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EIDULFITR: A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP.”



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Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, and all praise be to Allah
Blessed Muslims,
Let us earnestly strive to have the taqwa of Allah by performing all of His Commands and remain determined in avoiding all of His prohibitions. Let us altogether utter the takbeer, tahmeed, and remain grateful to Allah, for we have successfully completed the 'ibaadah that was ordained in the month of Ramadaan this year

Thus, while enjoying the lively morning of ‘Eidulfitr, let us contemplate upon a khutbah titled: “EIDULFITR: A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP.”

Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, and all praise be to Allah

Dearest audience,
Today is the 1st of Shawwaal, the day of 'Eidulfitr, the day for us to be joyous, where it is forbidden for us to fast, and the sunnah is for us to celebrate it with loud utterances of the takbeer and performing the 'Eidulfitr prayer. Narrated ibn 'Abbaas radiyAllaahu 'anhuma:

‘Eidulfitr is a day that is awarded by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala as great appreciation to the entire Muslim ummah for their devotion throughout Ramadaan. Hence, today we are commanded to celebrate it in the same manner that was celebrated by Rasulullah s.a.w where we are highly encouraged to offer meals to family members and fellow Muslims so that we can all celebrate ‘Eid with full happiness and cheerfulness.

Blessed Muslims,
We are told to celebrate 'Eidulfitr with joyousness, donning our best attire, cleaning and decorating our dwelling. It is from the sunnah that we take a bath (ghusl) in the morning and eat a few dates before going out for the 'Eidulfitr prayer

The Prophet s.a.w went out on the day of al-Fitr, and he prayed two raka'ah ...
(al-Bukhaari)

Upon returning home, it is from the sunnah to take a different route that was taken to the place of the prayer. We are encouraged to greet one another, also seek forgiveness and forgive between the spouses, children and parents, siblings, and neighbors. It is even highly recommended to offer food to the neighbors.

One highly recommended act is to increase the takbeer with a raised voice (for the men), beginning from the birth of the crescent of Shawwaal until when the imaam begins the 'Eidulfitr prayer, in upholding and manifesting the shi'ar (symbols) of Islam that is of great eminence

ذَٰلِكَ وَمَنْ يُعِظْمُ شِعْبِ آلِهِ فَإِنَّهَا مِنْ تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ ﴿٣٢﴾

“That [is so]. And whoever honors the symbols of Allah - indeed, it is from the piety of hearts. al hajj 32

Likewise, Rasulullah s.a.w has taught us that the best phrase on that day is “Taqabbala Allaahu minna wa minkum” (May Allah accept (good deeds) from us and from you).

Greeting others with this utterance became a practice of as-salaaf as-saalih (the pious predecessors)

All these manifests our gratefulness to Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala, which is consistent with His Command in al-Qur'an (interpretation of the meaning):

شَهْرٍ وَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ
 مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ وَمَن كَانَ
 مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ
 الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ
 عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَىٰكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

“... and for you to complete the period [of fasting] and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.”

(al-Baqarah 2:185)

Blessed Muslims,
In our excitement while celebrating 'Eidulfitr, we must remember that 'Eidulfitr is an 'ibaadah in manifesting our gratitude to Allah, for Allah had prepared Ramadaan with its complete package offering tremendous rewards that are far better than those offered to the previous nations

Therefore, it is unbecoming for us to desecrate it with disobedience or deeds that would incur the Wrath of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala, such as wastefulness, free mixing between opposite genders, physical contact and handshaking between nonmahram males and females, uncovering the 'awrah or indecencies, and heedlessness by wasting time watching the television.

Verily, the end of Ramadaan does not mean that we can now do as we please, whether disobedience and transgression, idle acts, lying, backbiting, slandering, talebearing, and others. It is very tragic if throughout Ramadaan we were willing to refrain ourselves from hunger and thirst, protecting our speech and behavior, but once Ramadaan has left us, all those evil deeds and idle acts reappear and overpower us.

Now that Ramadaan has left us, do we still have the opportunity and will we remain alive to experience the next Ramadaan? Even more important, what are the impacts, advantages, and benefits that we gained from this Ramadaan?

If this Ramadaan was filled with rukoo' and sujud to Allah, then will we increase in obedience and adherence to Allah after 'Eidulfitr? If throughout Ramadaan we were very generous with zakaah and sadaqah given, then will we become more generous after the 1st of Shawwaal?

If all day today we are busy with visiting others, the neighbors, and relatives, then will our warmth and silaaturrahm grow stronger after this?

Will it be improved with no sour relationship between the siblings, and neighbors and colleagues that would not hold grudges? All of these must be resolved soon so that we will become slaves of Allah having utmost taqwa.

As Muslims, by now we should have improved our personal qualities through the Ramadaan training that we had recently endured, for we were successful in managing our expenditure in preparing for the breaking of fast (iftaar) sparingly and without being wasteful. Then, what are the effects?

Will our finances, expenditure, and economic management become better after this? We were also successful in improving our relationship with the Book of Allah by diligently completing its entire recitation, as well as pondering upon its meaning, in the month in which al-Qur'an was revealed

Hence, after
this, how many of us will weep out of realization and
remorse, yearning to continue those
noble practices every day, as if we are still in the month of
Ramadaan?

We are certain that there were many Muslimeen and Muslimaat in the nights of Ramadaan that woke up in the night to perform tahajjud, qiyaam al-layl, and earnestly supplicating to Allah with perfection, and were successful in attaining Laylat al-Qadr, a night that is better than a thousand months of worship

With that, it is only befitting for me, on the morning of 'Eidulfitr, to offer my heartiest congratulation and say "TaqabbalAllaahu minna wa minkum, taqabbal ya kareem!

In ending this khutbah, I would like to conclude that:

1. The Muslim ummah should profess their thankfulness to Allah and have full certainty in Him, that Allah had prepared Ramadaan for His slaves to increase their level of imaan and taqwa (piety).
2. The Muslim ummah should celebrate 'Eidulfitr according to the sunnah of Rasulullah s.a.w for 'Eidulfitr is a festival of worship that was ordained by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala

3. The Muslims should avoid all forms of disobedience and wickedness when celebrating 'Eidulfitr for it is feared that it will wipe away the rewards earned throughout Ramadaan.

4. The Muslim ummah should continue to engage in the 'ibaadah that was performed throughout Ramadaan until the next Ramadaan arrives.

5. The Muslims should realize that Islam is not merely fasting and performing obligatory prayers, but Islam actually regulates all aspects of mankind's lives in this world, which includes legislation, akhlaaq, economic management, governance, and others.

ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاكَ عَلَىٰ شَرِيعَةٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ فَاتَّبِعْهَا وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَ الَّذِينَ
لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

“Then We put you, [O Muhammad], on an ordained way concerning the matter [of religion]; so follow it and do not follow the inclinations of those who do not know.”
(al-Jaathiyah 45:18)