



In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

..... ***The HOPE Bulletin***

Hhealth, Ongoing Projects, Education



2009

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Akbar Abdullah, Editor

On behalf of *The HOPE Bulletin* team, I extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Mujahid Ahmad Saeed, Jannifar Khanoum, Arshad Alvi, and the many other brothers and sisters of the worldwide *Jama'at* who provided their valuable information and memorable photographs for the preparation of this special *Eid-ul-Adha* 2009 supplement.

HAZRAT AMEER'S EID-UL-ADHA MESSAGE



“Say: My prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are surely for Allah, the Lord of the worlds – No associate has He. And this I am commanded and I am the first of those who submit” (6:163-164).

Eid ul Adha brings to mind a picture of millions of devotees performing *Hajj* or the Pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca and sacrificing animals in the way of Allah. There is nothing wrong with this picture that our mind perceives; however, it is important to realise that this perception is only the outward manifestation of the greater spiritual significance of this glorious occasion.

The real spirit of *Hajj* and its purpose is conveyed in the Qur’anic verses I have cited above. These verses should not only act as a guideline to the spirit with which the *hajjis* perform the *Hajj* but also reflect the spirit in all our prayers and devotional acts. Our very life should be lived for His pleasure and we should be ready to die in devotion to Him.

This was the spirit with which Hazrat Ibrahim and Hazrat Ismael, may peace be upon them, constructed the Holy Ka’bah as “a resort for men, and a (place of) security.” And purified His House “for those who visit (it) and those who abide (in it) for devotion and those who bow down (and) those who prostrate themselves” (2:125).

If our life is spent within the framework of these guidelines it will result in a strengthened bond between us and our Creator. Keeping one's duty to Him, *taqwah*, is a major aim of performing *Hajj* as is commanded in the following verse of the Holy Qur'an: "And make provision for yourselves, the best provision being to keep one's duty (*taqwah*). And keep your duty to Me, O men of understanding" (2:197).

All of us have not been blessed with the opportunity and good fortune to perform *Hajj* so far, but we can resolve to inculcate the spirit of *Hajj* within us. We should be submissive to Allah as were Hazrat Ibrahim and Hazrat Ismael, peace be upon them, and the Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. We should spend our lives entirely in the service of Allah as Hazrat Ibrahim did; we should break the idols which occupy our hearts and keep us away from the remembrance of Allah; we should inculcate in our lives the wish to stay pure and act on the commands of Allah.

Allah has given us role models in the persons of Prophet Ibrahim, Prophet Ismael and the Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. We should seek nearness of Allah and follow the way of *taqwah* as they did, thus attaining the spirit of *Hajj* even if we are not amongst those who actually are performing the Pilgrimage. Those who have been blessed with the opportunity to do so should return with a determination to stay connected to Allah as they were when they were near the Blessed Ka'bah; continue on the path of *taqwah* and unity that they witnessed with the peoples from all the nations of the world. They should strive on the path of Oneness so the world and its inhabitants can live like one family and one brotherhood.

I pray that this day of *Hajj* and *Eid ul Adha* brings peace and love to all and makes our home a safe place to live in.

Ameen.

CANADA

Ahamed Hosein, President AAAIL, Toronto, Canada

Assalaam O Alaikum to our brothers and sisters of the worldwide membership of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishait-e Islam Lahore.

It gives great esteem to extend *Eid Mubarak* to all the dedicated Ahmadies on the celebration of *Eid ul Adha*. It is a great mercy from Allah for us to collectively celebrate this spiritual observation of the Sacrifice of Father Abraham.

May this dedication bring us blessing from Allah.

GERMANY

Manfred Yahya, Cologne, Germany

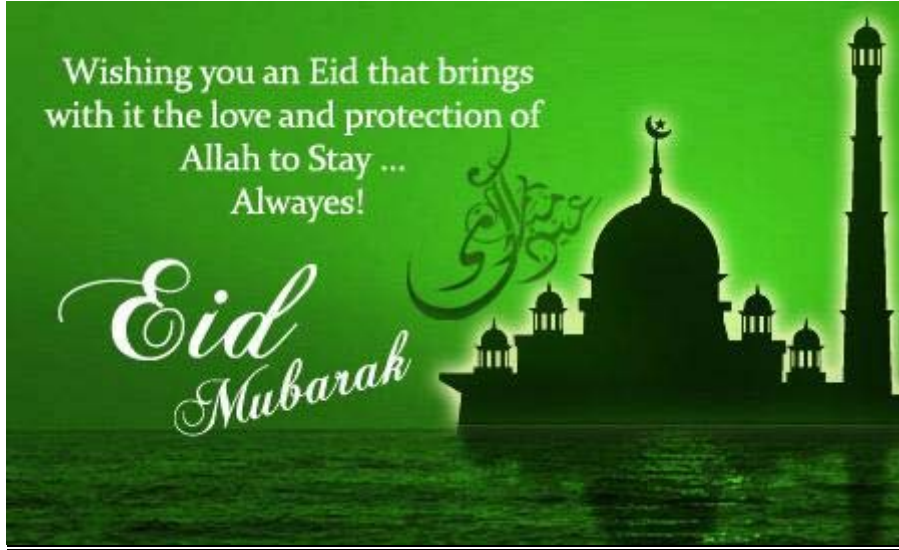
My very dear Hazrat Ameer, dear Brothers and Sisters, *Salam Alejkum*.

I wish all brothers and sisters a happy and spiritually fulfilling *Eid-ul-Adha* 2009.

With very kind regards and *Wassalam*.

INDIA

Dr Khursheed Alam Tareen



Dear brothers & sisters *Assalamu Alaikum* and *'Id Mubarak!*

We are celebrating *'Id al-Azhaa*, but we seldom ponder over the purpose, aim or object of this sacred festival. The word *Azhaa* is plural of *azhaat*, which means *a sacrifice*. Hence *al-Azhaa* doesn't comprise or constitute animal slaughter only. Animal sacrifice is only a symbolic representation of *Al-azhaa*. Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali has very rightly said: "Sacrifice is the sacrifice of the sacrificer," i.e. one has to slaughter one's inner animal at the divine altar, otherwise the whole task becomes futile and a waste. The Lord says in the Holy Qur'an: "There does not reach Allah their flesh nor their blood, but to Him is acceptable righteousness on your part" (22:37). And righteousness is nothing but purging oneself of all bestial immoralities.

Let us sacrifice today all of our animalistic contemplations, impulses, egos and bitter surmises to give *'Id al-Azhaa* a real sanctity.

Wassalam.

PAKISTAN

Amir Aziz, General Secretary, AAIIIL

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Assalmu Alikum.

On behalf of AAIIIL I wish you all a very Happy *Eid*. May Allah descend His choicest bounties and blessings of this day on you and on your family members.

Eid ul Azha is the day of sacrifice which gives us a sublime message, that is, to sacrifice all our carnal, mundane, vain and worldly desires for the sake of Allah. This gives us the message of extreme humility as had been displayed by Hazrat Ismail, son of Hazrat Abraham.

While sacrificing an animal we must consider that we have to eradicate our inhuman and immoral desires which take us away from our goal, that is, to serve Allah, Islam and humankind. It's time to make a resolution that we would be ready to face all challenges in the way of Allah for the sake of truth and peace around the globe. We must renew our promise which we made that we would prefer faith on worldly affairs. Keep in your mind the aims and objectives of AAIIIL and strive to achieve these targets with your utmost devotion.

May Allah be with you all for all times to come.

Live broadcast from Lahore

Hazrat Ameer's *Eid khutbah* was broadcast live on 28th November from Lahore, Pakistan. It can be viewed by following the link www.ustream.tv/channel/atc2009_

Here are some photographs taken on the occasion:









SURINAME

Riaz Ahmadali, Editor, *A Spiritual Note*

SACRIFICE

“Surely We have given thee abundance of good. So pray to thy Lord and sacrifice” (Quran, 108:1-2).

“Not their flesh, nor their blood, reaches Allah, but to Him is acceptable observance of duty on your part” (Quran, 22:37).

This week, Muslims around the world will take part in the annual sacrifice of *‘Eid ul-Adha*.

Two ways are pointed out in 108:2 to attain the abundance of good promised in the 108:1, praying to God, and sacrifice, which means the devoting of one's life to the good of humanity; not of one group or one nation or one community. And just as it is required for Muslims that they should pray daily, it is also required that this type of sacrifice should be practiced daily, therefore both prayer and sacrifice are mentioned together in 108:2.

The sacrifice of *Eid ul-Adha* – seen from a spiritual view – does not consist of the act of slaughtering an animal or distributing its meat. The principle of sacrifice finds a deeper meaning in Islam; it signifies the sacrifice of the sacrificer himself, and thus becomes an outward symbol of his readiness to lay down his life and to sacrifice all his interests and desires in the cause of truth and the wellbeing of his fellow human beings.

The animal that is sacrificed really stands for the animal within him, a symbol of his lower desires. If everyone would be able to control his lower desires, there would be peace on earth, because it is these desires which cause conflicts and enmity amongst people. And giving up these desires is worth Paradise, as the Quran states in 79:40-41: “As for him who fears to stand before his Lord and restrains himself from low desires, the Garden is surely the abode.”

One reaches the highest level of sacrifice only when the conditions of Quran (6:162) are met: “My prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are surely for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.”

May Allah Almighty enable Muslims worldwide to perform their sacrifice in the right way, and so help in creating a better world.

THAILAND

***Eid* message from Shaukat A. Ali, Coordinator, Asia & Pacific Region**

Bismillahi-r-Rahmani-r-Rahim.

(In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.)

Dear sisters and brothers,
Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatuhu.

Alhamdulillah, Allah *swt* has once again given us the opportunity to commemorate *Eid-ul Adha*, the significance of which is associated with sacrifice. Many of you may have read various verses of the Holy Quran such as those in Chapter 22 – *Al-Hajj*: (The Pilgrimage). I will however, quote verses from Chapter 37 for this year's message:

“My Lord, grant me a doer of good deeds. So We gave him the good news of a forbearing son. But when he became of age to work with him, he said: O my son, I have seen in a dream that I should sacrifice you: so consider what you see. He said: O my father, do as you are commanded; if Allah please, you will find me patient. So when they both submitted and he had thrown him down upon his forehead, And We called out to him saying, O Abraham, You have indeed fulfilled the vision. Thus do We reward the doers of good. Surely this is a manifest trial. And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice. And We granted him among the later generations (the salutation), Peace be to Abraham! Thus do We reward the doers of good” (37:100-110).

At a very old age, in response to his prayer, Prophet Abraham is given good news of a forbearing son, (Ishmael). When he was still an infant, Abraham is commanded by Allah to settle them in the desert, which he readily did. Later, when Ishmael reached his teens and the age to work, Abraham saw in a dream that he should

sacrifice him, and asks his son for his views. Imagine the faith and response of a young boy – “O my father, do as you are commanded.” When they had both submitted to the Will of Allah and Ishmael was down upon his forehead, Allah stopped Abraham because he had fulfilled the vision and proved that he was willing to obey every command of Allah *swt*. They were thus rewarded as doers of good.

Today we commemorate this event with sacrifice of an animal. The significance of it must not be lost and we must always be prepared to submit to the command of Allah and make sacrifices whenever we are required to do so. We must also form the habit of praying from the heart regularly. This brings me to the following verses of the Holy Quran:

“And when Abraham and Ishmael raised the foundations of the House: Our Lord, accept from us; surely You are the Hearing, the Knowing. Our Lord, and make us both submissive to You, and (raise) from our offspring, a nation submissive to You, and show us our ways of devotion and turn to us (mercifully); surely You are the Oft-returning (to mercy), the Merciful. Our Lord, and raise up in them a Messenger from among them who shall recite to them Your messages and teach them the Book and the Wisdom, and purify them. Surely You are the Mighty, the Wise” (Holy Quran 2:127-129).

When Abraham and Ishmael “raised the foundations of the House” (*Kabah Shareef*) and prayed, Allah *Ta’ala* responded by raising “a nation submissive to Him” (Islam), “and show us our ways of devotion” (daily prayers are part of it), and raised “a messenger” (Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who shall “recite to them Your messages and teach them the Book” (Holy Quran).

At the moment there are some two and a half million Muslims gathered at the “House” to perform the annual *Hajj*. We pray for their safety and security as well as for the acceptance of their pilgrimage and sacrifices. May Allah facilitate their *Hajj* and pray that they become better citizens of the world; tender-hearted, caring, loving, doers of good and show the true spirit of Islam upon their return. *Aameen*.

At the time of this *Eid-ul Adha*, I would like to quote from an (Inspirational) Revealed Sermon (*Khutbah Ilhamiyya*) delivered by the *Mujaddid* (Reformer) of the Fourteenth Century of *Hijrah*, the *Imam* of the Age, *Masih Mauood* (Promised Messiah), *Mehdi Mauood*, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who established the Motto for the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam “to hold the religion above the world” and the aim “to carry the message of the Holy Quran to the furthest corners of the world.”

This *Khutbah* (Sermon) was delivered on 11 April 1901, but for this particular *Khutbah Ilhamiyya*, the Holy Founder had sent invitations under Divine instructions as early as December 1900 for his members to come for the *Eid-ul-Adha*. The entire *Khutbah* was delivered in Arabic under Divine inspiration. [It must be remembered that Hazrat Mirza Sahib was taught Arabic by Allah *Ta’ala* and did not learn in any school, college or *madrassa*. He was taught 40,000 Arabic roots in one night and his command of the Arabic language was beyond the ken of most Arabic scholars. He had written several books in Arabic for Arab readers, in addition to scores of books and articles in Urdu and Persian.] An Urdu translation of his *Khutbah* was delivered immediately after its delivery, while the Persian and English translations were circulated later.

For the benefit of those who may not be familiar, I quote below a few extracts from the English rendering of his *Khutbah Ilhamiyya*:

O servants of Allah, on this your *Eid-ul-Adha* day, think deeply and ponder, for in the ceremony of the Sacrifice there is a hidden secret for people of understanding. As you all know, many animals are sacrificed on this day – and all this in order to seek the pleasure of Allah. And this has been the practice since the beginning of Islam until the present day. In my opinion, these sacrifices offered by us in accordance with the *Shariah* of Islam are countless, and they outnumber by far those sacrifices that used to be performed by the communities of the previous prophets.

In Islam, this obligation is considered among those acts that are calculated to take us close to Allah, the Most High. This act of sacrifice yields Allah's blessings with such a speed as if we are riding an animal which is running at the speed of lightning and there is grandeur in it like that of the deafening peal of thunder.

For this reason, the name "sacrifice" was reserved for these animals that are due to be slaughtered, for in the *Hadith* it is mentioned that if a person fulfills this sacrifice with sincerity, piety and deep faith, it becomes for him a means of attaining closeness to, and union with Allah, the Most High.

These sacrifices are among the noblest acts of worship in the *Shariah*. ...

This is the meaning of Islam and that is the essence of perfect obedience. A Muslim is he who places his neck for slaughter at the altar of Allah, the Most High, and sacrifices the camel of his soul and places his forehead on the ground to be given up as an offering to Allah, and is never forgetful of death even for a moment.

In short, the slaughtering of sacrificial animals, which is an institution in Islam, is for the sole purpose of reminding us to offer sacrifice for the purpose of making the soul submissive and it serves as an incentive for us to achieve this lofty goal. ...

So, do not be heedless of this rank, O mankind, and do not remain ignorant of the secret that is reposed in the sacrifices. Perform the sacrifice so that you may see the essence of it as if in a mirror. Do not forget these exhortations and do not become like those people who forget their God and are unmindful of their own passing away.

An indication of this veiled secret is given in the Word of Allah, where Allah, Who is the Most Truthful of those who can speak the truth, commands His Prophet (Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to inform the people that his prayer and his worship and his life and his death are all for Allah, the Lord of the worlds (6:162-3). Therefore observe how the word *nusuk* (sacrifice), is explained by the words "life" and "death". And this explanation unravels the secret behind the reality of sacrifice.

Thus, O heedless ones, meditate deeply on this. Whoever grasps the true meaning of the sacrifice and performs it with purity of heart and sincerity of intention, he indeed has sacrificed his own life and that of his sons and grandsons, and for him is an honourable reward like that which Prophet Abraham received from his bounteous Lord and concerning which a hint was given by our leader of the God-fearing and the Seal of the Prophets. He said, and after Allah, the Most High, he is the most truthful of the truthful ones, that the sacrifices operate like mounts that transport a person towards Allah and they efface all kinds of sins and remove calumnies far from him. These are the words that have come to us from the Prophet of Allah, the best of creation, may the peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him. His Excellency, the Holy Prophet did point out in those words to the wisdom of the sacrifices in language that was like pearls in their eloquence. ...

Dear brothers, ... the sacrifices are observed and in this age such sacrifices are very much needed for the cause of truth. The only difference between this sacrifice and the sacrifice which is needed for the cause of truth is that between the substance and the reflection that falls on a mirror. Our age is a replica of the Holy Prophet's time which has already passed away. The true sacrifice is that of the soul, O men of insight. So, understand the secret of this truth. ...

I strongly recommend that all of you read the entire *Khutbah*, which is very inspirational and enlightening and can be downloaded from the *Anjuman's* official website, www.aaail.org.

In view of the prevailing conditions in the world, it is our obligation to disseminate the “message of truth” as widely as possible. We must always remember that the aim of Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam is to take the pure and pristine message of the Holy Quran to the furthest corners of the world.

It is very difficult to emulate the sacrifices of Hazrat Ibrahim and his wife and son, peace and blessings of Allah be on them; and the Holy Quran says: “The nearest of people to Abraham are surely those who follow him and this Prophet” (Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him); “and those who believe. And Allah is the Friend of the believers” (3:68); and in another verse: “And who is better in religion than he who submits himself entirely to Allah while doing good (to others) and follows the faith of Abraham, the upright one? And Allah took Abraham for a friend” (4:125).

“Whoever brings a good deed will have tenfold like it, and whoever brings an evil deed, will be recompensed only with the like of it, and they shall not be wronged. Say: As for me, my Lord has guided me to the right path — a right religion, the faith of Abraham, the upright one, and he was not of the polytheists. Say: My prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are surely for Allah, the Lord of the worlds” (6:160 -162).

Dear sisters and brothers, in view of the above, and the fact that the Holy Quran provides a complete code of life, we should form the habit of reading the Holy Book everyday and sharing the messages with others. I am sure we can all spare a few minutes to read at least a section or two every day.

May Compassionate and Merciful Allah guide and grant us the wisdom to serve Him and fellow human beings. *Aameen.*

Eid Mubarak.

UNITED KINGDOM

Arjumand Sadiq & family, AAAIL, UK

We wish you a very happy *Eid*. May Allah Almighty bring a lot of happiness, peace and prosperity. May there be a new light in our lives and we live our lives according to his teaching and guidance. *Ameen.*

Eid Mubarak!







UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Oakland Mosque, California



EID MUBARAK.
AHMADIYYA ANJUMAN ISHAAT-I-ISLAM
OAKLAND, CA, USA



Waiting for the service to start





Tilawat by grandsons of Ahmed Nawaz



Listening to the service



Introduction about *Eid-ul-Adha* prayer



Forming lines before start of prayer



Ikram Jhangiri delivering *khutba* in English



Hasmullah delivering *khutba* in Arabic and Urdu



Jaffar Ali Buskh reading
Hazrat Ameer's *Eid-ul-Adha* message



Ahmed Nawaz delivering *Jumuh khutba*



Mousa Jhangiri telling a short story about *Eid*



Closing *du'a* by Mohammed Mustapha



Eid hugs



Lunch

Captain Abdus Salam Khan, Najma, Bashir and Attiya

Dear All, ASA.

This is wish you all a very happy festival of *Eid*.

With lots of good wishes

Editor's Acknowledgement

I thank Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib, and members from our worldwide *jama'ats* who submitted their messages and greetings for circulation through our *HOPE* publication.

Allah Hafiz.

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