

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنْسَكًا لِيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِنْ بَهِيمَةِ
الْأَنْعَامِ فَإِلَهُكُمْ إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ فَلَهُ أَسْلِمُوا وَبَشِّرِ الْمُخْبِتِينَ
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَا عَمِلَ أَعْمَىٰ مِنْ عَمَلٍ يَوْمَ النَّحْرِ أَحَبَّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ إِهْرَاقِ الدَّمِ...

THE BADGE OF LOYALTY AND SUBMISSION: QURBANI

Honorable Muslims!

We are once again approaching the blessed days of Eid al-Adha. Only a few days are left until we observe the worship of qurbani, a symbol of Islam and a powerful sign of our unity, solidarity, and brotherhood. People have started purchasing their sacrificial animals. May our Lord Almighty (swt) allow us all to reach the Eid al-Adha in health, well-being and joy.

Dear Believers!

Qurbani refers to the slaughtering of eligible animals for the sake of Allah during the days of Eid al-Adha by a Muslim who is of sound mind, has reached puberty, and possesses sufficient wealth in religious terms. Qurbani, a form of worship that dates back to the earliest chapters of human history, is an expression of our gratitude for the blessings bestowed upon us by Allah the Almighty. It is a declaration that our love for Him surpasses all other loves. It signifies that we place His pleasure above all else. In short, qurbani symbolizes our readiness to give up our wealth, our lives, and all that we possess for the sake of our Almighty Lord.

Esteemed Muslims!

Qurbani carries a far deeper meaning and wisdom than merely slaughtering an animal and consuming its meat.

Qurbani is an expression of taqwa; it means wholeheartedly submitting to all the commands of our Lord. It means distancing ourselves from the stinginess of our nafs, the fleeting desires of this world, and the sins that hinder us from attaining Allah's pleasure. Allah the Almighty reminds us of this truth by stating,

“Neither their meat nor blood reaches Allah. Rather, it is your piety that reaches Him...”¹

Qurbani is wahdat; it is coming together as the Ummah of Muhammad, transcending color, language, and geography, to share in both joy and sorrow. It is striving to let compassion and affection prevail in our streets, our cities, and across the whole world—beginning from our own homes.

Qurbani is du'a; it is bringing a smile to the faces of orphans, those without support, and the vulnerable. It is bringing joy and warmth to the homes of those in need, sharing in their happiness, and finding peace through giving.

Dear Believers!

Worship is carried out according to the way Allah has commanded and the practice of our Prophet (saw).

Therefore, the worship of qurbani is not fulfilled simply by giving the price of the animal to the needy or to charitable organizations in place of actually performing the qurbani.

A single ovine animal may be sacrificed by a single person. A single bovine animal may be sacrificed by up to seven people, provided each intends to perform the worship of qurbani. Each bovine sacrificial animal must be divided into shares. For this reason, a single share cannot be owned by more than one person. It is not permissible to slaughter the sacrificial animals, mix the meat together, as is sometimes done by certain organizations, and then distribute it to the shareholders by weight.

The slaughtering must take place only after the Eid prayer. The slaughtering performed before the Eid prayer are not regarded as valid worship of qurbani. Furthermore, the practice of pooling donations from multiple people for a single share and offering a sacrifice in the name of our Prophet (saw) has no place in our religion. This is a bid'ah—an innovation—and an abuse of our religion and acts of worship.

Dear Muslims!

What is essential in the worship of qurbani is that the person performs, or arranges for, the slaughter of their qurbani in the place where they reside. In fact, the Messenger of Allah (saw) slaughtered his qurbani every year following the commandment to do so,² and he encouraged his ummah to offer sacrifice with these words: “No deed is more beloved in the sight of Allah than sacrificing on the day of Eid al-Adha...”³ Those who are unable to slaughter their qurbani themselves locally, or those who wish to offer a second sacrifice, may arrange for their sacrifice to be slaughtered by proxy, whether at home or abroad.

Dear Believers!

Gratitude be to Allah the Almighty, just as in the past, many charitable organizations today continue their noble work today, ensuring that the qurbani entrusted by our generous nation reach those in need. Our Türkiye Diyanet Foundation is one such organization. Last year, through our Foundation, we delivered qurbani meat to millions of people both at home and abroad, alhamdulillah. This year, too, we will continue to assist and guide our brothers and sisters who wish to perform the qurbani by proxy, doing so with transparency, accountability, and a deep awareness of worship, and strive to receive the supplications of all the oppressed and needy individuals we are able to reach, particularly those in Gaza. On this occasion, I warmly invite you to join this movement of goodness through our religious officials and mufti offices.

I pray that our worship and devotion may be accepted in the sight of our Almighty Lord, and conclude this Friday's khutbah with the translation of the meaning of Verse 34 of Surah al-Hajj: “For every community We appointed a rite of sacrifice so that they may pronounce the Name of Allah over the sacrificial animals He has provided for them. For your God is only One God, so submit yourselves to Him 'alone'. And give good news 'O Prophet' to the humble.”⁴

¹ Hajj, 22/37.

² Tirmidhi, Adahi, 11.

³ Tirmidhi, Adahi, 1.

⁴ Hajj, 22/34.

