

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Hazrat Ameer's Eid ul Fitr Message

(1439 Hijrah, June 2018)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Assalaam-o-Alaikum Wa Rakhmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hoo.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢١٨﴾

O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard against evil. (2:183)

Dear brothers and sisters,

I wish all of you a very happy *Eid ul Fitr*.

The literal meaning of *Eid* is happiness, indeed a recurring happiness. Muslims all over the world have a real reason to be happy this day. They have completed a whole month of fasting which is a means of gaining control over ones physical desires by submitting completely to the will of Allah. The verse I have cited above gives the single reason for which fasting has been prescribed. That is, to attain *taqwah* - a state where a person spends his life as desired by Allah in accordance with the guidance provided by Him in the Holy Qur'an. Ramadan thus gives a believer an opportunity not only to spend a whole month of abstinence from food, drink and physical desires each day of this sacred month; but also provides him a chance to recite the Qur'an and reflect on its meanings and to listen to it being recited during the daily *tarawih* prayers.

This is like a crash course in attaining piety as desired by Allah. Thus, on the day of *Eid*, a person has a genuine reason for celebrating. What, of course, he is celebrating is not the freedom to eat again but his newly found spiritual feeling of nearness to God and His being pleased with him. The deeper meaning of this happiness is actually the purification of the soul which it has attained by being nurtured during the holy month of Ramadan. This actually ought to be an ongoing process throughout the year. So *Eid ul Fitr* is a time of commitment to

one's self not to put an end to what we have gained spiritually as this will be detrimental to the soul and will result in losing the nearness to Allah that we have attained.

Let us all resolve this day to continue to strive and make our happiness a permanent one.

I pray that Allah grants us the strength and determination to be steadfast in maintaining our *taqwah* so that the ultimate aim of fasting is fulfilled.

Ameen.

11 June 2018

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