

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَ نَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَ نَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ
شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ
لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ
لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

All Praise be to الله .

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness within ourselves and from our own bad deeds. Whom-so-ever God guides to the truth no one can lead astray, and whom-so-ever He leaves misguided, no one has the power to guide.

I testify that there is no God but الله to whom there is no partner and I testify that Muhammad ﷺ is his servant and messenger

Brothers and sisters: Eid Mubarak

ASA brothers and sisters. I open this khutbah with ayah 200 from Surat Al-Baqara:

فَإِذَا قَضَيْتُمْ مَنَسِكَكُمْ فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَذِكْرِكُمْ ءَابَاءَكُمْ أَوْ أَشَدَّ
ذِكْرًا ۗ فَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَقُولُ رَبَّنَا ءَاتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَمَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِن
خَلْقٍ ﴿٢٠٠﴾

“And when you have completed your holy rites, remember Allah as you would remember your fathers and even with a stronger remembrance. For there are people who will only ask: Our Lord! Give us of this world, but they have not asked and will not have part of the Hereafter” (S2, A200)

Here we are again brothers and sisters. Yet another Hajj is now behind us, and yet another year is coming to an end. There is no doubt that this is a very special and emotional period for us. For our children, these celebrations are happening while they witness the razzmatazz of another Christmas. We must make this Eid day for them a wonderful celebration and remind them of the warning of this ayah about those who only ask Allah for the bounties of this world.

“There are people who would only ask their Lord to give them of this world”.

For those who believe and work for the Hereafter, this is what we say:

وَمِنْهُمْ مَّن يَقُولُ رَبَّنَا ءَاتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ ﴿٢٠١﴾ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا كَسَبُوا ۗ وَاللَّهُ
سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ ﴿٢٠٢﴾

“And there are those who say: "Our Lord! Grant us what is good in this world and what is good in the Hereafter, and guard us from the torment of the Fire. Those shall have (their) share of what they have earned, and Allah is swift in reckoning” (S2, A201-2)

This is the beauty of Islam. Allah commands us to keep his remembrance close to our hearts, and to ask Him, the Lord of everything, the Lord of Creation, the Lord of the worlds, to ask him for goodness in this life and for goodness in the hereafter.

Brothers and sisters, as we are reminded in the Holy Quran, it is a time that we need to remember Allah and keep that remembrance even closer to us than we remember our dearest to us. This is why over a billion Muslims are now remembering Allah and we are just a small part of this remembrance.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ
 اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كَثِيرًا وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَثِيرًا وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا
 لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ صَدَقَ وَعْدُهُ وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ وَأَعَزَّ جُنْدَهُ وَهَزَمَ الْأَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ
 مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ
 اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى أَزْوَاجِ مُحَمَّدٍ
 وَعَلَى ذُرِّيَةِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَسَلِّمْ اللَّهُمَّ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا

Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. There is no Deity worthy of worship except Allah. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. To Allah belongs all praise.

God is the greatest. All greatness belongs to Allah. All praise belongs to Allah. All glory belongs to Allah, and we glorify Allah when the day breaks and when the day ends.

There is no deity worthy of worship except the One Allah. Allah has fulfilled His promise and Allah has made his servant victorious.

To Allah we will be truthful in our Deen despite the discontent of those who reject faith. To Allah we should be truthful in our Deen despite the discontent of those who reject faith.

What a great feeling a Muslim gets when he or she declares “Allahu-Akbar”. To me, this is one of the most unifying statements in Islam. Whoever you are as a Muslim, when you say or when you hear “Allahu-Akbar” there is an incredible feeling that flows through you. When you are on top of the world, you say “Allahu-Akbar”. And when you are very low, you say “Allahu-Akbar”. Just as much as “La Illaha-Illa-Llah” is a statement of complete submission, so is “Allahu-Akbar”. Islam teaches us that there is tremendous strength in complete submission to Allah.

الله أكبر الله أكبر لا إله إلا الله الله أكبر الله أكبر وله الحمد

Brothers and sisters, we go back to the opening aya:

فَإِذَا قَضَيْتُمْ مَنَسِكَكُمْ
 فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَذِكْرِكُمْ آبَاءَكُمْ أَوْ أَشَدَّ ذِكْرًا

“And when you have completed your holy rites, remember Allah as you would remember your fathers or even with a stronger remembrance” (S2, A200)

Why is Allah(SWT) stressing on us to remember Him. Allah(SWT) is telling the pilgrims, after they have completed some of the most arduous rites and rituals, after standing on Arafat

and after going to Muzdalifa, Allah tells us to keep remembering him and to keep Him firmly close to us. The pilgrims had nothing to do in the past few days but remember Allah and ask Allah for anything and everything. Yet, we are still asked to remember Allah, even with a greater strength. There must be a good reason for this command.

We need to ask ourselves, are we better Muslims if we keep Allah close to us? Are we better people if we keep Allah close to us? Do you think those who commit atrocities in the name of Allah have Allah close to their hearts? When we look at the millions of those who claim to believe in God, do they have God Almighty close to their hearts, or do we think that Allah is far removed from their hearts? Brothers and sisters, when Allah(SWT) asks us to do something, you need to be absolutely clear that there is a very good reason for it.

I know that among us today are Muslims who will only remember Allah on a few days, but for the rest of the year, Allah(SWT) to them is somehow at the back of their mind. Brothers and sisters, for everyone here today, please take note of this beautiful verse from Surat Al-Hadeed:

﴿أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ

“Has not the time yet come for those who believe that their hearts should submit in humility to the remembrance of Allah” (S57, A16)

Has not the time yet come for those who believe; that is us brothers and sisters, everyone here is a believer, so has not the time yet come for us to submit our hearts to Allah? What are we waiting for? Another year has passed us by, so what are we waiting for? Why must we make our hearts so hard and so cold that when Allah is mentioned, nothing happens to us?

To me, this is a very revealing Ayah. On a day like this, we can speak about so many things to do with Islam, but somehow it always comes down to one thing; it comes down to submitting our hearts to Allah(SWT). When our hearts submit, everything else follows; everything else cannot but submit to Allah. The key brothers and sisters, the key is in the heart. This is the statement of Ibraheem(AS):

﴿قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
﴿١٦٣﴾ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ۗ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿١٦٢﴾﴾

“Say: my worship and my rites, my living and my dying, are (all) for Allah, Lord of the Worlds. He has no partners. In this I have been commanded, and I am the first of those who submit” (S6, A162-3)

Isn't that the reflection of when the heart truly submits to Allah. All my worship, all my rites and rituals, all that my life is about and even my death is to Allah, Lord of the worlds. Interesting here to see that even the manner of dying is according to what Allah has commanded. In a time of assisted suicide and euthanasia, "Subhana-Allah", this aya comes and sets us straight.

When Ibraheem(AS) submitted to Allah, he accepted the command of the sacrifice of his son. When Ismaeel(AS) submitted to Allah, he accepted the command of being sacrificed by his father. When Hajar submitted to Allah, she accepted the command of the sacrifice of her only son. The example of sacrifice given to us in the Quran gives us the ultimate example of acceptance of the ultimate submission and obedience to the will of Allah. **So what do you think happened next?**

The eternal enemy steps in. Shaitan will not have it. Shaitan who wilfully did not submit to Allah(SWT) cannot stand back and see his arch enemy "man" submitting willingly. Shaitan tried his best to stand between Ibraheem(AS) and his heart, between Ismaeel(AS) and his heart, and between Hajar and her heart. But as we know, he failed miserably, because those three hearts have truly submitted.

This tremendous demand of sacrifice was made once in history to set the example for us so that **WE** do not have to go through it again. But having said that, we must ask of ourselves, what does Allah(SWT) demand of us now? On a day like this, this should be our question, each and every one of us should ask, what does Allah(SWT) demand of me now?.

I need to ask myself, what does Allah expect from me? Is it just Iman. Is that what Allah asks of us, to believe in Him. We call ourselves believers, so do we think that this is it, or is there more? Well brothers and sisters, do not be shocked or surprised when you find out that even shaitan believes in Allah. Brothers and sisters, to believe in Allah is not enough. To be a believer is not enough. The problem with shaitan is not disbelief. His problem has always been **disobedience**. For all of us who claim to believe in God Almighty, by default, our problem is not about believing, but our problem has always been about obedience. This is what this day is all about.

This day, brothers and sisters is about obedience, and shaitan knows that very well. Shaitan knows that we believe in Allah(SWT). Shaitan does not go after us to **disbelieve** in Allah. Shaitan goes after us to **disobey** Allah. If we should get one message from this reminder, it should be this. **As believers, shaitan wants us to disobey Allah**. In His infinite mercy and wisdom, to help us fight off shaitan, Allah(SWT) tells us:

فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَذِكْرِكُمْ آبَاءَكُمْ أَوْ أَشَدَّ ذِكْرًا ۗ

“Remember Allah as you would remember your fathers or even with a stronger remembrance”

Brothers and sisters, for us, obedience is the issue and that is where the reminder gets hard.

For our children here to day: to obey Allah you need to obey your parents. You need to keep to your salat. You need to keep to learning the Quran and learning about being a good Muslim. You need to improve your conduct. You need to study hard and not waste your time. You need to study hard and become an active and useful member of this society. You need to choose your friends wisely. During this period of the credit crunch, try not to overburden your parents with your demands. For our children here today, I know that obeying Allah is not easy but we have no other choice.

For the men here today: to obey Allah is to be a good Muslim. To obey Allah, we need to be brothers in Islam. To obey Allah, we need to put our differences and our quarrels behind us and make a fresh start. Shaitan will squirm at the idea that Muslims are prepared to put their quarrels behind them and become brothers in Islam. Shaitan will come to us through pride, through jealousy, through greed, through anger, through hate, through bad experiences and memories to prevent us and stop us from strengthening our brotherhood. If we fail to do so, if we fail to put our disputes behind us, it can only mean that we do not have the remembrance of Allah close to our hearts. And if we fail to do so, it can only mean that our hearts have not submitted in humility yet.

To obey Allah, demands that on a day like this we face shaitan and we defeat him. Shaitan fell from a supreme position because of arrogance and pride, are we going to do the same.

As for our sisters here today: some of you know very well that you have fought very hard in your hearts and in your minds with the Hijab. You know very well that it is the right thing to do. To believe in Allah is not enough if you do not obey Allah. You need to ask yourselves the question. You know that when you stand in the hands of Allah to pray, whether it is here in the masjid, or at home, you put on the hijab. When you stand in the hands of Allah, you put on the hijab. What stops you at other times? Are we ever not in the hands of Allah?

As for the parents here today: remember that you have a great duty towards Allah in the way you bring up your children. Guide them wisely towards Allah and not away from him. Your conduct and your behaviour should be the example for your children.

On this day, thousands of years ago, Ibraheem(AS) was asked much more than what I have just said. Shaitan tried to stop him three times, and on each occasion, shaitan failed. Brothers and sisters, on this day, shaitan will get between you and your heart, and between your heart and Allah. My only advice is to do what Allah has asked us to do; keep Allah close to us, and ISA, Allah will guide us.



فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا تَكْفُرُونِ

***“Then do remember me, I will remember you. Be grateful to me and do not disbelieve in me”
(S”, A152)***

On a day like this, those who work for Islam must ask themselves the question, am I doing it purely for the sake of Allah. Know that your actions will ultimately decide if you truly work for the sake of Allah. When we are working for the sake of Allah, we are expected to act, behave, speak and think in a manner that Allah will accept from us ISA. When anger or pride intervenes, it is no longer for the sake of Allah, and shaitan will test us. Brothers and sisters, I

have been tested on many times, and I have failed miserably. To stop failing, I desperately need to keep Allah close to my heart.

Brothers and sisters, this is the message for today: “Remember Allah”

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي و لكم

2nd Khutbah:

الحمد لله ثم الحمد لله. الحمد لله نستعينه ونستغفره ، ونعوذ بالله من شرور
أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا . أما بعد :

الْيَوْمَ يَيْسَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ دِينِكُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنَ الْيَوْمَ
أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

"This day, those who disbelieve are in despair of your religion; so do not fear them, but fear Me! This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed My favour unto you, and have chosen for you Islam as the religion" (S5, A3)

Brothers and sisters I will finish with two ayas that reflect the issue of obedience. The first is at the beginning of surat Al-Anfaal (8):

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَصْلِحُوا
ذَاتَ بَيْنِكُمْ وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ ۗ إِن كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١﴾

“Be mindful of your duty to Allah and resolve your differences, and obey Allah and His Messenger if you are true believers” (S8, A1)

And the second ayah is at the end of Surat Al-Baqara, which defines the status of the true believers:

وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ

"And the believers say: "We listen and we obey: (We seek) Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is our destiny" (S2, A285)

Brothers and sisters, let us be among those who have listened, and among those who have obeyed.

Eid Mubarak