

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

Friday Sermon

HADHRAT MUHYI-UD-DIN AL-KHALIFATULLAH
Munir Ahmad Azim

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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 Night of Eid-ul-Adha":

The night of **Eid-ul-Adha** is a night of reward from the Creator. Thus it must be taken in great consideration. Our beloved prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) said: "Whoever passes the nights of the two Eids in prayer, his heart will remain alive on the day when the reign of discord and/ or the era of trouble have plunged the hearts of others into an atmosphere of death, and moreover on the day of the Resurrection he will not fall unconscious to the sound of the trumpet."

In a Hadith, it is said that the one who remains awake for prayer during the following nights, will surely enter paradise:

1. The Night of *Qadr* (i.e., Laila-tul-Qadr, one of the odd nights of the last ten nights of the month of Ramadan)
2. The Night of *Eid-ul-Fitr* (1st Night of Shawwal)
3. The Night of *Tarwiyah* (8th night of Dhul-Hijjah)

4. The Night of *Arafat* (9th night of Dhul-Hijjah)
5. Night of *Nahar* (10th night of Dhul-Hijjah)

Today, for the sake of this world, Muslims spend sleepless nights, but not for religion. How wonderful it would have been if they were to sacrifice one night (for the cause of religion/ Islam); This night is that of the divine reward. Therefore, it is necessary for us to take advantage of it to ask Allah for everything we need, be it our material needs, and also our spiritual needs which are much more important.

Eid-ul-Adha is rightly regarded as the greatest festival of Muslims, commemorating the noble tradition of the prophet Hazrat Ibrahim (as), who, in absolute submission to the Creator, offered his son Hazrat Ismail (as), who was very dear to him, in sacrifice and who then established the supremacy of the spiritual over material considerations. For Muslims whose faith have been described in the Holy Quran and by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as that of the Prophet Ibrahim (as), this day is not only an occasion for joyful celebration but also an occasion to recall their duties to their Creator and their fellow brothers and sisters, human beings like themselves.

In the midst of our worldly occupations many of us might lose sight of the significance of **Eid-ul-Adha** as well as the applications in our daily life of the principle that they symbolize, although these applications are much more important today than they were several centuries ago. Human affairs have become more complex and the demands of equity and social justice impose more than before the abandonment by some of their privileges to the benefit of the less fortunate and they stand ready to make all the sacrifices for the cause in which we believe and to enable the realization of the ideals we cherish.

Thus the ritual sacrifices we offer on this occasion must reflect the spirit in which they are made and the celebrations must take into account the fundamental necessity of sharing among all Muslims.

For the individual Muslim as well as for the many Islamic organizations that are now torn apart by quarrels and weakened by the lack of unity, **Eid-ul-Adha**

contains a lesson to rediscover faith and to prepare ourselves to make all the sacrifices for the true cause of the *Ummah*. And if we can do this we deserve to be rewarded as were Hazrat Ibrahim (as) and Ismail (as) who remained firm in fulfilling their obligation in the face of the greatest ordeal, to which a human being may be submitted.

May Allah in His entire Mercy make the spirit of sacrifice penetrate our Community (the Islamic *Ummah*), *Insha-Allah, Ameen*. I thus wish you - all my disciples and all Muslims - Eid Mubarak, and that you spend this night in prayer and the *Zikr* (Remembrance) of Allah. I thank all my disciples you have sent me their best wishes for the Eid. Like you know, some countries in the world are already celebrating the Eid-ul-Adha today. And *Insha-Allah*, we shall meet tomorrow - in Mauritius - for the greatest Eid festival, the **Eid-ul-Adha**. May Allah accept our sacrifices for His cause and make us live and die only for His pleasure and love. *Ameen*.