

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

Eid-UL-Adha Sermon

HADHRAT MUHYI-UD-DIN AL-KHALIFATULLAH

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After greeting all his disciples (and all Muslims) worldwide with the greeting of peace and Eid Mubarak, Hadhrat Khalifatullah (atba) read the Tashahhud, Ta'uz, Surah Al Fatiha, and then he delivered his Eid sermon on "The 'Qurbani' Sacrifice & Hajj" :

THE 'QURBANI' SACRIFICE AND HAJJ

Every religion has certain rituals. They are worn as ornaments and become the very face of religion. It is important to value these rituals in order to situate oneself in religion. Islam is a religion that includes two

days of the year that are celebrated ritually and which therefore have more religious significance than others: *Eid-ul-Fitr* and *Eid-ul-Adha*.

Note that these two festivals each have a special prayer. In fact, before the arrival of the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) in Medina, its inhabitants celebrated two other days of the year. When the Prophet of Allah (pbuh) arrived there, he said, *"You had two days when you would play, but Allah (swt) has given Muslims something instead that is better than them: the day of Al-Fitr and the day of Al-Adha."* (Nasai)

The days of *Eid* are the only festivals of the Islamic calendar. These two days of celebration each include a special prayer. The Muslim therefore celebrates his festivals with more prayer and fervour in thanking his Lord for all the favours He pours on him. It is therefore with an additional prayer that the Muslim expresses his joy while thanking his Creator.

And on the occasion of the *Eid-ul-Adha*, it is with the sacrifice of an animal in the name of Allah that he thanks his Lord and shows generosity to the poor.

The term "*Qurbani*" is derived from the word "*Al-Qurban*" which means any work that leads to divine proximity. Thus, every religious service is called '*Qurbah*' or holy work and especially sacrifices.

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) reports that our Lord (Allah) has said, *"My servant constantly approaches me by performing additional acts of devotion until I grant him My affection. Thus, I become his ear by which he hears, his eyes by which he sees ... And if he asks Me something, I grant it to him and if he seeks My protection, I protect him."* (Bukhari).

This day of *Eid-ul-Adha* leads us to reflect on the sacrifices offered by Ibrahim (as) to his Lord: the hardships of emigration, being thrown into the fire and being separated from his family among others. And moreover, Allah the Exalted ordered him to sacrifice his son Ismail (as). He submitted to the divine will and placed the knife on the neck of his son to slit his throat.

But Allah the Exalted decreed that Hazrat Ismail (as) was not going to be sacrificed and he was thus spared, and this human sacrifice was replaced by the sacrifice of a sheep. By this, Allah the Exalted wanted to fill Muslims with benefits compared to fellow Christians and Jews, but for that it was necessary to offer in sacrifice Ismail (as), father-ascendant (biological ancestor) of the Holy Prophet (pbuh). The

Holy Prophet (pbuh) said, *"I am the son of two sacrificed people."* (Mustadrak Hakim) Ismail (as), the eldest son of Ibrahim (as) and father of the Arabs, and Abdullah, the biological father of the Holy Prophet (pbuh). Both were about to be sacrificed.

It is to revive the memory of the spirit of sacrifice of Ibrahim (as) that one is called every year to sacrifice animals during the days of *Eid-ul-Adha*. The sacrifice of animals during the 10th of Dhul-Hijjah is an integral symbol of Islam. Allah the Exalted said: **"And the camels and cattle We have appointed for you as among the symbols of Allah."** (Al-Hajj 22: 37).

Hazrat Aisha (as) narrated that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said: *"No act performed on the Day of Nahr [by son of Adam] is more beloved to Allah than shedding the blood (slaughtering the Udhiyah)."* (Tirmidhi).

The *Qurbani* or *Udhiya* is obligatory on every Muslim who has the means, from the verse of the Quran of Surah Al-Kawthar: **"Perform prayer (Salat) for your Lord and sacrifice."** (Al-Kawthar 108: 3).

This verse holds different shades and interpretations. From this it is also mentioned that the command to sacrifice, to perform the *Qurbani/ Udhiya* (of an animal) is obligatory, just like the *Salat*. In fact the sequence of performing *Salat* of *Eid-ul-Adha* first and then go to sacrifice is explained by the Holy Prophet (pbuh): *"Today the first rite will be Salat. Then, we will return to complete the Qurbani. Whoever followed this sequence really followed our Sunnah. He who slaughtered his animal before the Salat, then it is not the Qurbani, but only meat for his family."* (Bukhari).

It is reported from an authentic Hadith of Ibn Majah that Abu Huraira (ra) narrated that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said: *"He who has the means and has not made arrangements to accomplish the Qurbani, then he should not approach our Musalla (i.e., he should not come to perform the Eid-ul-Adha prayer with us)."*

So the obligation of the *Qurbani* is of the same nature as the *Salat*. Every individual who has the means must imperatively offer a share of *Qurbani*. Also, it is reported from Bukhari that the *Sahabi* Hazrat Abu Burdah (ra) asked the Prophet (pbuh) that he had finished slaughtering the animal before the (Eid) *Salat*.

Then the Holy Prophet (pbuh) ordered him to offer again the *Qurbani*. So the *Qurbani* is *Wajib* and obligatory on every family member who is not a traveller, who has reached puberty and who has the means to offer a *Qurbani*. It is reported from *Mustadrak Hakim* that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) had urged his daughter Fatima to stand up to witness her *Qurbani*. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) sacrificed a cow on behalf of Aisha (on the Day of *Eid-ul-Adha*). (Muslim).

For this day of *Eid-ul-Adha*, it pains me that many of the lovers of Hazrat Muhammad (pssl), the lovers of God, cannot go to the Pilgrimage to Mecca. The House of God is not the property of anyone. According to the law of man all those who believe in the Promised Messiah Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) are non-Muslims and are not allowed to perform the Pilgrimage to Mecca. According to them our presence in Mecca and Medina, for Pilgrimage and *Umrah*, would constitute an insult to these religious places.

In Mauritius, the small island of the Indian Ocean, to go on pilgrimage, you have to fill out a form that must be signed by an Imam to know which Jamaat you belong to, and that is a piece of advice that I give to all brothers and sisters, to never lie and give up your faith regarding the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) to fulfil the 5th pillar of Islam. Let these so-called great defenders of Islam take on their shoulders the sin of preventing the servants of Allah from fulfilling the fifth pillar of Islam. It is unfortunate when you see these so-called defenders of Islam acting in a non-Islamic way. So here in Mauritius your form goes into a committee of the so-called Mullahs at the Islamic Centre to see if they are believers of the Promised Messiah (as), and if so, then your form and your application for the visa to Mecca are rejected and this same strategy is applied in all countries around the world.

So, O lovers of God and Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), you who have studied the uniqueness of God from the Holy Prophet (pbuh), you who have learned from Muhammad (pbuh) the attributes of God, you who have learned the exercise of spirituality through him, I can assure you and I swear to you that as long as you are forbidden to go on the pilgrimage to Mecca in the name of Allah for fear of reprisals, your pilgrimage will be accepted, will be accepted and will be accepted.

Thus, O *Hajjis* who cannot proceed for the Pilgrimage I give you my compliments and I congratulate you. Best wishes for this celebration of *Eid-ul-Adha* too and my

compliments to my disciples who are found all over the world, especially my disciples from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Chennai, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Comoros, Mayotte, Malaysia, Indonesia, Reunion, Madagascar etc.

I announce you this good news; It is transmitted to you that Allah has opened to us the ways of heaven and very soon the divine decision will overhang all the plans of this world. Permission will be granted to you by divine grace, to fulfil your dearest wish to go to Mecca for your pilgrimage, the heart filled with love of God and the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

The question that must be asked is this: How to discern the true Muslim from the false, the authentic from the one who is only Muslim in name according to the Islamic faith and practice?

Who should decide it is none other than Allah, our Master and sole Judge. The religious thing is decided between the human being and his Creator, Allah the Exalted. As a human being, we have absolutely no power and no right to decide for others, to determine what a person's faith should be. We are not worried about being labelled non-Muslim. If in the eyes of Allah, we are Muslims that is enough for us. We need no attestation from any Government or Assembly to fix us.

The Ka'aba was the first House erected for the worship of Allah, a House made for human beings without distinction of religion, colour and race. A blessed house from which beings derive innumerable benefits and which is dedicated to humanity for its orientation and the peace of its soul. Those who can do it must go there and perform the pilgrimage in the name of the Lord, such is the injunction made by the Holy Quran to the faithful of Islam. Today we are excluded from this practice. **The question that arises is this:** Since when Allah the Exalted rejected His own injunction, which allow the access of the Ka'aba to all men without distinction, and who granted himself the privilege of these powers (powers which belong only to Allah)? Who are you to decide which of the men can do it? The Ka'aba is the House of God and not the property of anyone.

Verse 115 of Surah Al-Baqara and Verse 19 of Surah At-Tauba of the Holy Quran respectively speak of the Ka'aba in these terms:

“And who are more unjust than those who prevent the name of Allah from being mentioned in His mosques and strive toward their destruction. It is not for them to enter them except in fear. For them in this world is disgrace, and they will have in the Hereafter a great punishment.” (Al-Baqara 2: 115)

“Do you make the giving of drink to pilgrims, or the maintenance of the Sacred Mosque, equal to (the pious service of) those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and strive with might and main in the cause of Allah? They are not equal in the sight of Allah: and Allah guides not those who do wrong.” (At-Tauba 9: 19).

It is time for you to examine your conscience in the light of the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Hadiths. If you have nothing but a patch of light in the depths of your soul, then you may understand who the true Muslim is and who is Muslim only by appearance.

If you continue to forbid us the pilgrimage to the House of God and if you persist in following the path traced by the enemies of the Holy Prophet (pbuh), feeling in yourselves so very happy and proud of your actions, then do make the best out of your bad fortune. As for us, Allah and His prophet suffice us. Forbid as much as you want, but the love we feel for Allah, for His Messenger, for Mecca and Medina, you will never be able to remove this from our hearts. We are totally filled with this love. We are confident that the day will come when all these bans will be removed and we will be welcomed in Mecca. *Insha-Allah. Ameen.*