

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا تَبْدَأُ بِهِ فِي يَوْمِنَا هَذَا أَنْ نُصَلِّيَ، ثُمَّ نَرْجِعَ
فَنَنْحَرَ، فَمَنْ فَعَلَ فَقَدْ أَصَابَ سُنَّتَنَا.

EID AL-ADHA: DAYS OF BROTHERHOOD AND SOLIDARITY

Honorable Muslims!

Today, we are feeling the peace, happiness and excitement of reaching the morning of 'eid once again. May endless praise and thanks be to our Lord Almighty (swt), Who has allowed us to reach this 'Eid al-Adha. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), who taught us the eid's wisdom and importance. Eid Mubarak! I wish you all a happy 'eid!

Dear Believers!

In the verse I have recited at the beginning of the khutbah, our Almighty Lord (swt) states: "Say, **"Surely my prayer, my worship, my life, and my death are all for Allah—Lord of all worlds."**¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) makes the following supplication to Allah the Almighty: **"The first thing to be done on this day (first day of Eid al-Adha) is to pray; and after returning from the prayer we slaughter our sacrifices (in the name of Allah). Whoever does so, he acted according to our sunnah."**²

Dear Muslims!

A few minutes ago, we performed our 'eid prayer, Alhamdulillah. Soon we will slaughter our qurbani with Basmala, takbirs and supplications. And we will once again thank our Lord (swt) for His blessings, insha Allah. Let us not forget that neither their meat nor blood reaches Allah. Rather, it is our piety and sincerity that reaches Him (swt).

Dear Believers!

Today is the day to make our qurbani a means of drawing closer to Allah (swt) and earning His pleasure. Today is the day to embrace the sincerity of Hajar, the loyalty of Prophet Ibrahim, and the submission of Prophet Isma'il.

Today is the day when our brothers and sisters from all over the world gather at the Ka'bah and chant in the same feelings "Labbaik Allahumma labbaik! Here I am, o Allah, here I am! I am on your order, here I am."

Today is the day of joy and happiness when the brotherhood of faith envelops our souls like a spring breeze, and the clouds of sorrow and distress in our hearts disappear.

Today is the day for building bridges of hearts by offering qurbani meat to our brothers and sisters. Today is the day to rejoice and make others rejoice; it is the day to remember and be remembered. Today is the day to remember our deceased ones with reverence, to visit our parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and neighbors, and to bring joy to their hearts. It is the day to bring the joy of 'eid to the orphan, the elderly, and the sick.

Today is the day to forgive and embrace. Today is the day to mend the broken hearts and the depressed souls through the blessings and joys of the 'eid. Today is the day to put an end to all kinds of quarrels, bitterness and resentment that cast a shadow on our brotherhood, and to be refreshed in a climate of peace and tranquility.

Dear Muslims!

Let us pay attention to slaughtering our qurbani, which are opportunities to become closer to our Lord (swt), without harming them. Let us make sure that the process of slaughter is carried out by competent people. As members of a religion that considers cleanliness half of faith³, let us be sensitive to environmental cleanliness. Let us consider the 'eid not only as a holiday, but as an opportunity for silat al-rahm. Let us visit our loved ones, especially our parents. And let us seek the supplications of the sick and bring joy to the elderly. Let us visit the graves of our loved ones who have passed on to the eternal life, and pray for them. Let us cheer up our heavenly smelling children by giving them gifts. We also should not forget to recite the takbir of tashrik after performing fardh prayers.

I pray to our Almighty Lord (swt) to accept the worship of qurbani we perform, to forgive our sins, and to make our 'eid an occasion for our joy, peace, unity, and solidarity.

¹ An'am, 6/162.

² Bukhari, 'Eidayn, 3.

³ Muslim, Taharah, 1.