth shines out at its best and the whole universe seems brighter. It seems that the arrival of Eid has a reflection in the rejoicing of both heaven and earth the Eid of the Muslims is here. There is no doubt about this change in our surrounding because our festivals have the distinguished feature of being attached to the obedience of Allah almighty.

Oh Muslims,

Eid al fitr is a supplement to the month of Ramadan as a sign of thanking Allah for his great blessings. Allah SW has honoured Muslims by giving them days in which their souls can taste joy after great good deeds. Eid Al-Adhaa comes after a great worship in the month of Dhul-Hijja which is the hajj pilgrimage.

There is no more joy for a heart than a joy that results from obedience and striving for the satisfaction of Allah almighty. It is a right for believers to feel joy in their heart after spending ten blessed days of Dhul-Hijja filling them with good deeds. Feeling happy after striving in your worship and feeling joyful for the fruit of your hard work whilst following the guidance of the Quran and the sunnah of the prophet (pbuh) is appropriate for you "Say: "In the bounty of Allah. And in His Mercy, - in that let them rejoice": that is better than what they hoard" [Yunus 10:58].

Oh Muslims,

Eid Al-Adha is amongst the ties of faith that attach us with times in history but also between our hearts and souls today. When Eid Al-Adhaa comes we remember the prophet Ibrahim who was so happy when Allah blessed him with a boy in old age but when he saw a dream in which he was slaughtering his beloved son he understood that it was a sign from Allah almighty for sacrificing. The test was very hard. It involved all signs of true belief, perfect obedience, having patience in hardships, giving priority to seeking the reward from Allah, sacrificing for the sake of Allah and obedience towards parents and being kind to them. All these were reflected in this test. Because of that, ease, redemption and reward came from Allah and the same thing will be granted for those who do right at any time. The wisdom behind putting His servant in hardships is that Allah wants to see the sincerity of our heart for him only, patience in fulfilling our duties towards him and how do we follow his orders and abstain from all unlawful things. If we fulfil all of that then we will pass the test of piety, as Allah says "It is not their meat nor their blood, that reaches Allah. it is your piety that reaches Him" [Al-Hajj 22:38].

The end of the test and the order to spare Ismail came from heaven "And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice" [Al-Saffat 37:107] and the sacrifice of an animal became a tradition after that so that great event became a great example of fulfilling the true meaning of belief, tasting the beauty of obedience and recognizing the greatness of submission to our lord. It is an event for the nation of Muhammad

(pbuh) to remember the father of all prophets Ibrahim after whom they are ordered to follow his tradition "So We have taught you the inspired (Message), "Follow the ways of Abraham the True in Faith, and he joined not gods with Allah." [Al-Nahl 16:123]. The way of Ibrahim is: pure belief, obedience combined with contentment, patience combined with steadfastness, sacrificing and satisfaction with the situation and worshiping while struggling against your lower self, your desires and shaytan.

After Ibrahim and Ismail raised the foundations of the House they turned to Allah in dua - and so you should do after doing good deeds - to Allah "Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: For you are the All-Hearing, the All-knowing. Our Lord! make of us Muslims, bowing to Thy (Will), and of our offspring a Muslim people in submission to you, bowing to your (will); and show us our place for the celebration of rites; and turn to us; for you are the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful. Our Lord! Send amongst them a Messenger of their own, who shall rehearse Your Signs to them and instruct them in scripture and wisdom, and sanctify them: For you art the Exalted in Might, the Wise." [Al-Baqarah 2:127-129].

Those were blessed supplications from two noble prophets and they were accepted when Allah SW sent Muhammad (pbuh) as a prophet and made us among his followers on this religion.

Oh muslims,

The day of Eid also demonstrates that our religion is justly balanced; it is a joy for the souls combined with true belief and submission of the hearts at the same time when limbs are enjoying the day. Eid is an event that has this special feature of happiness appearing not only on the outside, but it reaches the hearts. Forget worries and grief and do not hold any ill feelings towards any human being. Share happiness with people, join them in opportunity for joy and jubilation but at the same time, be aware not to oppress one other. Indeed, Eid should not be the day for those wear new clothes but it is truly for those carrying a heart of fear of the Day of Judgment. On the day of Eid heart should be purified and everyone should exchange greetings. All traces of dispute or hatred must be removed from the hearts. Eid should bring the smile back to the faces and lips; it is also an opportunity for every Muslim to get rid of all traces of sins so the heart is left with only love towards each other and is full of the light of belief. Be conscious of Allah and in return Allah will love you.

Do not let any moment of the day passes without clearing your heart, doing good, showing brotherhood, enjoying the happiness for ourselves and others. Let us implement the means of cooperation, love and harmony which will lead us towards good feelings, love and affection, enjoining the good and forbidding evil.

Oh Muslims,

The prophet (pbuh) always used to include women in his (pbuh) Eid reminder. He used to remind, advise and encourage them to give more charity and they followed

his reminder and even gave their jewellery in the days of Eid for charity in order to purify themselves and make up for any shortcomings.

Takbir is a sunnah during the days of Eid following the obligatory prayers and the three days of Tashriq (the three days following Eid day to maghrib on Thursday) which are days for eating, drinking and remembering Allah almighty. Therefore, fasting the first day of Eid is not allowed and fasting the remaining days of Eid is disliked. Any fasting should be delayed till after Eid days, i.e. after Thursday.

Fear Allah and keep your hopes is in him and the final day, do good to people as Allah is doing good to you, keep straight the relations between yourselves, obey Allah and his messenger (pbuh) and follow the Quran and the Sunnah. Do this and you will be winners. Guard strictly your prayers as prayer is the pillar of the religion and whoever loses it will have no good. Spread the message of Allah and be among those who do good.

May Allah accept our good deeds and forgive us all.