

AL AZHAR MASJIED

Keizersgracht Street, District Six
P O Box 12583, Mill Street, Cape Town 8010



EID UL FITR MESSAGE

1 Shawaal 1433/19 August 2012

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Alhamdoelillah, we have, once again, been granted the opportunity to have participated in the holiest of months, the month of Ramadan – the month of the Quran. It is in this blessed month; fourteen centuries ago that humankind was honoured with a unique divine message. Today, in this the 21st century, we ask ourselves - what is unique about this message?

The answer that comes to mind is that the uniqueness and greatness of the message is in its timelessness. For time and location has borne testimony over the centuries of how applicable, exact and absolute in its resourcefulness the Quran has been and is in the development of the human intellect. It is during the month of Ramadan that the world is in an 'Arafat of Saum'. It is during this month that Muslim unity and brotherhood is conspicuously reflected in our behaviour. Our compassion and love for one another based on the duties reflected in the Quran and Sunnah are enacted without reservation, our true nature at once denied and laid bare unguarded.

During the past month we have reaffirmed our commitment to the universal order and its rousing of humanity to use the intellect to realize the only Cause which is Allah (SWT).

As Allah (SWT) says:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿ 1/96 ﴾ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿ 2/96 ﴾ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ
الْأَكْرَمُ ﴿ 3/96 ﴾ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿ 4/96 ﴾ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿ 5/96 ﴾

"Read! In the Name of your Rab who created- Created Humankind from an Alaq."

"Read! And your Rab is the Most Bounteous."

"Who has taught by the Pen. Taught humankind that which he knew not!"

Surah Al-Alaq 96:1-5

It is from the above revelation that the inference is made of the need for humankind to confer, communicate and assess the progress that has been made in understanding Islam as a universal way of life. And what better tilth, than the blessed month of reflection- the month Ramadan.

Thus a holistic approach to life is expressed by having been acutely conscious of our duties in the way of Allah (SWT).

Allah (SWT) says:

﴿ 10/49 ﴾ إِنَّا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

"Those who truly place their trust in Allah are naught but brothers. Therefore make peace between your brethren and observe your duty to Allah, so that ye may obtain mercy!"

Al-Hujurat 49:10

The onus rests on us as to whether we have the courage to recognise this universal way of life which is Islam as a means of true growth or stagnation.

Any sagacious person would recognise the Quran as a complete and comprehensive guide to the advancement and growth of the holistic human being and that stagnation is its very antithesis and abhorrent to human nature!

Allah (SWT) says:

﴿ 45/20 ﴾ هَذَا بَصَائِرُ لِلنَّاسِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ

"This [revelation, then] is a means of insight for mankind, and a guidance and a grace unto people who are endowed with inner certainty."

Al-Jathiyah 45:20

Let us then commit ourselves to the continued unfurling of the 'false coverings' that mask our true nature and to let the recompense of this blessed month not be in vain.

Let us aim to invigorate this Ummah on the basis of Quran and Sunnah as Allah (SWT) says:

﴿ 21/92 ﴾ إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُونِ

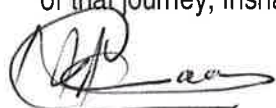
"And verily this ummah of yours is one ummah, and I [Allah] am your Rab, so keep your Duty unto Me"

Al-Ambiyaa 21:92

I invite you to join us in expressing our intention by moving forth together from this auspicious day, and in the words of Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) truly internalise:

"The One true believer to the other true believer is like a building, the one supports the other"

Allow me in conclusion to wish each and everyone an Eid Mubarak in its true sense. In that we all hope to aspire to that very character that is epitomised in the Holiest of books – The Quran. Let this day of Eid ul Fitr, this return to the natural way, be a step towards the journey of a lifetime. May Allah (SWT) grant us the realisation of that journey, Insha - Allah. Eid Mubarak to all!



Sheikh Ismail Keraan