Date: 06-06-2025

بِسْـــــــــــــمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ اِنَّ صَلَاتِى وَنُسُكِى وَمَحْيَاىَ وَمَمَاتِى لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَۙ.

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا نَبْدَأُ بِهِ مِنْ يَوْمِنَا هَذَا أَنْ نُصَلِّيَ، ثُمَّ نَرْجِعَ فَنَنْحَرَ،

فَمَنْ فَعَلَ هَذَا فَقَدْ أَصَابَ سُنَّتَنَا.

THE FEAST OF SACRIFICE (ʿĪD AL-AḌḤĀ)

Today is a blessed day when believers gather and share in Allah's infinite mercy and forgiveness. It is the day when pilgrims perform the sacred rites of Arafat, Muzdalifa, Mina and Makkah and enter the Kaʿba. Allah ﷻ says in the Qur'ān: **"Say: 'Indeed, my *ṣalāt*, my sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.'"**[1]

Dear brothers and sisters!

Our Prophet ﷺ said: **"Verily, the first thing we begin on this day of ours is to perform *ṣalāt*. Then we return and slaughter a sacrificial animal. Whoever does that, then he has truly carried out our *sunna*."**[2] Today we come closer to Allah ﷻ with our sacrifices and show our *taqwā*. By following the command of Allah ﷻ to sacrifice, we remember the sincerity and devotion of the prophets Ibrāhīm (a.s.) and Ismāʿīl (a.s.). Our Prophet ﷺ said about this day: **"On the day of sacrifice, no deed is more pleasing to Allah than the slaughtering of a sacrificial animal. And verily, it will surely come on the Day of Resurrection with its horns, hair and hooves. And verily, the sacrificed animal will surely reach a place with Allah before it even touches the ground. So be assured and sincere with it."**[3] Today we celebrate the feast of believers who work for the poor, orphans and people in need. We bring joy and happiness into the homes of others.

Dear believers!

The sacrificial animals that you have entrusted are slaughtered through the organization of the Islamic Foundation Netherlands (ISN) and reach people in need all over the world. With your offerings you have made your brothers and sisters happy. May Allah ﷻ accept your offerings, be pleased with you, and provide provisions for those who are unable to offer.

Dear Muslims!

The true meaning of the Feast of Sacrifice is unity of hearts. It is a time of joy for young and old. The feast only gains its true value through solidarity, love and sincere feelings. Therefore, let us visit our relatives, friends and neighbours. Let us win the hearts of our elders and neighbours and receive their blessings. Let us use these days to remember our deceased, make our children happy with gifts and give them beautiful memories. Let us also let the elderly and the sick share in the feast. Let us reunite, forgive and heal wounded hearts.

Let us work together for peace, love and solidarity in our homes, streets and cities. I wish you all a blessed Feast of Sacrifice; *ʿīd mubārak*. May Allah ﷻ grant you and your loved ones happiness in this world and the Hereafter. I pray that this feast will bring health, peace and well-being to all of us, especially Gaza and all the oppressed. *Āmīn*.

Redaction & translation: drs. Ahmed Bulut
Translation Commission ISN

[1] Al-Anʿām, 6: 162.
[2] Al-Bukhārī, Al-ʿĪdayn, 3.
[3] Al-Tirmidhī, Al-Aḍāḥī, 1.