

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
 ﴿ وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنْسَكًا لِيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِنْ  
 بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ فَإِلَهُمُ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَلَهُ أَسْلِمُوا وَبَشِّرِ الْمُخْبِتِينَ ﴾ (٣٤)  
 سورة الحج، ٣٤

عَنْ أَبِي سَعِيدٍ الْخُدْرِيِّ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) قَالَ:  
 « أَيُّمَا مُؤْمِنٍ أَطْعَمَ مُؤْمِنًا عَلَىٰ جُوعٍ أَطْعَمَهُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ  
 ثَمَارِ الْجَنَّةِ »...»  
 الترمذي، صفة القيامة، ١٨

### Dear Brothers and Sisters

InshAllah, next Wednesday we will reach Eid al-Adha and perform our qurban sacrifices. Qurban is not merely sacrificing an animal, it is an act of worship, a powerful expression of a servant's devotion, submission and sincerity towards Allah (swt). In the Qur'an, Allah (swt) says: **“For every nation We prescribed the act of sacrifice, so that they may mention the name of Allah over the livestock He has provided for them... Give glad tidings to those servants who submit to Allah with complete sincerity, devotion, and humility.”**<sup>1</sup> Through this, Allah (swt) has informed us that the essence of qurban is sincerity (ikhlas). What truly matters is the intention and consciousness with which this act of worship is carried out. Therefore, while offering our qurban, we should examine and purify our hearts and reflect upon our intentions.

### Dear Jama'ah

The act of qurban is a legacy passed down to us from Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Ismail (AS). In the Qur'an, Allah (swt) confirms their sincerity and devotion by saying: **“Both of them had fully submitted themselves to the command of Allah...”**<sup>2</sup> The story of Prophet Ibrahim (as) is one of the greatest examples of true devotion to Allah. As we offer our qurban, we too should remember this profound meaning and strive to remove our own “Ismails” the attachments and loves that stand in the way of our submission to Allah.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters

Qurban is also one of the best examples of sharing and brotherhood. Sharing the meat of the sacrifice with those in need strengthens solidarity within society and builds bridges between hearts. Today, many people around the world are struggling with hunger war and poverty. The act of qurban reminds us of these realities. We must not forget that what we possess is a trust from Allah and we should remain sensitive to the needs of others. Allah (swt) says: **“Those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah, by night and by day, secretly and openly – they shall have their reward with their Lord. They shall have no fear, nor shall they grieve.”**<sup>3</sup> We should adopt the principles of sharing and

helping one another not only during Eid, but throughout every moment of our lives.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters

The ethics of sharing are among the fundamental values of Islam. A believer is one who does not sleep full while their neighbour is hungry. Protecting the orphan, caring for the poor and extending a helping hand to those in hardship are qualities of a true believer. Bringing joy to the face of a needy person and receiving the dua of an orphan opens the doors to happiness in this world and the Hereafter. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw) said: *“If a believer feeds a hungry believer... quenches the thirst of a thirsty believer... or clothes a believer who is in need of clothing, Allah will reward him abundantly in Paradise.”*<sup>4</sup> Through qurban, we should once again remember this noble character and reflect it more strongly in our lives.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters

For many years, our humanitarian aid organisation, HASENE, has successfully carried out relief and qurban campaigns and this year once again they are ready to collect and distribute your qurban donations. By appointing HASENE as your representative (wakil) and donating your qurban, you too can become part of this blessed work.

### Dear Jama'ah

Tuesday, 26 March, is the Day of Arafah, the ninth day of Dhul Hijjah. Our Prophet (saw) said: “Hajj is Arafat.” On that day, all pilgrims will be gathered at Arafat. They will reflect upon the purpose of their existence and their lives, experiencing and witnessing, in a sense, a scene resembling the gathering before Allah on the Day of Judgment. Regrets will be expressed through repentance and supplication. Millions will stand in devotion, seeking an accepted and righteous Hajj. May Allah accept the prayers and Hajj of all our brothers and sisters and may He also include our prayers and repentance among those made at Arafat, inshaAllah.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us not forget to recite the “Takbirs of Tashriq” beginning from the Fajr prayer on the Day of Arafah. Until the Asr prayer on the fourth day of Eid, after every obligatory prayer, the following takbir is recited once: **“Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar. La ilaha illallahu wallahu Akbar. Allahu Akbar wa lillahil-hamd.”** This is known as the “Takbir of Tashriq.” Everyone who performs the prayer, whether praying alone or behind an imam, whether a traveller or resident, man or woman, should recite these takbirs. On the Day of Arafah and throughout Eid, let us glorify the name of Allah (swt) with these takbirs. Let us welcome and celebrate Eid with joy and enthusiasm.



<sup>1</sup> Surah Al-Hajj, 22:34

<sup>2</sup> Surah As-Saffat, 37:103

<sup>3</sup> Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:274

<sup>4</sup> Tirmizî, Kiyâme, 18