

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ

إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا...

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبُنْيَانِ، يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

EID AL-FITR

Brothers and Sisters!

Praise be to our Lord for granting us to have another Eid al-Fitr. A blessed Eid to you all.

We are bidding farewell to Ramadan, the month of mercy and grace, like an honorable guest. We are sad to see it go, but at the same time we are joyful with Eid today.

What a bliss it is that we have used fasting as shield against evil. We shed light on the darkness of the night with our sahur and prayers. We have once again learned how to reflect, be patient, and be grateful. We have devoted ourselves to be concerned with the troubles of our brothers and sisters. And our month-long iftar jubilation combines with the joy of Eid now.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Eids are joyful and delightful occasions that we observe with Allah's blessing. Eids mean praying, remembering, and worshipping; they mean rejoining, sharing, peace, and hope.

Eids are days when we become of one heart in the same temple, the same rank, and in the consciousness of same faith. It is when we put an end to our grievances and resentments. It is when we reinforce our unity, togetherness, and fellowship and let the world know.

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Some hearts are sad, some are wounded, and some are troubled in this Eid. Our people are falling victim to the violence and terror that have surrounded our region. Mothers have been separated from their children, siblings have been separated from one another, youth has been separated from values, and hundreds of thousands of people have been separated from their homeland. Pain, sorrow, and tears wound the hearts.

Despite all these unfavorable circumstances, it is our duty today to rejuvenate our grieving hearts with the joy of Eid. It is our duty to observe Eid in the name of fellow believers who are unable to do so. It is our duty as the world of Islam to celebrate Eid properly and not see it off sadly.

Brothers and Sisters!

Today, our duty is to turn Eid into hope for all of us. Our duty is to consider our differences not a reason for division but a verse of our Lord and close ranks. Our duty is

to do what is necessary as commanded by Allah in the verse "Hold firmly to the book of Allah all together and do not become divided..."¹

Our duty is to lead a life that is compatible with our Prophet's message: "A believer to another believer is like a building whose different parts enforce each other."²

Brothers and Sisters!

We are the hope of humanity. Keep this in mind: if we preserve our unity and togetherness, we will continue to be the hope of the downtrodden, the oppressed, the poor, and the orphans. And if we waste our time with redundant arguments, debates, and conflicts, then all hope fades away for humanity...

Let us not fade away hope. Let us spread the joy of Eid in hearts, in eyes, in words, and in homes. Let us not leave a single soul that is not joyful in Eid, a single person whose grieve is not gone, a single orphan who does not receive love, a single elderly who does not get respect.

Honorable Believers!

Let us leave aside the grievances, the resentments, the hatred, and the anger that have a heavy burden on our souls. Let us go for the path of forgiveness. Let us open our hearts to one another, embrace with fondness, and celebrate Eid. Let us bring the joy of Eid to our parents who are the reason for our existence, our spouses with whom we shoulder the trouble of life, and our children who are the real feast of our homes.

Let us help those who can't celebrate Eid. Let us mend wounded souls and exhausted hearts. Let us remember our elderlies who have been yearning for seeing their children, and visit them. Let us show some love to orphans who are aching for it. Let us bring the joy of Eid to the sick, the needy, the orphans, and the poor.

Let us observe Eid in the name of humanity. Let us make our country beautiful first as the inheritors of a great civilization where everyone lived peacefully. Let us be friendly to one another with the awareness that we rejoice at the same table, we meet at the same qibla, we are the Ummah of the same Prophet, and we believe in the same Book. Let us not give an opportunity to those who want to pit us against each other. Let us free ourselves all the traps wrapped around our legs. Let us be a nice example of civilization to the entire world where people are not scorned, women are not oppressed, and children are not suppressed.

Brothers and Sisters!

With these thoughts and sentiments, I sincerely celebrate the Eid al-Fitr of our country, our region, and the world of Islam.

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the following verses that talk about real festivities.

When the soul finds a lover, it becomes a festival,
When the servant finds a sultan, it becomes a festival,
Rid the sadness and gloom, and the shameful words,
May all sins be forgiven, have a blessed feast.

¹ Ali Imran, 3/103.

² Bukhari, Salât, 88; Müslim, Birr ve Sıla, 65.