

CELEBRATING EID (1438H) WITH LOVE AND AFFECTION

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

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وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ هَذَا الْيَوْمَ عِيدًا لِعِبَادِهِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ، وَخَتَمَ بِهِ شَهْرَ الصِّيَامِ
لِلْمُخْلِصِينَ

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ
تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Let us all increase our obedience towards Allah the Almighty by doing everything that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. Hopefully we will receive His blessings and forgiveness in this world and in the Hereafter.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this day, Muslims throughout the country are celebrating *Eid-al-fitri* (the celebration at the end of the fasting month) after a month of fasting in the month of *Ramadhan*. This day is celebrated with gratitude and joy by reciting *takbir* (Allah is Great), *tahlil* (there is no God but Allah), *tasbih* (Glory be to Allah) and *tahmid* (all praises belong to Allah), and by glorifying the greatness of Allah the Almighty. The *takbir* is recited in order to rouse feelings of love towards Allah by praising Him. It is recited together and touches the soul, increasing feelings of repentance, praising the one and only God, Allah the Almighty. Allah says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (Surah al-Baqarah), verse (*ayat*) 185:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
 وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَانَا وَلَعَلَّكُمْ
 تَشْكُرُونَ

Which means: "... All this is so that you may complete the number (of fasts as prescribed) and proclaim the greatness of Allah for having guided you, and (so) that you may be grateful."

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Eid-al-fitri is also a day of victory for us after having fasted during the month of *Ramadhan* with devotion. May our past sins be forgiven and may we be among the servants of Allah who are pure of heart and devout.

On this glorious day, it is highly encouraged to have a ritual bath. We are also encouraged to eat some food before going to the mosque, and to dress nicely in order to express gratitude and joy to Allah the Almighty. Both men and women, as well as children, are then encouraged to go to the mosque for the *Eid-al-fitri* prayer. This is where we are able to build relationships and unity among us, regardless of differences in wealth, social standing and

political views, by instilling love and understanding, and by removing feelings of hatred and hostility.

Brotherhood and unity are very important in Islam because they are the basis of building a strong Muslim community. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 3 (Surah al-Imran), verses (*ayat*) 102 and 103:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ ۖ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿١٠٢﴾
وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۗ

Which means: *O you who believe! Fear Allah as He should be feared, and let not yourself die, save as Muslims. Hold fast, all of you, to the cord of Allah, and be not divided.*

Every believer must respect his/her Muslim brothers and sisters, as Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Muslim:

" يَا مَعْشَرَ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِلِسَانِهِ وَلَمْ يَخْلُصِ الْإِيمَانُ إِلَى قَلْبِهِ ، لَا تَغْتَابُوا الْمُسْلِمِينَ ،
وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا عَوْرَاتِهِمْ ، فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ يَتَّبِعْ عَوْرَةَ أَخِيهِ اتَّبَعَ اللَّهُ عَوْرَتَهُ ، وَمَنْ اتَّبَعَ عَوْرَتَهُ
فَصَحَّحَهُ فِي جَوْفِ بَيْتِهِ . "

Which means: *"O people who take care of their tongues and who maintain the sincerity of faith in their hearts, do not backbite Muslims, do not look for their shame. Whoever seeks his brother's shame, God will look for his shame, and those whose shame has been opened will be exposed even in his own house."*

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There are still those among us who are fascinated with the liberal way of thinking practiced in the West that contradicts the values of Islam, up to the point where they even commit apostasy in order to marry non-Muslims. Recently there have been Muslims who have insulted Islam by protesting against the call to prayer (*azan*). There are also Muslims who have opposed the efforts to uphold the *Sharia* court through the Amendment of Act 355.

Islam has garnered negative attention lately due to news reports about Muslims who are involved in corruption and abuse of power. The Muslim society nowadays also does not seem to take Islamic law seriously and makes light of our religious obligations, such as not performing the five daily prayers, not paying *zakat*, not covering the *aurat* properly, and engaging in *riba*'.

In order to build an ideal society, we must first start with our families by inviting them to perform the five daily prayers in congregation at the mosque, especially the *fajr* (dawn) prayer. This is a *sunnah* that has been practiced by the Prophet (pbuh since he began his *hijrah* (migration) to Medina that was able to transform the society from one of ignorance to one of faith and devotion to Allah the Almighty. A clear example that could be given from our time is the Muslims in Turkey, who have advanced from being a secular society to becoming people who love Islam by taking care to perform the *fajr* prayer together at the mosque.

On this glorious *Eid-al-fitri*, let us all be aware of our actions so as not to spoil the good deeds we practiced during the month of *Ramadhan*. Let us celebrate this day with piety and devotion to Allah the Almighty.

Allah says in the Quran in Chapter 6 (Surah al-An'am), verse (*ayat*) 153:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ ۚ

ذَٰلِكُمْ وَصَّوْنَاكُمْ بِهِ ۖ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٥٣﴾

Which means: *And this is My path that is straightforward. So, follow it, and do not follow the (other) ways, lest they should make you deviate from His way. This is what He has enjoined upon you, so that you may be God-fearing.*

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ
الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ
اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.