

MEANING OF SACRIFICE FOR THE LOVE OF ALLAH

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَىٰ الدِّينِ
كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ،

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَىٰ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ
وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ﴿١﴾ فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرِ ﴿٢﴾ إِنَّا شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ ﴿٣﴾

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

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

Let us strive to increase our faith and righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be forgiven in this life and the Hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Alhamdulillah, we celebrate Eid al-Adha which falls on Friday, the most auspicious of all days. Let us reminisce the meaning of true sacrifice that is demanded in Islam.

Eid al-Adha or also known as Hajj celebration Day has several privileges. Among them is performing qurban (*udhiyah-blood sacrifice*) that is carried out for four days beginning after Eid al-Adha prayer until the sun sets on the thirteenth day of Zulhijjah. Qurban means slaughtering of specific animals categorised as *al-an'am* such as camels, cattle, buffaloes, sheep or goats. Qurban is an act of charity and *taqarrub (act of pleasing Allah)*. It is a highly recommended act of worship.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 108 (surah al-Kautsar) verse 2

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرْ

Which means: *So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone].*

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi

الصَّوْمُ يَوْمَ تَصُومُونَ وَالْفِطْرُ يَوْمَ تُفْطِرُونَ وَالْأَضْحَى يَوْمَ تُضْحُونَ

Which means: *"The fasting (begins) when you (the community) start fasting, and breaking the fast is on the day you (the community) break the fast, and the day of sacrifice (i.e. the day of 'Eid when people slaughter the sacrifice) is when everyone celebrates this day."*

There are several lessons we can learn from performing qurban. Among them is it trains us to be righteous and sincere in our worship. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 22(surah al-Hajj) verse 3:

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهَ لُحُومُهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤُهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنكُمْ

Which means: *Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you.*

Dear brothers and sisters

The act of performing qurban every year certainly makes us recall the story of Prophet Ibrahim 'alahissalam and his son Ismail 'alahissalam. Prophet Ibrahim alaihissalam received a decree from Allah the Almighty asking him to slaughter Ismail. Prophet Ibrahim 'alahissalam knew that it was a great test that must be obeyed. This incident is mentioned in the al-Quran in which Allah the Almighty said in chapter 37 (surah as-Saffat) verse 102:

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يَبْنَئِي إِنِّي أَرَىٰ فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْنَحُكَ فَانظُرْ مَاذَا

تَرَىٰ ۚ قَالَ يَنَابِتِ أَفْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ ۖ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٠٢﴾

Which means: *And when he reached with him [the age of] exertion, he said, "O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I [must] sacrifice you, so see what you think." He said, "O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast."*

The conversation between father and son really touches our hearts. How great is the patience of these two prophets and their diligence in executing the commands of Allah the Almighty.

When Prophet Ibrahim alaihissalam placed the knife on Prophet Ismail alaihissalam's neck, the angel Gabriel came with the command of Allah to bring a *kibas* (lamb) as a replacement.

Dear brothers and sisters

To end this sermon, let us share the true philosophy behind the celebration of Eid al-Adha that we celebrate today. Let us emulate the unwavering obedience of Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Ismail alaihissalam to Allah the Almighty.

Let us strive to be obedient servants of Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. Many of us are willing to spend on purchasing luxury items but become very calculative when doing qurban. May we become more obedient believers and the quality of our worship to Allah the Almighty is better than it was before.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter (Al An'aam) verses 162-163:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٦٢﴾ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿١٦٣﴾

Which means: Say, "Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds. No partner has He. And this I have been commanded, and I am the first [among you] of the Muslims."

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ
قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ،
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.