

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

*In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.*

## Hazrat Ameer's Eid ul Adha Message

December 2008

وَاتْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ ابْنَيْ آدَمَ بِالْحَقِّ ۗ إِذْ قَرَّبَا قُرْبَانًا فَتُقُبِّلَ مِنْ أَحَدِهِمَا وَلَمْ يُتَقَبَّلْ

مِنَ الْآخَرِ ط قَالَ لَا قُوَّةَ لَكَ ط قَالَ إِنَّمَا يُتَقَبَّلُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ (٢٧)

لَئِنْ مَسَطْتُ إِلَى يَدِكَ لِتَقْتُلَنِي مَا أَنَا بِبَاسِطٍ يَدِيَ إِلَيْكَ لِأَقْتُلَكَ ۗ إِنَّي

أَخَافُ اللَّهَ رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ (٢٨)

إِنِّي أُرِيدُ أَنْ تَبُوءَ بِإِثْمِي وَإِثْمِكَ فَتَكُونَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ ۗ وَذَلِكَ

جَزَاءُ الظَّالِمِينَ (٢٩)

فَطَوَّعَتْ لَهُ نَفْسُهُ قَتْلَ أَخِيهِ فَقَتَلَهُ فَأَصْبَحَ مِنَ الْخٰسِرِينَ (٣٠)

فَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ غُرَابًا يَبْحَثُ فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُرِيَهُ كَيْفَ يُورِثُ سَوْءَ أَخِيهِ ط قَالَ

يُورِثُنِي أَعْجَزْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِثْلَ هَذَا الْغُرَابِ فَأُوَارِثُ سَوْءَ أَخِي ۗ فَأَصْبَحَ

مِنَ النَّٰدِمِينَ (٣١)

*And relate to them with truth the story of the two sons of Adam, when they offered an offering, but it was accepted from one of them and was not accepted from the other. He said: I will certainly kill thee. (The other) said: Allah accepts only from the dutiful.*

*If thou stretch out thy hand against me to kill me I shall not stretch out my hand against thee to kill thee. Surely I fear Allah, the Lord of the worlds:*

*I would rather that thou shouldst bear the sin against me and thine own sin, thus thou wouldst be of the companions of the Fire; and that is the recompense of the unjust.*

*At length his mind made it easy for him to kill his brother, so he killed him; so he became one of the losers.*

*Then Allah sent a crow scratching the ground to show him how to cover the dead body of his brother. He said: Woe is me! Am I not able to be as this crow and cover the dead body of my brother? So he became of those who regret.*

*(Al-Ma'idah 5:27-31)*

Dear sisters and brothers,

*Assalaam-o-Alaikum Wa Rakhmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hoo*

I have selected these verses of the Holy Qur'an for my Eid ul Adha message, as they relate the story of the first sacrifice offered in human history. The story is that of the two sons of Adam, Abel and Cain who respectively represent the virtue and evil amongst human-beings. It is also the story of the first violent act and murder; a story which teaches forbearance and patience as virtues; jealousy, aggression, pride and ignoring of good advice, killing and harming fellow-beings as evil deeds.

In these days of tragic events in the world this is a message of peace and non-violence in the face of aggression. Abel is not deterred from good when threatened by his brother, who is eventually killed and becomes the first martyr in history.

As we celebrate this Festival to mark the sacrifice Hazrat Ibrahim (Abraham) offered without questioning when Allah ordained, we too must follow his example and bring our offerings with a sincere heart and do as Allah desires. This is the spirit of *Taqwah*.

The story of acceptance of the sacrifice made by one brother and not by the other demonstrates that Allah accepts the spirit of the sacrifice and not the outward appearance of that action. Allah does not accept the 'zaahir' aspect but the 'baatin' of all spiritual acts as stated in the following verse of the Holy Qur'an:

لَنْ يُنَالِ اللَّهُ لُحُومَهَا وَلَا دِمَائُهَا وَلَكِنْ يُنَالُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ ط كَذَلِكَ  
سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ ط وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِينَ (٣٧)

*Not their flesh, nor their blood, reaches Allah, but to Him is acceptable the 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). ( Al Hajj 22:37)*

Many may pretend to be pious and make sacrifices to be seen by the world but Allah knows what is concealed in the hearts and accepts only from the observers of duty (*muttaqeen*) as exemplified by the sacrifice of Abel.

Dear sisters and brothers,

Today we have a chance to pledge that we will submit to the will of Allah as demonstrated in the lives of Hazrat Ibrahim, Hazrat Ismael and Hazrat Hajirah, may Allah shower peace on all of them. It is also a chance to share the family values of togetherness in faith and sacrifice as demonstrated by them. Hazrat Ibrahim obeyed the command of Allah without hesitation; Hazrat Ismael, a young boy, submitted to the will of Allah without questioning and Hazrat Hajirah who had spent a life of sacrifice in the desert with an infant son finally submitted to the will of Allah to sacrifice him.

If today we learn to obey Allah in all His commands and submit to His will, we would then achieve the spirit of the day and be really happy, which is the essence and literal meaning of the word 'Eid'.

I pray that Allah help us to become His true servants and to submit to His will.

*Aameen.*



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