

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا...
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبُنْيَانِ، يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

‘EID AL-FITR: DAYS OF UNITY, SOLIDARITY AND BROTHERHOOD

Honorable Muslims!

We carry a tinge of sorrow as we bid farewell to another blessed Ramadan, a month in which we sought Allah's pleasure through fasting, prayers, khatms, fitrahs, and zakats. Yet, alongside this bittersweetness, our hearts brim with joy as we greet the dawn of ‘Eid al-Fitr, a day overflowing with peace, joy, and solidarity. All praise and thanks are due to the Almighty Allah, Who guided us to witness this joyous occasion. May peace and blessings be showered upon our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), his family, and his companions, who illuminated for us the true essence of the ‘eid. Dear brothers and sisters who stand shoulder to shoulder under the dome of this holy temple, ‘Eid Mubarak!

Esteemed Believers!

‘Eids are days when love and affection are fostered among believers whose faith and ideals are the same, even if their countries, languages and colors are different. On these joyous occasions, the spirit of Islamic brotherhood reaches its peak, as we turn towards the same qiblah, a testament to our collective devotion to Allah (swt). ‘Eids present us with a golden opportunity to extend a hand of kindness and compassion. Through our material and moral support, we can illuminate the hearts of those around us.

Distinguished Muslims!

Allah the Almighty says, “**And hold firmly together to the rope of Allah and do not be divided...**”¹ If we heed this call from our Lord (swt), then our ‘eid will be an ‘eid in the fullest sense of the word. Our beloved Prophet (saw), said “**A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other.**”² Should we fulfill the obligations of brotherhood as outlined in this hadith, and act with respect for our shared rights and established laws, then our ‘eid will be a true ‘eid in every sense.

Our ‘eid will be a true ‘eid when our hands and hearts are united with takbirs, peace and blessings, and heartfelt supplications. Our ‘eid will be a true ‘eid when we smile at our family, receive the blessings of our parents, and reconcile with our relatives and neighbors.

Our ‘eid will be a true ‘eid when compassion extends beyond ourselves, embracing the orphaned and bringing smiles to children's faces through the joy of giving. Our ‘eid will be a true ‘eid when we share the joy of ‘eid with our revered elders, who are the means of compassion and mercy, and with patients awaiting recovery.

Our ‘eid will be a true ‘eid when we transcend feelings of resentment and bitterness, choosing instead to fortify the ties of brotherhood. Our ‘eid will be a true ‘eid when we remove hatred and grudge from our hearts, and pave the way for forgiveness and embrace mercy.

Allah the Almighty states, “**And those who believe and do good will be the residents of Paradise. They will be there forever.**”³ A life lived righteously, in accordance with the will of Allah, fosters prosperity in this world and promises the eternal paradise of the Hereafter. Such a life ensures a true and fulfilling celebration of ‘eid.

Dear Believers!

As we greet this auspicious ‘eid morning, our hearts are filled with a confluence of emotions. While joy and merriment abound, we are also deeply affected by the plight of our brethren who endure the hardship of persecution. Our brothers and sisters in Gaza are not only deprived of the joy of ‘eid. They are also struggling to survive in hunger, thirst and all kinds of poverty in front of the eyes of the world. Parents are consumed by grief as their innocent children perish under relentless bombardment. Muslims enduring such oppression yearn for the dawn of ‘eid, a day that signifies liberation, when the grip of their oppressors will end.

It is our incumbent responsibility to endeavor to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters and to keep their hopes alive. It is to continue to stand against the oppressors, on the side of the oppressed and to fight against all kinds of evil. Let us not forget that this is a humanitarian, Islamic and conscientious responsibility for all of us. Let us say “Amin” wholeheartedly in the supplication we will make from the mihrab in a few minutes, so that our “Amins” will be instrumental in the liberation of our brothers and sisters in Gaza and the destruction of the occupying oppressors, insha Allah!

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend warm congratulations to all Muslims, especially our beloved nation, on ‘Eid al-Fitr. May this ‘Eid al-Fitr bring forth blessings and prosperity for Türkiye, the Muslim world, and all humanity.

¹ Ali ‘Imran, 3/103.

² Bukhari, Salat, 88.

³ Baqarah, 2/82.