

# AL AZHAR MASJIED

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## EID UL ADGHA MESSAGE

10 Thul Hija h 1433/26 October 2012

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah (SWT) who without a shadow of doubt is who we submit to in our entirety. It is to Allah (SWT) that we express our sincere thanks for the gift that is Islam.

For it is Allah (SWT) that has bestowed upon us the mercy of Islam; and the guidance according to the practical example of the Nabi Mohammad (SAW), and the sacred text of the Holy Quran.

Incontrovertible then is our bearing witness to the Oneness of Allah (SWT) who is Allahu Akbar.

Brothers, this day, is the day of Eidul Adha. The day when believers connected in word, feeling and deed bear testimony to the unification of the global ummah. One body on a universal plane, cohesive in their submission to the Deen of Truth. There is a tacit acknowledgement of the help and support of each imparts the other according to the precepts of the Quran and Sunnah.

Brethren in Islam, today is a day of happiness and celebration for us, but more so for those honoured guests in that sacred location that is, Mina. This of course is due to the fact that they have conquered and risen above the onslaught of their base desires- a personal as well as collective victory. Today we acknowledge this victory of the ambassadors of the ummah in recognising the truly holistic path to growth and development- Islam, the dynamics of which invites towards safeness, amity, harmony, and development. A life that negates injustice, cruelty, corruption and all its detrimental spinoffs that retard the human potential for advancement.

This is the very essence of the message of Islam that has become clear to them on the day of realization, the day of Arafah. For Allah (SWT) said:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتْمَمْتُ  
عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمْ  
الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

*"This day have I (Allah SWT) completed a structure (deen) for mankind to follow, completed my favours unto you and have chosen for you the Deen of Islam, the manner of universal peace, to follow" [5:3]*

On this basis the hujjaaj have clearly recognised the interconnectivity between the arkaans of Islam, and in turn the interconnectivity of the ummah, as they proceed from Arafah in an endeavour to establish a society of peace, tranquillity and advancement according to the Quran and Sunnah. A march that is rife with symbolism and calls humanity to rise against stagnation and decline. A call whose unremitting goal is to continuously access the mercy of Allah (SWT) through compliance to the natural laws that is all do evident here. For Allah says:

إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً  
وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُونِ ﴿٩٢﴾

*"Verily this ummah of yours (mankind) is one. And I (Allah SWT) am your Rab, so submit in your entirety to me" [21:92]*

This then is an annual display of what the reality of human existence should be on this dunya – a life of peace and co-operation towards holistic growth and man’s true potential.

As Allah (SWT) says:

*“And co-operate on the basis of goodness and faith, and do not co-operate on the basis of sin (transgression) and enmity...” [5:2]*

الْحَرَامِ أَنْ تَعْتَدُوا وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى  
الْبِرِّ وَالنَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى  
الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ

Brothers in Islam, the natural and universal way of life, the structure and dynamics of this sacred ibadah which our hujjaaj has sort to undertake is viewed then as a period of renewal and of realization. The wuqoof on Arafah is the tilth for this realization that knowledge and the resulting action is the most potent armour that underpins all human activity.

Allah speaks of the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah in Surah Al-Fajr:

*“By the dawn. By the ten nights (the 1<sup>st</sup> ten days of dhul hijjah). By the even and odd (all creation). And by the night when it departs”. – 89:1-2*

Allah speaks of the new dawn as a rebirth, a realization about and submission to Almighty Allah. Only by Allahs(SWT)’s ragmah will this new growth be *stirred* in the hujjaaj at Arafat, so that they may in turn put forth *new growth* in others, as ambassadors, on their return to their communities.

The proclamation at Muzadalifah is a moment of restructuring that which has been gained at Arafah. The march to Mina a proclamation of action to the global ummah - a celebration of a return to justice, peace and advancement over stagnation, corruption and cruelty by the symbolic stoning of Jamaratul Aqabah. It is a celebration of the cutting away of the status quo, to alignment with the natural way (as depicted in the tawaaf). In this way humanity will align itself with the natural order of the universe depicted by the tawaaf. The implementation of this gift is then expressed by the saaaie which symbolizes the challenges ahead. Reminding us of the obstacles ahead; the days of Tashreeq and its manaasik of the challenges in terms of the Badr’s, Uhud’s and Gandaq’s that humanity faces and will continue to face.

This then, is the annual call of reaffirmation of belief, of a renewal of resolve to foster a society free from barbarism and cruelty and a reminder of a natural way of living that holistically benefits all humanity.

Let us then take heed of what Allah (SWT) reminds us of every year by way of the Hajj. Let us not fall into the trap of misconception of our duties on this earth and not realize the horizon that is the Aagirah.

As Ahmad Kamal of the Soviet Union said in 1964:

*“The day of Arafah. This day is a day of brotherhood and heartbreak- heartbreak that we have not yet learned to cling to this solidarity where we dwell and labour in valleys and on mountains far from Arafah”*

*[Islam the Natural Way pp127]*

It was here that the pledge of Aqaba was made. A pledge to stay true to the wahi at any cost and to spread the haq within the Makkan and Madini communities. As Muslims we pledge to accept the wahi by our acceptance of the oneness of Allah (SWT) and that the Nabi (SAW) is Allah (SWT)’s messenger, by the utterance of the shahadah.

We pledge to carry out that which has been made incumbent on us – salah.

We pledge to remain humble and conscious of our fellow Muslim brethren and their needs – fasting.

We pledge to uplift those who need uplifting – zakah,

And we pledge during the manasik of Hajj to implement those virtues and lessons relearned during Hajj within our own communities, thereby strengthening the ummah.

The message entrenched here is transformation.

Transforming the mind – the shahadah,

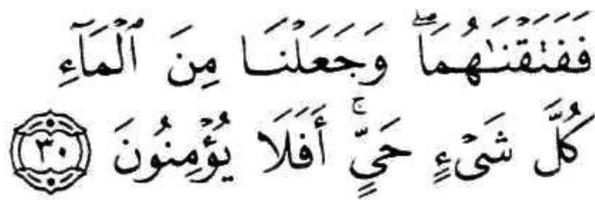
Transforming the body – the salah and fasting,

Transforming the spirit – Zakah and the manasik of hajj.

Brothers, it is only with continued effort and realization of the gift of Allah (SWT) that we will be able to relocate ourselves from the life of stagnation to a life of vibrancy and advancement according to the tenets of truth.

May our hujjaaj be granted success in the execution of their duties on behalf of the ummah, and may we together move towards the true realization of the wonders with clarity that that which truly benefits us is truth and the natural way. As the rivers flow toward the sea, meandering and carving a route through silt and rock; becoming pure as it flows, to re-emerge as a sustenance for the global 'sea' brought on by the mercy of rain from Allah (SWT).

Allah says:



*"And we have brought forth from water all life"*

[21:30]

The planes of physicality and spirituality meet in the dimension of Hajj, cemented together by ilm (knowledge) for detection by the true believer.

Armed as such, we will as the human race, be able to overcome any challenge that arises. Let us take cognisance of the dictum of the Nabi (SAW), lest we forget:

*"Quick will be the collapse of the Ummah, like the sinking/collapse of a large dish of food placed in front of hungry people. It was asked, will we be few? O! Messenger of Allah (SWT)?  
The Nabi (SAW) replied: No! But we will be like the foam on the water after a storm"*

Is humanity not foam-like in their actions today? Being blown hither and thither in confusion grasping at false ideologies?

As Allah (SWT) says in Surah Nisa'a:

*"O! You who believe, take Allah (SWT) and Allah (SWT)'s Messenger and those who have placed themselves under the order to serve humanity in such capacity. And should there be any discrepancy then revert back to Allah (SWT) and the dictum of the Messenger. That is, if you truly place your trust in Allah (SWT) and that the last day. That is a better and clearly more excellent way in the end in order to arrive safely at the current solution"*

Allah says again in Surah Al Imran:

*"And hold fast altogether to the rope of Allah (which he has stretched out for you) and be not divided among yourselves". - 3:103*

May Allah (SWT) grant us, with our sincere effort and perseverance, the structure and vision needed for the building of this universal raft of humanity on the basis of truth that is the Quran and Sunnah.

And may we be granted that vision and goal directed action to realize our true journey on this dhunya is in the way of the siratal mustaqeem. Allah (SWT) knows best.

May the Almighty Allah (SWT) grant our hujjaaj a Hajj Mabroer and Maqbul Insha'Allah. And may humanity as a whole be granted a life of success on the dhunya and in aakhirah insha-allah.

Eid Mubarak to one and all.

Sheikh Ismail Keraan