

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful



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Khutbah for Eid ul Fitr 2012

أَلَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ خَلَقَ وَهُوَ اللَّطِيفُ الْخَبِيرُ

Today is the day of joy and happiness as we mark the end of The Blessed Month of Ramadhan with this blessed day of Eid-ul Fitr. Today we enjoy one of the promised Farhataan (two joys) as told to us by

Rasoolullah SAS:

For the fasting person there are two times of joy; a time when he breaks his fast and a time of joy when he meets his Lord.

Today we give praises and thanks to Allah SWT.

- We thank Him for the opportunity He has given to us all for the completion of The Blessed Month of Ramadhan: a season of obedience and piety and liberation of the souls.
- We thank Him for giving us yet another opportunity to get close to Him SWT through all the acts of worship.
- We thank Him for the gift of Eid-ul Fitr and all the blessings that come with it.

In accepting this gift from Allah SWT we are asked:

- to begin the day by **eating some dates** as a symbol that the Month of Ramadhan has come to an end and today **is a day to celebrate**
- to take **a bath and put on our best clothes** and our best smells, come out to pray with the entire family. This is how celebration is done. Praying to Allah SWT in your best garments and your best manner.

- ✚ **To pay our Zakaatul Fitr** so that the poor could be part of this celebration. **This celebration is for all**; the haves and have-nots. So the rich must share with the poor.
- ✚ To take **one path to the Masjid** and returning on a different path to spread the joy of Eid **all over the community**.
- ✚ **To greet each other**, supplicating for one another, visiting each other and sharing the joys with each other; the true spirit of **love and brotherhood**.
- ✚ And we culminate this celebration by **chanting the Takbeer** glorifying Allah SWT: **Allahu Akbar...(Allah is The Greatest)**

While Fasting during The Blessed Month of Ramadhan Allah SWT prohibited us to consume food and drinks

- not for the sole purpose of merely subjecting us to hunger and thirst
- but rather to acquire the provisions needed to become a better human being and a better servant of Allah SWT who is then able to control his/her own desires.

So during Ramadhan we try to acquire as much provisions to combat the inner struggles and the outer struggles of everyday life.

And the best of provisions is Taqwa (God-consciousness) the very essence of Ramadhan.

And whatever good you do - Allah knows it. And take provisions, but indeed, the best provision is fear of Allah. And fear Me, O you of understanding. (2/197)

Our inner struggle is

- ✚ to increase our faith in Him and remove doubts from our hearts. We know that Shaitaan is ever whispering evil in our hearts creating doubts about our faith in Allah SWT. Taqwa diffuses these doubts and make us conscious of the evil whispering and avoid them while at the same time establish firm faith in Allah SWT.



- ✚ To liberate us from our Nafs (ego) and to develop a closer relationship with Allah SWT. Shaitaan wants us to be trapped in our emotions and egos so that he can gain an upper hand over us. It is our Taqwa that liberates us from our Nafs and make us free to worship Allah SWT.
- ✚ to be willing to display the best of character as we interact with our fellow human beings for the love of Allah SWT. Indeed Taqwa of Allah is not only concerned if we have committed an act that may incur the anger and wrath of Allah, but we should be equally concerned if we commit an act that may harm The Creation of Allah SWT.

As we reflect on the verse:

And [there is a share for] those who came after them, saying, "Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in faith and put not in our hearts [any] resentment toward those who have believed. Our Lord, indeed You are Kind and Merciful." (59/10)

There are two parts:

- We seek Allah's forgiveness for ourselves for the believers who came before us.
- We pray for a pure heart, not contaminated by any feelings of hate or envy towards other believers. This is the heart that is adorned with Taqwa, which we have worked for in the month of Ramadan earlier.

✚ Moreover Taqwa is the garment of the hearts as Allah SWT said:

O Children of Adam! Indeed We have sent down to you a garment which covers your shame and provides protection and adornment. But the finest of all is the garment of piety. That is one of the signs of Allah so that they may take heed. (7/26)

As for our outer struggles, they are many

Last year the Muslim Ummah has gone through tremendous changes as decades of dictatorial regimes went down one after the other. This year we have new challenges; nationally and internationally and



the greatest of these challenges seem the level of ignorance we have of each other.

In this age of information one would assume that the world would become a better place. By the click of a button we could know what's happening all over the globe. We talk about the world events as if it is our backyards or our neighborhoods and we have reduced this globe to a global village. Yet in this global village we fail to know who are our fellow villagers, we fail to interact, love and respect each other.

We talk so much talk about our diversities yet we have not witnessed such atrocities in the history of human beings as we are witnessing today. Despite all this talk we are confined in our differences and we see an increase in Islamophobia, bigotry, hatred and increase in violence.

Nationally: Over the past year we have witnessed:

- Threats to the freedom of worship; a right guaranteed in our constitution. Right-wing anti-Islam, anti-Shari'ah, anti-Christian have given rise to extreme forms of violence:
 - Massacre in Norway
 - Massacre in Wisconsin at a Sikh Temple
 - Burning down of the Masjid in Joplin
 - Firing at places of worship during Taraweeh Salaah

The Quran affirms:

If Allah were not to repel some through others, monasteries and churches and synagogues and mosques wherein the name of Allah is much mentioned, would certainly have been pulled down. Allah will most certainly help those who will help Him. Verily Allah is Immensely Strong, Overwhelmingly Mighty. (24/40)

- We witness threats to freedom. On the first day of Ramadhan a gunman burst into a theater and open fire killing a dozen persons and injuring scores of others. This took place in a theater but it could have taken place at a mall, a store, a park or any place where citizens gather doing their



daily chores. When there is hate there is no respect for time or place.

- For the past year many anti-Shari'ah groups have been crusading to ban the Shari'ah in the USA and almost two dozen or more states have proposed legislation to ban Shari'ah. This could have a huge impact on Muslims and the practice of their faith in those areas.

Internationally, the world is silent as Muslims in Burma are massacred by extreme Buddhists. This has even spilled over to Assam in India.

We stand helpless as Syrians are murdered by the minute by the very people who took oath to protect them. The world looks as if it is total chaos.

What has happened to us as Allah, Almighty's Vicegerent?

And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference. (17/70)

What are the Solutions?

Everything comes back to us? What are we doing or want to do?

First we have to decide

- whether we want to participate in bringing about any changes in our country or in the world or do we want to standby as spectators and count figures and numbers of those massacred? This will only last till we become those numbers.
- Isn't this what happened to the people of Thamud when society goes on with their lives and leave evil to take over. In this case there were nine of them

Now there were nine ring-leaders in the city who created corruption in the land and never worked to set things right. (27/48)



- **Do we feel free to act or are we are hindered by our own hang-ups?**

O you who have believed, what is [the matter] with you that, when you are told to go forth in the cause of Allah, you adhere heavily to the earth? Are you satisfied with the life of this world rather than the Hereafter? But what is the enjoyment of worldly life compared to the Hereafter except a [very] little. (9/38)

Should we always feel that we are victims and thus someone else needs to help us? Despite all that Rasoolullah SAS and his noble Companions went through they never felt that they were victims. They always felt the need to participate in bringing about positive changes even before his Prophethood.

Ibaadallah! Everyone and nation have their own trials and we have to do our jobs ourselves before others will help. Allah SWT

Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves (13/11)

Know that Allah SWT is with the Believers. We should never give up hope in Allah SWT

And despair not of relief from Allah. Indeed, no one despairs of relief from Allah except the disbelieving people." 12/87

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