

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
﴿لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهُ لُحُومَهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤَهَا وَلَكِنَّ يَنَالُهُ النُّفُوسُ مِنْكُمْ كَذَلِكَ
سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَيْكُمْ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾ (٣٧)
سورة الحج، ٣٧

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ):
« الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنُ مَنْ
أَمِنَهُ النَّاسُ عَلَىٰ دِمَائِهِمْ وَأَمْوَالِهِمْ ».
الترمذي، كتاب الإيمان، ١٢

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Alhamdulillah, Allah (swt) has allowed us to reach yet another Eid al-Adha today. Eid exceptional times when sharing, brotherhood, compassion and solidarity should be felt most strongly. Qurban is not only an act of worship, but also the clearest expression of sacrifice, submission and drawing closer to Allah (swt). The loyalty of Prophet Ibrahim (as) and the submission of Prophet Ismail (as) will continue to serve as an example for us until the Day of Judgment. The true essence intended in the worship of Qurban in our faith is our consciousness of servitude towards Allah (swt). As stated in the Qur'an: **“Neither their meat nor their blood reaches Allah, but what reaches Him is your piety (your mindfulness and fear of Allah).”**¹

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Unfortunately, today our world enters Eid under the shadow of much pain and conflict. Ongoing wars in different parts of the world continue to devastate the lives of innocent people, children, women and the elderly. Destroyed cities, broken families and lost hopes leave deep wounds in the conscience of humanity. Many people who should be experiencing the joy of Eid are instead struggling to survive in fear and uncertainty today. Islam is a religion of peace and it commands us to spread peace and increase harmony. Our beloved Prophet (saw) said: *“A Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand other Muslims are safe. And a believer is the one from whom people feel secure regarding their lives and property.”*² In this way, he reminded us that peace is a responsibility that extends from the individual to society. Therefore, we must not only pray for peace to prevail in our own lives, but throughout the entire world and strive to do whatever we can to achieve it.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Eid al-Adha is also a celebration of sharing and selflessness. By sharing what we have with those in need, we build bridges between hearts. The Qurban sacrifices offered during this Eid should unite not only tables, but also hearts. Let us not forget that true wealth is attained only through what we are able to give to others. Remembering our brothers and sisters in oppressed lands where war, hunger and poverty prevail and not forgetting them in our dua and support is undoubtedly a requirement of our faith. Allah (swt) gives glad tidings regarding those who help their suffering brothers and sisters in the following noble verse: **“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. No fear shall come upon them, nor shall they grieve.”**³

Dear Jama'ah!

Let us purify our hearts from hatred and resentment this Eid. Let us pray for love and tolerance to prevail first within ourselves and then throughout our surroundings. Let us set aside our grievances and reconcile with the brothers and sisters with whom we may be upset. Beginning with our families, let us spread peace and trust to our communities and to all of humanity. For peace begins with small steps. It grows and spreads through a greeting, a smile, a Qurban sacrifice and even the smallest act of kindness.

This Eid, let's call our parents, elders, relatives, teachers, those who have rights over us, our parents' friends, the elderly and those who are alone. Let us ask about their wellbeing, visit them and receive their prayers. Let us bring joy to children.

May Allah make us representatives of peace, brotherhood and compassion. May He keep us away from oppression and oppressors. May He make us companions to the oppressed and the needy. May He grant peace and safety to all our brothers and sisters in Palestine, Gaza, Lebanon, East Turkistan, Iran and every corner of the world. May He bless all humanity with peace, justice and harmony. May He accept our Qurban sacrifices and make our Eid blessed. Amin.



¹ Surah Al-Hajj, 22:37

² Tirmizi, Îmân, 12

³ Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:274