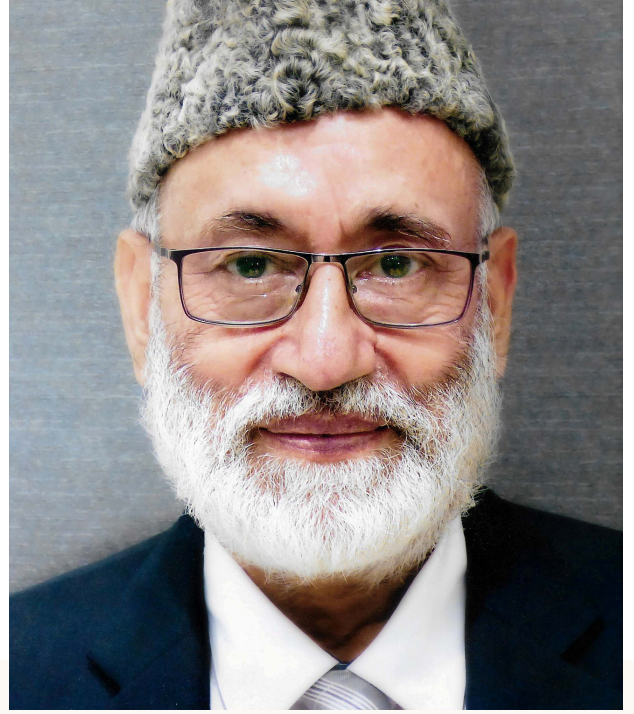


EID UL ADHA MESSAGE

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

لَنْ يَنْتَظِرَ اللّٰهُ لِحُومِهَا وَلَا دِمَآؤِهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنْتَظِرُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ ۚ كَذٰلِكَ سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللّٰهَ عَلٰى مَا
هَدٰكُمْ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِیْنَ ۝

Not their flesh, nor their blood, reaches Allah, but to Him is acceptable observance of duty on your part. Thus has He made them subservient to you, that you may magnify Allah for guiding you aright. And give good news to those who do good (to others). (AlHajj 22:37)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Assalaam-o-Alaikum Wa Rakhmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hoo.

Eid ul Adha Mubarak. May the joy of Eid surround you and your families.

Eid ul Adha or the Eid of Sacrifice is celebrated in memory of the great sacrifice that Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) was prepared to make. It also reminds us of the submission to Allah's command by his son Hazrat Ismail (peace be upon him) to be sacrificed and the willingness of Hazrat Hajira (peace be upon her) to bow before the will of Allah Ta'ala. It was the acceptance of Allah's command by all three of them, which made them worthy exemplars for all to follow. Allah Ta'ala says in the Holy Qur'an:

قَدْ كَانَتْ لَكُمْ اُسُوَّةٌ حَسَنَةٌ فِیْ اِبْرٰهِيْمَ وَالَّذِیْنَ مَعَهُ ۚ

Indeed, there is for you a good example in Abraham and those with him. (60:4).

The annual Hajj and the symbolic slaughter of an animal on Eid are reminders of the willingness of these illustrious persons to submit to Allah's command. Allah desires that they should be the role model for all believers.

A Muslim must not only believe (eeman) but also practice (ammal) what he believes. Eid ul Adha is thus a day that reminds us that we must be subservient to Allah and bow our heads to all His commands.

I pray that we may act upon His guidance conveyed in the Holy Qur'an and follow the example of His Messengers (may peace be upon them). May Allah Ta'ala grant us the resolve and strength to submit completely to His will and by doing so earn His nearness, friendship and radha (pleasure).

Aameen summa aameen