

'EIDULFITR: A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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.”**

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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*:

The Prophet ﷺ went out on the day of *al-Fitr*, and he prayed two *raka'ah* ...

(al-Bukhaari)

'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 ﷺ, 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.

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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. 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.

Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* mentions in al-Qur'an (interpretation of the meaning):

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

(al-Hajj 22:32)

Likewise, Rasulallah صلى الله عليه وسلم 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):

“... 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)

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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 non-*mahram* 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.

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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 *sujood* 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*.

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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!*"

Dearest audience,

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 ﷺ 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.

“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)

THE SECOND KHUTBAH

Blessed Muslims,

Alhamdulillah, I truly congratulate fellow *Muslimeen* and *Muslimaat* upon your victory, with the success of completing the obligatory fasting of *Ramadaan* and *'ibaadah* throughout *Ramadaan* this year. I also would like to wish “*Eid Mubaarak, taqabbalAllaahu minna wa minkum wa kullu 'aamin wa antum bikhayr*” (Happy *'Eid*, may Allah accept (good deeds) from us and from you, and may you be well throughout the year), and congratulation to the *Muslimeen* and *Muslimaat* who were successful in their recitation and study of al-Qur'an, as well as fulfilling their *zakaat al-fitr* for themselves and their dependents.

O Allah! Accept our *'ibaadah* of fasting, accept our *taraweeh* and *tahajjud* prayers. O Allah! Accept our *tilawah* and *tadarrus*, accept our *sadaqah* and *zakaat al-fitr*, O Allah! Accept all of our good deeds, our *adhkaar* and *wird*, accept our pleas and supplications. O Allah! Only You are the Most Gracious, Most Merciful unto us, for Your Mercy is very vast, O Allah! *Ya Arham ar-Raahimeen!*

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Blessed Muslims,

Once more, let us remind ourselves upon the advice of Rasulullah ﷺ in fasting the six days of *Shawwaal*, that whoever fasts *Ramadaan* fully and follows it with fasting six days in *Shawwaal*, then he is rewarded as if he has fasted the entire year. With that, let us seize the bounties of Allah as His blessings are greatly invaluable to us. As it was related in the *hadeeth* of Abu Ayoob al-Ansaari *radiyAllaahu 'anh* that Rasulullah ﷺ said:

“Whoever fasts during the month of *Ramadaan* and then follows it with six days of *Shawwaal* will be (rewarded) as if he had fasted the entire year.”

(Muslim)

In addition, let us seek forgiveness from those whom we have wronged, and let us forgive those seeking forgiveness for their wrongdoing upon us. Let bygone be bygone and let us focus on the positives, let us establish *silaaturrahm* (ties of kinship) amongst us. Let us visit our parents, our colleagues, neighbors, and relatives. May Allah be pleased with our deeds and bless our lives.

Let us further solidify our *'aqeedah* and defend the word Allah as *lafdh jalaalah*, the highest pronouncement. We are truly grateful with our victory in tabling the motion for the Enactment of the Bill of *Sharee'ah* Court (Criminal Jurisdiction) (Amendment) 2016 in the Parliament, solely to uplift the prestige of the *Sharee'ah* Court in this country. We are also grateful with the decision reached by the High Court's Appellate and Special Powers Division in rejecting the request by Sisters In Islam in challenging the consensus reached by the Selangor Fatwa Committee regarding liberalism in the state of Selangor, for the sake of preserving the sanctity and glory of Islam so that it will not be deemed with disdain by other religion. Let us all unite upon the basis of *imaan* and Islam that is holy, putting aside our differences that are only futile, by returning to Allah and unite in upholding His *Sharee'ah*.