

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Hazrat Ameer's Eid ul Fitr Message

(1437 Hijrah, July 2016)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hu.

I can find no better words to thank Allah for His blessings upon us than the verses of *Al-Fatiha* that start the Holy Qur'an with these words of praise:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ۝ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝ مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ۝ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ۝
إِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ ۝ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ۝

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, The Beneficent, the Merciful, Master of the day of the reckoning, You do we serve and you do we beseech for help. Guide us on the right path, The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favours, Not those upon whom wrath is brought down, nor those who go astray. (1:1 to 7)

I praise Allah for granting us this opportunity to strengthen our souls and gain His nearness. He grants us this opportunity in keeping with His attributes of being *Rabb*, the nurturer to perfection and *Rahman*, the granter, on His own, of all physical and spiritual needs of mankind.

It is His infinite mercy on mankind that He has granted us a month in which to ask for His mercy, blessings and forgiveness; a month in which to foster a relationship with the Qur'an and seek guidance in its light for our spiritual advancement; a month in which to make a new determination to live our lives in the light of the Holy Qur'an.

The approach of *Ramadan* every year brings to our mind apprehensions about our ability to fast due to the extreme weather conditions, long hours of fasting and our own physical weakness and health. Then the miracle of *Ramadan* happens and mercy of Allah descends upon our souls like showers of rain, giving us the strength to fast, pray, recite the Holy Qur'an and carry out all our devotional acts without any sense of fatigue. God makes the impossible into possible with His mercy. He has made this system as a means of nurturing our souls and granting us His closeness.

Eid arrives on completion of a month of fasting as a celebration for attaining our goal of getting closer to Allah. As we celebrate *Eid*, we have to make a strong resolve to foster the closeness we have achieved to our Creator. We have to make an effort that what we have achieved is not lost; this green fertile field that our soul harbours is not changed into chaff that is carried away by the wind of time.

Eid literally means happiness and we have to make every effort that this happiness is everlasting. The real happiness is in the closeness that we feel towards God; the real happiness is the observance of our duty to God; the real happiness is obeying the commands of God and spending the rest of our lives as His real servants.

Brothers and sisters, I wish you a very happy *Eid ul Fitr*. Let us all pray that may Allah make this day a day of happiness for the rest of our lives. *Aameen*.

Professor Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed
Ameer and President

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Worldwide Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement