

Hazrat Ameer's Message for Eid ul Fitr

1431 Hijra, September 2010 CE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

Surely We have revealed the Reminder, and surely We are its Guardian.

(Al Hijr - The Rock: 15:9)

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْفُرْقَانَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ لِيَكُونَ لِلْعَالَمِينَ نَذِيرًا

Blessed is He Who sent down the Discrimination upon His servant that he might be a warner to the nations.

(Al Furqan - The Discrimination: 25:1)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Eid, literally meaning Happiness, has lost its significance for Pakistan in the wake of the misery its citizens are facing because of the devastating floods and the heartless acts of some misguided people. This year we will be 'celebrating' Eid only as a 'religious duty' as our hearts will be devoid of the usual happiness attached to this festive occasion.

The comment I have made is true, absolutely true, if we only take the outwardly, *the Zahiri* aspect of this occasion; however I would hasten to correct myself; yes, there will be the inner happiness, *the Baatini* aspect. This is the happiness one feels because of closeness to Allah.

We have had the opportunity to foster a real closeness to Him by fasting and prayers during the Blessed month of Ramadan, especially the last ten nights. It was during one of these nights, *Laila tul Qadr* or the Night of Majesty, that revelation of the Holy Qur'an commenced and Prophethood was granted to Hazrat Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

We may lose the apparent happiness from time to time but the inner happiness, once achieved is long lasting; and this is the true *Eid*. This solace and bliss we strive for is not possible to achieve if we keep the Qur'an only as an elevated symbol in our houses for bringing blessings and good fortune, *Barkat*. Such happiness comes from comprehension of the verses of *Al Furqan* (the Discrimination) and living in their light.

I pray that this Eid brings us the kind of happiness which our souls yearn for. If we succeed in achieving that, then we have found the spirit of Eid; which was the aim of our supplications during Ramadan.

As we revere the Quran and follow its teachings we should also make an effort to remove all the misunderstandings about Islam that are being portrayed in the world especially the West.

As the Qur'an has been revealed by Allah for all mankind and its protection is assured by Him; as the verses above state; this message is not only for Ahmadis who have the sole mission of spreading Islam through the teachings of the Quran, it is for all people who dwell in this global village.

Today hatred for Islam has incited some people to plan the burning of the Quran. This would only reflect the intolerance of the very people who stand there declaring that Islam is intolerant. It is important to appreciate this paradox. It is time for all the residents of this global village to realise that misinterpretation of Qur'anic verses by some of those who profess Islam do not make these verses 'unholy'. All Scriptures have to be interpreted in the context of their revelation otherwise many, including the Bible, have passages in them in which killing enemies while fighting is allowed.

I send this appeal to the worldwide community to abandon aggressive and extreme steps like the sacrilege of Holy Books to score points against one another. Burning of pages does not bring us closer together nor closer to our common goal of a peaceful world for all to reside in. The protection of the Qur'an we leave to Allah who says: 'Surely We have revealed the Reminder, and surely We are its Guardian.'

I pray for a better understanding amongst all religions and all the peoples of the world. I pray for those affected by the floods in Pakistan and those facing difficulties resulting from misdeeds of some who call themselves Muslims. I pray for the souls of all those, Muslims and Non-Muslims, who lost their lives in the tragic events of 9/11 and the relatives they left behind; I pray that Allah will accept our *ibadat* of Ramadan and we will continue to live in His service as we have resolved.

Aamen.

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