

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful

Hazrat Ameer's Eid ul Adha Message

Zil Hajj 1436, September 2015

لَنْ يَنْتَظِرَ اللَّهُ لِحُومِهَا وَلَا دِمَائِهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنْتَظِرُ التَّقْوَى مِنْكُمْ كَذَلِكَ سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَى مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ۝

Not their flesh, nor their blood, reaches Allah, but to Him is acceptable observance of duty on your part. Thus has He made them subservient to you, that you may magnify Allah for guiding you aright, and give good news to those who do good (to others). (Al Hajj 22:37)

Dear sisters and brothers,

Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hu

I wish you all a joyous Eid ul Adha.

Through this Eid message, I hope to convey the true spirit and reason behind the Eid ul Adha celebration. The verse of the Holy Qur'an that I have cited above sums up the whole philosophy behind devotional services rendered to achieve nearness to Allah. It lays down the spirit as the foundation to achieve His nearness and not the outwardly actions we perform.

Today, as we celebrate this day of happiness and offer the Eid prayer in which we repeatedly acclaim Allah's greatness verbally by saying *Allah o Akbar* (Allah is the Greatest), we must also within a humbled heart feel His incomparable greatness and reflect on our own lowly state. Similarly, when we slaughter the sacrificial animal we must not forget that the true philosophy behind it is to forever slaughter the *nafs-e-ammaara* (the rebellious animal like spirit) that dwells within us.

We must also resolve to follow in full, the example of complete submission demonstrated by the lives of Hazrat Ibrahim, Hazrat Ismael and Hazrat Hajra , (peace be upon them). We too should be prepared to make any sacrifice that is required of us; we too should be able to say in all sincerity that our prayers, our devotional services, our living and our dying is for Allah and we must refrain from setting up associates with Him. That will be the only way to attain His

love and nearness. May Allah grant us the vision and will to follow the example of these role models.

May Allah make this Eid a day of real rejoicing and grant us the realisation to celebrate this day in the light of its real spirit and achieve His nearness.

Please pray for peace in the world, health of those who are ailing, forgiveness for those who have passed away and guidance for those who have strayed from the Path of God.

Aameen.

Please remember me in your prayers as I pray for you.

23 September 2015

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