

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Hazrat Ameer's Eid ul Fitr Message October 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Assalaam-o-Alaikum Wa Rakhmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hoo.

I Wish You All a Very Happy Eid ul Fitr

Muslims all over the world will be celebrating *Eid ul Fitr*, the festival which follows the completion of the month of fasting, Ramadan. We undertake fasting every year and the reason as stated in the Holy Qur'an is four fold, namely:

- “.....so that you may guard against evil” (2: 183)
- So that you are reminded that this is the month “.....in which the Qur'an was revealed” (2: 185)
- “.....that you should exalt the greatness of Allah for having guided you and that you may give thanks” (2: 185)
- “.....so they should hear My call and believe in Me that they may walk in the right way” (2: 186)

We have completed the fasting as prescribed by Allah and today express our happiness (*Eid* in Arabic means recurring happiness) and gratitude to Him. This gratitude is due to Him for His having given us healthy lives and minds, to enable us to endure the physical strain of restricting ourselves from eating and drinking and refraining from other temptations and sins. This obviously has given us all the confidence of being able to endure hunger and thirst; and develop sympathy for the feelings of the deprived ones; and for some it may have improved their health especially if this ill health was a result of excess of food and irregular eating habits.

Some may consider this an achievement but this is not the yardstick by which we should judge the success of our fasting. The criteria for success established by the Quran are based on the four aims of fasting I have cited.

We have to ask ourselves the following questions before we can say we have a good reason to celebrate *Eid*:

- Did we guard against all evil during this month?

- Did we in the real sense honour the revelation of the Holy Quran, that is, read it and from then on aspire to lead our lives under its light and guidance?
- Did we exalt and thank Allah for having provided us the Guidance through His Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him?
- Did we utilise the month to pray and humble ourselves before Allah?
- Do we find ourselves closer to Him; and our faith in Him stronger than it was before this Blessed Month?
- Did we adopt the “right way”, the path where we find ourselves doing all that Allah loves us to do and shunning all that He forbids us to do?

If the answer to all these questions is ‘yes’ then there is a very good reason to celebrate this day and in the spiritual sense say “this day is *Eid*”. This is a day of happiness and we pray that this will be a day that will recur in our lives every day and every moment’.

The day of course is likely to recur if we continue this self-assessment by asking ourselves the same six questions every day and remain determined to improve ourselves each day of our lives.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I pray to Allah Almighty that He grants us all the strength to walk on the right path for the rest of our lives in such a way that we practice our faith and not just profess it. I pray that Allah helps us continue the journey towards the achievement of our spiritual goal i.e. nearness to Allah who says in the Holy Qur’an:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۗ

فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ۝

“And when My servants ask thee concerning Me, surely I am nigh. I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls on Me, so they should hear My call and believe in Me that they may walk in the right way” (Holy Qur’an 2:186)

Aameen.



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