

Date: 31.07.2020

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ إِنَّ شَانِكَ هُوَ
الْأَبْتَرُ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

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

EID AL-ADHA: JOURNEY TO PIETY

Honorable Muslims!

In the Surah al-Kawthar I have just recited, Allah the Almighty (swt) states as follows: **“Indeed, We have granted you, [O Muhammad], al-Kawthar. So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone]. Indeed, your enemy is the one cut off.”**¹

In the hadith I have just read, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) states, with reference to the first day of the Eid al-Adha, as follows: **“Today, we will first perform the eid prayer, and then return to perform the worship of qurbani. Whoever does so indeed performs our sunnah.”**²

Dear Believers!

Today is the Eid al-Adha that strengthens our faith, unites our hearts, and increases our gratitude. Today is the day when the worship of qurbani is performed, and supplications and efforts are consolidated with piety and submission. Endless thanks and praises be to Allah the Almighty (swt) who has enabled us to welcome this exceptional day. Salat and salam be to Prophet Muhammad (saw) who declared days of eid to be days of peace and joy.

Dear Muslims!

As in all forms of worship we perform, our goal in performing the worship of qurbani is to express our servitude, praise, and reverence to our Lord (swt). It is to acquire the sense of piety and hope to be included among the people who have attained the appreciation of Allah. We will

perform the worship of qurbani with this sense insha Allah. We will take as example for ourselves Prophet Ibrahim’s loyalty to his promise and Prophet Ismail’s submission to Allah.

Dear Believers!

On Eid al-Adha this year, we need to pay better attention to cleanliness and hygiene more than ever. We need to recall Prophet Muhammad’s (saw) hadith, **“Cleanliness makes up half of the faith.”**³, and act with sensitivity as would suit a Muslim. In these days when we fight against the coronavirus pandemic, we have to observe the measures, and protect ourselves and our environment while sincerely performing our worships.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The animals to be sacrificed as qurbani are entrusted to us. Let us not hurt them. Let us treat them with mercy and care.

Days of eid are days of joy. Let us join our neighbors, relatives, the sick, the elderly, and the lonely brothers and sisters in this joy. Let us put an end to hard feelings and resentments on these blessed days. Let us all enjoy the peacefulness of the eid. But let us also not cause the spread of diseases and turn these valuable days into days of sorrow. Let us observe the mask-wearing and social distancing rules. Let us avoid handshaking and hugging on the days of eid and during the pandemic. Let us bear in mind that we must recite the tashrik takbir, starting from the morning prayer on the Day of Arafat and ending with the asr prayer on the fourth day of the Eid.

Dear Believers!

As I conclude this Eid al-Adha khutbah, I call on all of you to be considerate and patient in the performance of the worship of qurbani, in paying visits, and especially in traffic, during the eid. May our Lord Almighty (swt) protect us from all kinds of accidents and troubles. May He (swt) keep us clear of pandemic diseases, wars, and sufferings. May He (swt) enable us to come together again on many occasions of blessed eids. May Allah’s (swt) peace, mercy, help and blessings be upon you! Eid Mubarak!

¹ Kawthar, 108/1-3.

² Bukhari, ‘Eidayn, 3.

³ Tirmidhi, Da’awat, 86.