



Worldwide Hararies

ላም አራፋ ዩሽሊክሁ: እስላም አራፋ አዩሽባክሁ

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This year's Arafah Eid (Holiday) celebration will take place on July 30 or 31 all over the world. The Worldwide Hararies would like to extend a sincere well wish and safe Arafah Eid to Muslims all over the world.

As you may know, on the occasion of Arafah, Muslims commemorate Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ismail's complete submission to Allah's will by slaughtering a sheep as a sacrifice. That is why Muslims all over the world celebrate Arafah and greet each other by saying "Eid Mubarak". Like every Muslim in the world, Hararies used to greet each other in Arafah day by saying "Eid Mubarak" until Wednesday, May 12, 1897, which corresponds with Wednesday 10th Dhu al-Hijjah, 1314, when Hararies abandoned greeting each other with "Eid Mubarak." What happened in that particular day that made Hararies abandon the universal Islamic greeting of "Eid Mubarak"?

Why do Hararies in the day of Arafah (Eid) started greet each other with a unique greeting, "ላም አራፋ ዩሽሊክሁ: እስላም አራፋ አዩሽባክሁ:: (Lam Arafah youshlakhu, Islam Arafah ayoushbakhu) which translates into "May Allah make it a cow sacrificing Arafah, and NOT a Muslim slaughtering Arafah"? And why Hararies say cow slaughtering instead of sheep sacrificing Arafah? **Here is the history behind it.....**

The king of Abyssinia, Menilik invaded and occupied Emirate of Harar after defeating Amir Abdulahi, the Amir of Emirate of Harar, at the battle of Chelenqo on January 6, 1887. Tuesday, August 30, 1887, which corresponds to Tuesday, 10th of Dhu al-Hijjah, 1304, was the first darkest Arafah day in Harari History because of the occupation of Menilik forces, his European coalitions and infiltrators.

On Wednesday, May 12, 1897, which corresponds with Wednesday 10th Dhu al-Hijjah, 1314, Ras Mokonin (Menelik's general and Haileselese's father) started demolishing Masjid Al Kowthar (also known as Layli Elias, Sheikh Bazikh and Rauf Basha Mosque) to construct the Medhani-Alem Church (converting a Muslim mosque into a Christian church). After Eid prayer angry Hararies rushed toward the demolition site to save their place of worship, their mosque. The already informed and well prepared Ras Mokonin army opened fire on the crowd and many Hararies, Somalis and Oromos were massacred in Faras Magala. The Neftegna soldiers killed 10000 innocent and unarmed civilians including women, children and elderly on the day of Arafah May 12, 1897. **People were slaughtered like a cow** and the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, 1314, became the darkest Arafah in Harari history.

Since that day, Hararies dropped the universal Islamic holiday greeting of "Eid Mubarak" and replaced it with "**Laam Arafah**" (Cow slaughtering Arafah) to commemorate the Arafah in which Hararis were slaughtered like a cow. Since that day, every Harari father (passing the history from generation to generation) tells his children the story and hope and aim the day when the mosque converted to a church will be reverted back into its original Masjid Al Kowthar.