



F Friday Sermon

HAZRAT MUHYI-UD-DIN AL-KHALIFATULLAH

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(Summary of Sermon)

After greeting all his disciples (and all Muslims) worldwide with the greeting of peace Hadhrat Khalifatullah (atba) read the Tashahhud, Ta'uz, Surah Al Fatiha, and then he delivered his sermon on the subject of *“Strengthening the ties of Kinship & brotherhood beyond Eid-ul-Fitr”*:

STRENGTHENING THE TIES OF KINSHIP & BROTHERHOOD BEYOND EID-UL-FITR

We live in a world where kinship, neighbourliness and brotherhood are weakening by the day. It is sad that the encounters with brothers and brothers, sisters and sisters, neighbours and neighbours etc. are becoming rare. Children sometimes do not even have time to enquire about their elders, we do not even know our neighbours, and there are not that many exchanges between the brothers in Islam. Fortunately, by the immense grace of Allah (swt), after a month of fasting where we took a spiritual bath, we all sacrificed for the cause of Allah to obtain Allah (swt) Himself as reward. This is a great reward from Allah for a believer during this month of fasting and after a month of fasting, the *Eid-ul-Fitr* festival becomes an opportunity to remedy all past wrongdoings.

Indeed, the day of Eid begins with prayers at the mosque. Along with our family, we attend the mosque, the heart full of joy to accomplish the *Salat-ul-Eid*. The *Salat-ul-Eid* enables the gathering of all men and women, young and old, rich and poor. Moreover, this prayer at the mosque is also highly recommended for women according to the Sunnah. Umm Atiyyah (ra) reported:

“The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) commanded us to bring out on Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha, the elderly women, young women, menstruating women and the young virgins, but menstruating women stayed out of actual Salaat (prayer) but participated in good deeds and Duaa (supplication).” (Bukhari & Muslim).

It is with joy and happiness that we all find ourselves at the end of prayer, where everyone hugs each other, wishing each other. These are without doubt moments of intense emotions when bonds are tightened. Hugs and Kisses are also symbols of forgiveness where we forget our petty quarrels; we abandon any conflict or dispute between us. You really feel the brotherhood that unites us, as recommended by Islam.

Then comes the time to visit the family, loved ones, as is the tradition of our pious ancestors. Indeed, according to a Hadith reported by Imams Bukhari and Muslim, on an Eid day Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) visited the Prophet (pbuh) and saw two girls singing. He got angry, but the Prophet (pbuh) asked him to let them (sing) because it was a day of rejoicing.

“O Abu Bakr, every nation has its festivals, today is ours.”

It is also an opportunity to show our children that this is indeed our festival (but that does not mean that we have to play musical instruments and put loud music etc.), it is permissible to celebrate in joy, to exchange presents, to show our affection to those who are close to us. We are also allowed to put on our beautiful new clothes, to decorate the house - but this not mean that we indulge in exaggerations (by contracting debts to pay for the expenses of the Eid clothes, house painting etc. - in order to properly receive the family, neighbours and friends. Taking a meal or snack together is certainly a moment of conviviality and exchange in a fraternal atmosphere. That day, the wishes rain from everywhere.

“Eid Sa’eed Kullu Am wa Antum bi Khayr.”

We send sms, emails, greeting cards, phone calls to wish one another Eid Mubarak. All means are good to reinforce our relationship and brotherhood even with those who are found far away. We reunite with each other in joy, goodness, blessings, and sincere return to the religion of Allah (swt). This day of happiness makes us think of our stay in the afterlife (*Insha-Allah*) where all the elements are there for us to spend pleasant times: visits, joys, sharing delicious meals, succulent pastries and especially sitting at the table with the family.

“Eat and drink in peace as a reward for what you used to do (...). And those who believed and whose descendants followed them in faith - We will join with them their descendants, and We will not deprive them of anything of their deeds. Every person, for what he earned, is retained.” (At-Tur 52: 19-21).

That day not only gives us the right to rejoice, but is also a day to reflect on many things. If on this festive day we meet, and strengthens our bonds, and we forget our differences, so why then do we find ourselves disunited afterwards for the rest of the year? Why so many disputes, so many fights between us? Oh brothers and sisters in Islam, make efforts so that Eid becomes a means to unite the family, as well as the entire Muslim community forever! And we must make efforts to extend

the blessings of Eid on us even after Eid by manifesting in ourselves the same pious culture which Ramadan has taught us to cultivate in our daily lives.

May Allah make every day of our life for all of us a day of Eid where peace and Islamic brotherhood reign, and conflicts and killings are absent. May Allah save our souls and the souls of all believers. *Ameen.*