

## LESSONS FROM ANIMAL SACRIFICE

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اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِيْنُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنْ شُرُوْرٍ اَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ  
اَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللّٰهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُّضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.  
وَأَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ.  
اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِيْنَ.  
اَمَّا بَعْدُ،  
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اِتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ وَاَوْصِيْكُمْ وَاِيَّايَ بِتَقْوٰى اللّٰهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُوْنَ.

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 receive Allah's blessings and pleasure in this world and in the Hereafter.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Animal sacrifice is a *sunnah* (the practice) that was done by Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him [PBUH]) and it was also prescribed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This worship begins after the *sunnah* (non-obligatory) prayers on *Eid al-Adha* on the 10th of *Zulhijjah* (the 12<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar) and continues on the *Tashreeq* Days of the 11th, 12th and 13th of *Zulhijjah*. The requirement of animal sacrifice is ordained by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 22 (*Surah Al-Hajj*) verse (*ayat*) 34:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنَسَكًا لِيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِّنْ بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ  
فَالْهَكْمُ لِلَّهِ وَحْدَهُ ۚ أَسْلِمُوا وَبَشِّرِ الْمُخْبِتِينَ

**Which means:** “We appointed acts of devotion for every community, for them to celebrate Allah’s name over the livestock He provided for them: your God is One, so devote yourselves to Him. [Prophet], give good news to the humble.”

Animal sacrifice is favored by Allah the Almighty. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi which means:

*“The son of Adam does not do any deed on the Day of Sacrifice that is dearer to Allah than shedding blood (of a certain livestock). 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.”*

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Choose the best livestock for sacrifice, not animals that are too thin, deformed, or sick and those animals which are not valid for sacrifice. The Prophet (PBUH) himself slaughtered two of the best two-horned rams. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Muslim:

أَنْ يُضَحِّيَ بِكَبْشَيْنِ أَمْلَحَيْنِ أَقْرَنَيْنِ وَيُسَمِّيَ وَيُكَبِّرُ وَيَضَعُ رِجْلَهُ عَلَى أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ

صِفَا حَهُمَا.

**Which means:** “*The Messenger of Allah used to sacrifice two two-horned rams, mention Allah’s name and say the Takbir (Allahu Akbar or Allah is the Most Great), and place his foot on their sides.*”

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

The act of sacrifice is a sign of our obedience to Allah the Almighty. The *sharia* of Allah the Almighty cannot be upheld without sacrifice, whether through life or property. The willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) to slaughter his son, Prophet Ismail (PBUH); the patience shown by Prophet Ismail (PBUH) who volunteered himself to be sacrificed; and the obedience of Siti Hajar (may Allah be pleased with her) to her husband Prophet Ibrahim to live with her son Prophet Ismail in arid land of Mecca are examples of great sacrifices that have been recorded in Islamic history. These acts were done simply to follow the command of Allah the Almighty.

Additional lessons that can be learned from animal sacrifice include:

**First:** It serves as a sign of a servant’s obedience to Allah the Almighty.

**Second:** It educates us to be patient in facing any test by always surrendering and trusting in Allah the Almighty.

**Third:** It eradicates greed and promotes generosity to spend wealth for the cause of Allah the Almighty.

Let us together emulate the sacrifices of Prophet Ibrahim, Prophet Ismail and Prophet Ibrahim's wife, Siti Hajar (peace be upon them) who were willing to put the commandments of Allah the Almighty before their personal wishes and interests. Therefore, we must be brave enough to sacrifice political, personal and other interests in order to protect the religion and defend Muslims, especially the Malays. Halt arguments and political disputes that may harm Muslims in this country. Unite for the sake of spreading and defending the religion of Allah the Almighty.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ۝ (١) فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرْ ۝ (٢) إِنَّا شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ

۝ (٣)

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