

SACRIFICE : NOT JUST SHEDDING BLOOD

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ،

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اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كَبِيرًا، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَثِيرًا، وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَلَا نَعْبُدُ إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ، وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ، صَدَقَ وَعْدُهُ وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ، وَأَعَزَّ جُنْدَهُ وَهَزَمَ

الْأَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ.

□ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ

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.

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ لَلَّذِي لَدَى بَيْكَةِ مَبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٦﴾

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate Eid *al Adha* or the celebration of the sacrifice. Today we gather to praise Allah and to perform the Eid *al Adha* prayer. Beginning today, Muslims are encouraged to perform sacrificial slaughter in the name of Allah the Almighty and give the meat to the poor for the sake of Allah the Almighty.

We are in the month of Zulhijah, and one of the events of hisotrical significance which occurred in this month is when Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) was ordered to slaughter his son Ismail (peace be upon him). In remembrance of this event, Allah the Almighty ordered the followers of Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to perform sacrificial slaughter of livestock.

In Surah Al-Haj verse (*ayat*) 34, Allah the Almighty says:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنْسَكًا لِيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِّنْ بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ

فَالَهُمْ إِلَهٌُ وَاحِدٌ فَلَهُ أَسْلِمُوا وَبَشِّرِ الْمُخْبِتِينَ ﴿٣٤﴾

Which means: *To every people did We appoint rites (of sacrifice), that they might celebrate the name of Allah over the sustenance He gave them from animals (fit for food). But your God is One God: submit then your wills to Him (in Islam): and give thou the good news to those who humble themselves,-*

The ‘rites of sacrifice’ in this verse refers to the sacrificial slaughtering of livestock from the 10th to the 13th of *Zulhijjah*.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are encouraged to perform the rites of sacrifice every year. The Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad:

مَنْ وَجَدَ سَعَةً فَلَمْ يُضَحِّ فَلَا يَقْرَبَنَّ مُصَلَّائَنَا

Which means: *“Whoever can afford it, but does not offer a sacrifice, let him not come near our prayer place.”*

The wisdom of the sacrificial slaughtering being performed by the more affluent people is a sign of their submission to Allah the Almighty when being tested by Him. Even so, this form of sacrifice is only practice for when they need to commit greater sacrifices. That is how they will be able to sacrifice their lives for Islam someday.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Soon, let us unite and cooperate in performing sacrificial slaughter organized by the mosque committee. This will strengthen unity and avoid division among us.

One of the lessons of the sacrificial slaughter is that it is not merely an act of slaughtering livestock but that sacrifices are also required to uphold Islam in all aspects of life, either from the perspective of finances, knowledge, skills, expertise, or even contributions to religion, state and country.

In everyday life, we need to commit sacrifices by not heeding calls toward disobedience and evil deeds which violate the laws of Allah the Almighty. We must also sacrifice by avoiding excessive entertainment and empty chatter that does not benefit us, and we sacrifice time from our worldly affairs to attend to our worship. Examples of such behavior are taking time off our busy schedule and inviting family members, colleagues and members of the community to the mosque for congregational prayers and engaging in lectures and activities at the mosque which promote the remembrance of Allah the Almighty.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) stated the advantages gained from sacrificial slaughter in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi:

مَا عَمِلَ ابْنُ آدَمَ يَوْمَ النَّحْرِ عَمَلًا أَحَبَّ إِلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ مِنْ هِرَاقَةٍ دَمٍ وَإِنَّهُ
لِيَأْتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ بِقُرُونِهَا وَأُظْلَافِهَا وَأَشْعَارِهَا وَإِنَّ الدَّمَ لَيَقَعُ مِنَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ
بِمَكَانٍ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَقَعَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ فَطِيبُوا بِهَا نَفْسًا

Which means: "The son of Adam does not do any deed on the Day of Sacrifice that is dearer to Allah than shedding blood. It will come on the Day of Resurrection with its horns and cloven hoofs and hair. Its blood is accepted by Allah before it reaches the ground. So be content when you do it."

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

ذَلِكَ وَمَنْ يُعْظِمَ شَعْبَةَ اللَّهِ فإِنَّهَا مِنْ تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ ﴿٣٢﴾

Which means: Such (is his state): and whoever holds in honor the symbols of Allah, (in the sacrifice of animals), such (honor) should come truly from piety of heart.

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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 وَأَسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.