

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Hazrat Ameer's Eid-ul-Adha Message

(1443 Hijrah, July 2022)

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهُ حُومَهَا وَلَا دِمَآؤَهَا وَلَكِنَّ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَى مِنْكُمْ ط

Not their flesh, nor their blood, reaches Allah, but to Him is acceptable observance of duty on your part. (Al Hajj 22:37)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As-salaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hu.

I wish you all a very happy Eid-ul-Adha.

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha an animal is sacrificed to commemorate the great sacrifice that Hazrat Ibrahim, may Allah's blessings be upon him, was willing to make following a dream in which he was commanded by Allah *Ta'ala* to sacrifice his son. Islam lays great emphasis on the spirit of all devotional observances. The purpose of all religious acts is to gain closeness to Allah *Ta'ala*. This is made clear by Him in the above quoted verse which states:

Not their flesh, nor their blood, reaches Allah, but to Him is acceptable observance of duty on your part.

The Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, has said that Eid has two aspects: the *zaahir*, that is the outwardly, and the *baatin*, the one related to the soul. He has advised his followers to give preference to the spiritual aspect of this celebration and has strongly discouraged taking pride in the display of sacrificial animals to impress others.

The word *qurbani* is from the Arabic word *qurb*, which means nearness. Thus *qurbani* or act of sacrificing an animal is a means of gaining nearness to Allah. Hazrat Mirza Sahib has stated that spilling blood and eating the meat of the animal cannot be considered a sacrifice unless this is accompanied by the slaughter of the *nafs al-ammara*, the rebellious soul or the animal that abides in us. Hazrat Sahib says: “Eid-ul-Adha has a great significance but it is so unfortunate that people do not reflect on it.” He then queries as to how many of us have actually benefitted from the *qurbani* we made this day by cleaning our souls and hearts and making an earnest effort to partake of the light which is indicated in the word *al-adha*.

Let us all make a genuine effort on this Eid day to follow the guidance of the Imam of this era, Hazrat Mirza Sahib, seek the light that Eid-ul-Adha brings with it and slaughter the *nafs al-ammara*, the rebellious animal within us that incites us to sin.

May Allah grant us the ability to achieve the spirit of Eid-ul-Adha.

Aameen summa aameen.

Professor Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed

Ameer and President

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Worldwide Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement