

EID AL-ADHA 2017
Hagerstown

Dear brothers and sisters in Islam, today we are celebrating one of the greatest festivals of Islam-Eid ul Adhaa (festival of sacrifice). It is a day of joy and celebration, a day to show happiness and delight, a day in which we renew our faith and recalibrate ourselves to live our lives according to the teachings of the Quran and the example of our

beloved Prophet Muhammad, and out of all the days that we live our lives, today we are experiencing the most beloved day to Allah...
as The Prophet (pbuh) said:

" إِنَّ أَكْبَرَ الْأَيَّامِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى يَوْمَ النَّحْرِ ثُمَّ يَوْمَ الْقَرَىٰ "

"the greatest day amongst the days of Allah (swt) is the day of nahr" (the day of sacrifice).

Above all, this is the day in which we celebrate our relationship with a special friend of Allah; this is the day in which we show gratitude to Allah (swt) for guiding us to be on the religion of this special friend, the religion of Ibrahim (AS). Allah (swt) says:

ثُمَّ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ أَنْ اتَّبِعْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

"Then We revealed to you, [O Muhammad], to follow the religion of Abraham, inclining toward truth; and he was not of those who associate with Allah." (An-Nahl [16:123]).

We ~~are~~ ^{as muslims should feel} honored to be from the followers of Ibrahim...the father of the Prophets.... ^{who taught} The same message of Muhammad ibn Abdillah, the final prophet sent to mankind, it is not a new message but rather it is renewal of the message of Ibrahim and through the institutions of Eid ul-Adha and Hajj we are taught to closely align ourselves to this same message of Ibrahim...the message of Islamic monotheism. (AS), ^{Abraham} that

all of Allah's messengers taught their people - Adam - Noah. Moses - Jesus and Muhammad.

Prophet

Abraham

Ibrahim was the model of Islam, who came to Allah (swt) with an al-Qalb al-saleem (a sound heart) in total submission and obedience to Allah (swt) –directing his entire life totally focused towards Allah (swt).

Both

Our prophet Ibrahim grew up in a society that was deeply rooted in idol worship and polytheism. He was the son of a father who sculpted idols for a living, and sold them facilitating others to worship other than Allah. Prophet Ibrahim was blessed with wisdom even from his youth, and he was able to recognize the falsehood of the society in which he lived in, he was able to see through the illusion, the propaganda, the tricks, the idolatry and immorality present in his society, that were used to divert the masses from understanding who created them, who they are and where they were heading.

when we look around us today we find that — This is similar to the society we live in today, with its idols of consumerism and materialism. movie stars and celebrities —everyone chasing after the dollars, fame, status and their egos —spending their whole lives looking for life that is temporary and will fade, while exchanging it for life that is ever lasting and blissful in the hereafter.

And yet, the people who have always submitted their will to a Divine authority, and his commandments, and those who have always been critical thinkers, who have always reflected, who have always been determined not to follow the crowd, not to follow the latest fad, the latest fashion, the latest style or model... these individuals have always seen through the illusion and the spiderweb of this temporary world, and the illusions of Satan and his counterparts. Those who have been given light by Allah, and were able to see through the fake glitter and fool's gold that shines in front of their eyes, in the forms of social status, wealth, material things and fulfillment of one's desires.

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corruption

and our prophet Muhammad society of were and Ibrahim

however did not follow the footsteps of his father

fulfilling

desires and

بل قوترون الحياة الدنيا

to Allah's laws

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those who do

in their hearts

- look at how important your daily prayers are compared to your jobs, investments, families...
- What is more important giving zakat and helping the poor or hoarding wealth and money...

- what is more important your friends or your mother, father and relatives

and Islam

It is said that "if you want to know where you stand with Allah, look at where Allah stands with you". We need to know where we place Allah in our list of priorities in our daily ~~and hectic~~ lives.

Our priority list should be according to what Ibrahim and our prophet Muhammad both expressed in their personalities and manifested in their lives, as Allah says in the Quran:

قُلْ إِنْ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ (١٦٢) لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

"Say: truly my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and death are (all) for Allah, the Cherisher of the Worlds" (An-am 6:162).

In Makkah Allah tested Ibrahim and asked him to sacrifice what he loved most dearly, his first son, Ismael. Ibrahim recognised this as a supreme and difficult test from Allah. He would have to sacrifice the most beloved thing to him for Allah. How did he respond, what did he say? When he heard the command from Allah...even though it went against his natural love and desires... what was his response? Did he hesitate, did he ignore Allah's commandment, did he disobey, or turn away from Allah's order?...Both Ibrahim and his son obeyed the divine command without flinching and without any resistance at all!. Ibrahim brought his first son Ismael to Mina, and layed his son down, and placed the sharp knife lay on Isma'el's tender throat. ~~But just before it severed the jugular vein,~~ Allah sent a sheep to him from the paradise exactly where Ismaels' body lay, and Ishmael's life was spared. Prophet Ibrahim had passed the test and succeeded... He sacrificed his personal love and desire that he had towards his son-to fulfil Allah's commandments, Allah's friendship and Allah's love was more important

today he would be one of the first to stop and think about Ibrahim and Ismael

فلما بلغ معه السبعين قال يا براهيم ائتني ارضي في الصام اني اذبحك

He tried once, twice, three times the knife would cut and test from Allah

فَانظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَى قَالَ يَا اَبَتِ افْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ سَتَجِدُنِي اِنْ سَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ - افْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ

to him than any type of worldly love...What a great example of sacrifice we have in the story of Ibrahim and Ismaeel.

When we celebrate *Eid al Adha* today, the Festival of the Sacrifice, we should remember Ibrahim's willingness and hastiness to obey Allah, He was prepared to give up his most beloved son. Brothers and sisters in Islam, this teaches us that, as Allah's servants, we too must obey Allah unconditionally, without question and without hesitation. We too, must be prepared to give up whatever else, besides Allah, is so near and dear to us. We too, must learn to tame our selfish desires, and we must learn how to fulfil our Lord's commandments, and persevere through hardships, difficulties and trials so that Allah will purify us and purify our hearts and souls, and keep them connected only to him and pleasing and satisfying Him constantly.

This is the sacrifice... the example of our beloved Prophet Ibrahim. a man, a noble messenger and friend of Allah... who was purified through trials and tribulations in his youth, in his adulthood, and yet in each circumstance his resolve was unmatched and his determination to please his Lord was unswerving.

Indeed Prophet Ibrahim was an Ummah, a nation by himself, for the sacrifices that he endured and put forth for Allah the almighty:

إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ كَانَ أُمَّةً قَنِئًا لِلَّهِ خَنِيفًا وَلَمْ يَكُ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

Verily, Ibrahim was an Ummah, obedient to Allah, Hanif-monotheistic, and he was not of those who were polytheists

So Where do we stand? What are we sacrificing for Allah, for Islam, for the improvement of the society that we live in?

We all chose to live here, so let's make our community better with better neighbors, better fathers, better mothers, better neighbors?

Where is Allah in our lives. What are we willing to sacrifice for the religion of Allah? We are now billions of Muslims throughout the world, but can we truly say that we are a unified ummah...Ibrahim was an ummah by himself, solely because of his devotion and sacrifices he put forth for Allah? We need ask our selves....Are we truly devoted to Allah?

Are we ready to sacrifice for the sake of Allah? Are we willing to sacrifice our wealth to build a community here in Hagerstown? What are we doing to attain financial, political, religious, and social influence in the societies we live in?

- This is what our beloved prophet and messenger did

Sacrifice is an essential requirement to test the sincerity of our faith and to fortify our position with Allah (swt). This has been clearly demonstrated through the examples of Prophets Ibrahim and Muhammad (PBUH).

Second Khutbah

Today many of us will be sacrificing animals for Allah. My dear brothers and sisters the only ones that benefit from our animal sacrifices today are ourselves... our sacrifice of goats, sheep or cows is a symbolic sacrifice to Allah, as He says in the Quran:

Allah but who really benefits from the meat? - who is the beneficiary for our eid prayer our duaa our supplication

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهُ لُحُومَهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤها وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ ۗ كَذَٰلِكَ سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ ۗ وَيَبْشِرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

The meat from the sacrifices will not reach Allah, nor will the blood of the sacrifices, but what reaches Allah is 'taqwa' piety and righteousness from you. Thus have We subjected the animals to you that you may glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and give good tidings to the doers of good.

It is you and your brothers and sisters... how sincere we are will determine how much we benefit from our acts.

هو الغني القصر
وانتم الغني

① Allah is one - self sufficient - the one whom all creatures need - and the one who doesn't need anyone or anything

Allah doesn't benefit at all from our sacrifices, rather it is us who benefit by performing this great act of worship, as a manifestation of righteousness and piety to Allah, while preserving the tradition of our prophet Ibrahim and our beloved prophet Muhammad. ① →

Just how Ibrahim submitted to Allah's commands and he made a way out for him - this is how Tاجر makes - you are submitting to Allah and he makes a way out of all difficulties.

and

When slaughtering our sacrifices we should reflect and ponder... ^{that Allah created} that just like this helpless goat, sheep or cow that we will be slaughtering - is willing to be a sacrifice for the will of its Creator - we must also be willing to sacrifice our lives, our possessions, our inner desires and egos for Allah and for the development of influential Muslim communities wherever we are.

So we should ask ourselves, are we willing to follow and submit to Allah's commandments in the Quran and Sunnah, like ^{Ismail and Ibrahim submitted to Allah} a helpless animal ~~submits~~ submit in sacrifice to his creator, provider and sustainer? Are we willing to submit completely like Ibrahim and Isma'el did by fulfilling Allah's commandments in the Quran and Sunnah? This is the real wisdom and reminder behind this blessed day of sacrifice...

Far too often this lesson is missed and our sacrifice on this great day becomes only a ritual practice without any meaning to change ourselves or our personality. We've prepared ourselves for this day of sacrifice, but let us prepare ourselves for the life of sacrifice. Because without making sacrifices we will not be able to develop our hearts, our souls, our families, our masjid, and our Muslim communities, or bring about social reform. We will not be able to pave the way and preserve the future of our youth here in America.

We should be ready to sacrifice our time, our wealth, our resources and our personal likes and dislikes. We should be ready to acquire more properties in our local areas, and specifically in the downtown area to

Business and residential

start businesses, clinics, restaurants, human services centers, food
pantries and the likes of these institutions, to aid in ^{our dawah efforts,}
^{and} ^{showing} ~~and show~~ people how Islam and the Muslims can aid in cleaning up any
environment they establish themselves in... Let's start sacrificing more
for the sake of Allah, and continue to work together upon righteous and
piety with our brothers and sisters supporting each other and each
other's businesses so that all of the community can flourish and
develop and grow together as a whole.

If we are sincere then Allah will help us. He will guide us and open the
doors of success for us and make us lanterns of guidance and
manifestations of mercy for all of mankind.

Muslim
owned

Muslim
owned
medical

Sharing Islam with others

just how the prophet muhammad did in Makkah
and
Al-Madinah