

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
...اللَّهُمَّ مِنْكَ وَلَكَ عَن مُحَمَّدٍ وَأُمَّتِهِ.

ACTS OF WORSHIP BRING US CLOSER TO OUR LORD

Honorable Muslims!

Our acts of worship are our duties of servitude that bring us closer to our Lord, attain His pleasure, and adorn us with good moral character. The noble verse, “Say, ‘Surely my prayer, my sacrifice, my life, and my death are all for Allah—Lord of all worlds,’”¹ is the clearest expression of this.

Our prayer keeps us away from sins and evil deeds. It brings relief to our hearts and peace to our souls. Our zakat and sadaqah add blessing to our wealth and our lives. They become a means for the consciousness of mutual help and solidarity to spread throughout society. Our fasting frees our hearts from the bondage of worldly ambitions and desires. It matures our character and grants us a dignified personality.

Dear Believers!

Our Hajj and Umrah are among the acts of worship that signify our submission to Allah the Almighty. In the Noble Qur’an, it is commanded, “Complete the Hajj and Umrah for Allah.”² In these days, as we bid farewell to our prospective pilgrims on their journey to the sacred lands, we know that our Hajj and Umrah are gatherings of brotherhood that unite Muslims of different languages, races, and schools of thought, granting them the consciousness of servitude and the awareness of the ummah. It is a blessed journey in which the believer seeks refuge in the infinite mercy and compassion of Allah the Almighty and hopes for

the forgiveness of sins through sincere repentance and tears. It is a time of renewal and revival that offers believers the opportunity to evaluate their past and build their future.

Esteemed Muslims!

Another act of worship that increases our closeness to our Exalted Lord is qurbani. The worship of qurbani, for which we have begun preparations in these days, is a sign that we are willing to devote both our wealth and our lives in the way of Allah the Almighty. As stated in the noble verse, “Neither their meat nor blood reaches Allah. Rather, it is your piety that reaches Him,”³ the true purpose of qurbani is to submit to the command of Allah. It is to demonstrate devotion and loyalty to Him. The purpose of qurbani is to purify ourselves from evil traits such as selfishness, stinginess, and greed. And the purpose of qurbani is to open our hearts to one another and strengthen our unity and solidarity. In this way, it is to strive for the establishment of goodness throughout the earth.

Esteemed Believers!

Qurbani is a movement of goodness. It is a bridge of hearts that we establish with people who see our nation as a source of hope. Qurbani means carrying affection to the homes of our brothers and sisters who await our arrival with longing and allowing them to experience the joy of Eid at their tables. On this occasion, our brothers and sisters who wish may support this movement of goodness by entrusting their sacrificial offerings, through proxy, to Presidency of Religious Affairs and the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation.

We pray to Allah the Almighty to allow us to reach Eid al-Adha in health and well-being. We conclude this week’s khutbah with the following supplication of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw): “...O Allah! This sacrifice is from You and has been offered for Your pleasure by the Prophet Muhammad (saw) and his Ummah.”⁴

¹ An’am, 6/162.

² Baqarah 2/196.

³ Hajj, 22/37.

⁴ Ibn Majah, Adahi, 1.

