



## Day of Sacrifice [*Id-ul-Adha*]

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*Allahu Akbaru, Allahu Akbaru kabira, wal-hamdu-lillahi kathira, wa subhaana Allahi bukratan wa aseela*

**Dear brothers and sisters:** We live in a great occasion which is the day of *Idul-Adha* and in the great days which are the first ten days of *Dhul-Hijjah*. The Prophet [pbuh] said: *'There are no days greater in the sight of Allah and in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Him than these ten days, so during this time recite a great deal of tahlil [saying: 'there is no god but Allah'], takbir [i.e. Allah Akbar] and tahmid [al-Hamdulillah].'* [Ahmad]

These ten days include the days of Hajj, Day of *Tarwiyah*, Day of *Arafah*, on which Allah perfected His religion. Fasting on this day will expiate for the sins of two years. These days also include the Day of Sacrifice, one of the greatest day of the entire year and the greatest day of Hajj, which combines several acts of worship in a way unlike any other day. The Prophet said, *'Among the best deeds during the tenth day is 'Ajj and Thajj' meaning, talbiyah and sacrifice.'*

**Dear brothers and sisters:** Today is the greatest day ever as it combines two celebrations: the day of *Id* and Friday which is also another *Id* for Muslims. This great occasion is tied to a unique event, the Hajj; a unique city, Makkah; and a unique family, the family of Ibrahim [pbuh]. Today, all pilgrims follow the traditions of our father Prophet Abraham in their pilgrimage, when they make sacrifice, when they walk between the two mountains [*Safa* and *Marwa*], when they drink from *Zamzam*, and when they throw the stones [*Jamarat*]. We cannot deal with *Id-ul-Adha* without remembering our father Ibrahim [pbuh], who represents in the Qur'an an ideal submission. He never hesitated to respond to the call and command of his Lord. He never considered anything too precious to be withheld when it came to the fulfilling the wish of his Lord. We are all too familiar with his story about his son Ishmael, and how he showed submission and sacrifice to the will of his Lord as the Qur'an relates.

It is a time of happiness, a day of *Tahlil*, a day of *Tahmeed*, a day of *Takbeer*, and a day of sacrifice. Today, more than two million Muslims from all over the world are gathering in one place, asking one God, reciting one supplication, one *talbiyah*, and performing the same rites. This indicates the unity and brotherhood which should exist throughout the Muslim community. It also indicates that Muslims should unite themselves in all affairs of life; they should come to peace and tolerance and avoid disputes and disobedience.

**Dear brothers and sisters:** Nowadays, we live in blessed days, it is not good to be in a dispute or to quarrel with another Muslim. You should reconcile with those people whom you dispute with. Be tolerant and forgiving to those who harmed or wronged you as the Qur'an recommends us. The Qur'an says, *'Whoever pardons and makes reconciliation - his reward is [due] from Allah.'* [42:40]

Be kind to you parents, sisters, brothers, relatives, neighbors, the needy, the poor, and friends. The Qur'an says, *'Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler'* [4:36] Be kind to non-Muslims, and treat them gently and politely. The Qur'an says, *'Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not*

*expel you from your homes – from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.*' [60:8

Your happiness and rejoicing on the day of 'Id should not be achieved through committing forbidden acts and behaving badly; for if you do this you will be guilty of disobeying Allah. Some Muslim youth go beyond the Islamic boundaries in their celebration. Your happiness should be within the boundaries of Islam. A Muslim is not allowed to violate the Islamic rules even on that day.

**Dear Parents, fathers and mothers:** You are responsible for educating and taking care of your children before Allah on the Day of Judgment. So you should look after your children and teach them the teachings and morals of Islam, and support them to go to school and learn in university. Do not neglect them. Surely, this is a great responsibility for the Prophet [pbuh] mentioned it in many hadiths. Islam does not differentiate between men and women on the basis of gender. Many verses in the Qur'an address and command both male and female to do good acts and abandon bad ones. Women are our mothers, our sisters, our wives, and our daughters, so we must show respect to them all. The Prophet in his last speech said, "Treat women and behave towards them in a gentle and noble way, for they are helper to you." [al-Bukhari]

**Dear brothers and sisters:** Sacrifice or *Qurbani* is the tradition of your father Ibrahim [pbuh] and your Prophet Muhammad [pbuh]. Sacrifice [*Udhiyah*] refers to the animal [camel, cattle or sheep] that is sacrificed as an act of worship to Allah, during the period from after the 'Id prayer on the Day of Sacrifice [*Id-ul-Adha*] until the last of the Days of *Tashriq* [the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> of Dhul-Hijjah], with the intention of offering sacrifice. Allah says: "*Therefore turn in prayer to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him only].*" [108:2]. You are promised by your Lord, reward for each part of the body of your offering, even its hair or wool, as in the hadith. The deed of sacrificing an animal is a stressed recommended [*Sunnah*] to be emulated by the financially able persons. So, slaughter on behalf of yourselves and your households, including your wives, children and parents, so that all of them will gain its reward and you will thus follow the practice of the Prophet [pbuh] who slayed for himself and his family. When he slaughters it, he says, "*Allahumma hadha 'anni wa 'an aali bayti* [O Allah, this is on behalf of myself and the members of my household."

The sacrifice should be one of the following kinds of animals: camels, cows, sheep or goats. If a person is able, he should slaughter his sacrifice himself; however, if he cannot, he may hire someone to do it and should attend the slaughtering. All the same, if he is not present, the sacrifice is still valid. sacrifice should be after 'Id Prayer and during the next days of *Tashriq*. Allah says, "*Indeed, We have granted you, [O Muhammad], Al-Kawthar [a river in Paradise]. So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone].*" [Al Kawthar: 1-2]

It is recommended to divide the sacrifice into three: one third to be eaten, one third to be given as gifts and one third to be given to the poor and needy. It is also allowed to give it all a charity. It is a condition that the animal should be healthy, sound, free from faults, and reach the right age. It is also not allowed to fast in the day of 'Id or the three days following it for the Prophet [pbuh] prohibited it because they are days of eating, drinking, and worship.

**Dear brothers and sisters:** 'Id Prayer is highly recommended to be performed by everybody in the family, men and women, young and old. To is also recommended the manners and etiquette of 'Id prayer such as making ghusl or bath before going out to the prayer, eating before going out to pray on 'Id-ul-Fitr and after the prayer on 'Id-ul-Adha, offering congratulations, adorning oneself on the occasion of 'Id, Going to the prayer by one route and returning by another.

Finally, I ask Allah to make your 'Id happy for every Muslim, to forgive our sins, to accept our deeds, and guide us all. ameen