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Sacrificing Self-Centredness, Strengthening Unity

أَحْمَدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Fear Allah s.w.t. with true piety. Obey all His commands and avoid all that He has forbidden. May Allah s.w.t. accept all acts of obedience that we offer to Him. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

My dear brothers in faith,

During this blessed season of Aidiladha, many Muslims perform the act of *korban* (**sacrifice**). Beyond the slaughtering of animals, there lies a deeper spirit of **sacrifice** – the willingness to let go of our sense of **self-centredness**, and to **prioritise** the well-being of others. This is the central message of today's khutbah.

My dear brothers and sisters,

Reflect upon the story of Prophet Ibrahim a.s. and Prophet Ismail a.s., where we witness a profound example of **sacrifice** and obedience to Allah s.w.t. Prophet Ibrahim a.s. had long prayed for offspring, and his prayer was only answered when he had reached senior age. Allah s.w.t. granted him a beloved son, Prophet Ismail a.s. However, when Ismail reached an age where he could work alongside his father, a heavy command from Allah s.w.t. came. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah As-Saffat, verse 102:

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يَبْنَئِي إِيَّيَّ أَرَى فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ
فَأَنْظِرْ مَاذَا تَرَى قَالَ يَا أَبَتِ أَفْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ سَتَجِدُنِي إِنْ شَاءَ
اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٠٢﴾

Which means: *“And when he reached the age of striving with him, he said: ‘O my son, indeed I see in a dream that I am **sacrificing** you, so consider what you think.’ He replied: ‘O my father, do as you are commanded. If Allah wills, you will find me among those who are patient.”*

Dear brothers,

Had both Prophet Ibrahim a.s. and Prophet Ismail a.s. **prioritised** their **self-interest**, they may not have been inclined to carry out this command.

Prophet Ibrahim a.s. might have hesitated, unable to bear the thought of **sacrificing** a son he had long yearned for. Likewise, Prophet Ismail a.s. could have objected, being young and having a long future ahead of him.

In essence, this verse does not merely highlight their deep faith and obedience to Allah's command. It also demonstrates their readiness to **sacrifice self-interest** for the sake of attaining goodness, and ultimately, the pleasure of Allah s.w.t.

Dear brothers,

This is the true spirit of Eid al-Adha that we must internalise in our daily lives. Today's world is increasingly shaped by individualistic values. Some may become so **self-centred** that they are no longer attentive to the struggles of others. Perhaps, we also find ourselves more often asking, "*What do I gain?*" but rarely asking, "*What do others need from me?*"

Yet, Rasulullah s.a.w. said:

لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّىٰ يُحِبَّ لِأَخِيهِ مَا يُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِهِ

Which means: "*None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.*" (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

In Surah Al-Hashr, Allah s.w.t. also praises the Ansar for their generosity and their willingness to **prioritise** others, even when they themselves were in need.

Beloved congregation,

To enliven this spirit of **sacrifice**, the sermon highlights two key lessons:

First: Learn to see from the perspective of those in need

Much of the destruction in the world today is caused by greed and **self-interest**. There are those who are willing to oppress others to make profit. There are those who are unwilling to give and share despite having the means to do so. There are also those who remain indifferent and unconcerned to the hardship and suffering of others.

Yet, the Prophet s.a.w. said: *“A believer is not one who is full while his neighbour goes hungry beside him.”* (Narrated by Abu Ya’la)

In today’s increasingly challenging economic climate, many are struggling with the cost of living, work pressures, and financial commitments. Therefore, a strong community is not built upon **self-interest**, but upon helping and supporting one another.

The assistance we give does not always have to be through significant means. It may be as simple as checking on someone, helping a tired family member, sharing what we have, offering a smile, or speaking kind words. Even small acts of goodness, when done sincerely, strengthen the connection between people.

Second: Islam teaches us balance

Prioritising others does not mean neglecting oneself. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Isra, verse 29, which means: *“And do not let your hand be tied (like a miser) to your neck, nor stretch it forth to its utmost reach (like a spendthrift), that you become blameworthy and overwhelmed with regret.”*

Islam nurtures a **balanced** way of life. When we achieve this **balance**, we are able to preserve our own well-being while also being of benefit to those around us. Our life becomes more peaceful, families more harmonious, and the community stronger in unity.

Beloved congregation,

Aidiladha reminds us that the greatest **sacrifice** may sometimes come by **sacrificing** our sense of **self-centredness**. Therefore, in line with the guidance of our faith, let us train ourselves to see the needs of others and to uphold **balance** in caring for both our own welfare and that of those around us.

May we become people who consistently spread mercy and goodness, **prioritise** mutual benefit, and build a community bound by compassion and unity. Amin, ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَى عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارِضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهَدِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا رَحِيمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالْخُرْبَ وَالْإِعْتِدَاءَ. اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْتَوْدِعُكَ أَنْفُسَنَا وَأَهْلَنَا وَبِلَادَنَا، وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شُرُورِ الْمَفْسِدِينَ، وَكَيْدِ الْمُعْتَدِينَ، وَظُلْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَجْعَلُكَ فِي نُحُورِهِمْ، وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شُرُورِهِمْ.

اللَّهُمَّ يَا مُتْرَلِ الْكِتَابِ، وَيَا مُجْرِي السَّحَابِ، وَيَا هَازِمِ الْأَحْرَابِ، أَهْرَمِ
الْأَحْرَابِ، وَأَنْصُرِ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي عَرَّةٍ وَفِي فِلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ
عَامَّةً، يَا رُحِمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ
فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا
عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.