

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful*

## Hazrat Ameer's Eid ul Fitr Message

Shawwal 1433, August 2012

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن

قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

*'O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard against evil.'* (Qur'an: 2:183)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*Assalamo-o-Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahe Wa Barakato Hoo.*

While we celebrate Eid ul Fitr we must also reflect upon its true spirit. It is very much a human quality to be joyous when a goal is achieved, whether worldly or spiritual. Having been able to fulfil the command of Allah certainly calls for a celebration. While we celebrate and express our happiness it is important to remember that Allah has ordained fasting for a very specific purpose, and in the verse that I have cited above that specific purpose is *'that you may guard against evil'*.

*Taqwah* or guarding against evil is likened to passing through thorny bushes unscathed. The guidance for such a passage is contained in the Holy Qur'an which was revealed in the month of Ramadan. In this simile of the path that I have quoted, what the Holy Qur'an forbids are the thorns that may harm us and it should be our endeavour throughout our lives to avoid being injured by them. On the other hand the devil incites us to walk right into these thorns and get bruised by them and have our protective clothes torn away from us.

Fasting in Ramadan is an exercise in refraining from what are otherwise permissible needs of human beings. By going through this exercise of refraining from these legitimate demands of the body at the command of Allah, we learn to submit completely to His Will at all times.

By fasting one is able to strengthen the soul and mind so that it becomes accustomed to saying 'NO' when it ought to. Having accomplished this goal one has a good reason to be 'happy' and celebrate an Eid which in the true sense is filled with joy and happiness.

Eid ul Fitr should become a day on which we should renew our pledge and determination to resist temptations that come our way. We should be able to put into practice in our daily lives the 'NO' we have learned to say during this Blessed Month. That will make our lives happy and we will find a change in ourselves when we live according to the desire of Allah; fulfilling His commands which are aimed at inculcating in us '*haqooq Allah*' and '*haqooq ul ibad*', that is, the 'rights of Allah' and the 'rights of human beings' . This will nurture a soul that is at peace with itself and with others.

I take this opportunity to wish you a very HAPPY EID UL FITR and pray that we are all able to continue in the spirit of Ramadan. This will only be possible if we make a firm commitment that we will sustain the spiritual goals that we have achieved during the month of Ramadan.

*Aameen.*

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