

## **Press Release**

**21 July, 2021**

### **The righteous intention behind sacrifice – not the outward act of slaughtering – reaches God**

### **Eid-ul-Adha gives the message that we should sacrifice our personal desires and fulfil the rights of fellow human beings**

In Qadian, the national headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Eid-ul-Adha prayers will be offered following the government guidelines and abiding by the Covid-19 protocols. On this occasion, special prayers will be done for the world to be saved from the current global Covid pandemic.

Eid-ul-Adha, which is also known as the Eid of Sacrifice is celebrated in commemoration of the sacrifices of Prophet Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>, his wife Hajar<sup>as</sup> and their son Prophet Ismail<sup>as</sup>.

Islam has made it obligatory upon every able-bodied Muslim to undertake the Hajj pilgrimage at least once during their lifetime and perform the Hajj rituals in the Holy city of Mecca.

Many people celebrate Eid in a way worldly festivals are celebrated. They slaughter animals to show off to the people or as mere emulation of tradition. However, a true believer is one who attains inspiration from the sacrifices of Prophet Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Ismail<sup>as</sup> and seeks to imbibe the true spirit behind those sacrifices.

The Holy Quran reminds us that the flesh and blood of the slaughtered animal do not reach God. Instead, it is the righteous intention of the person performing the sacrifice, his passion to attain God's nearness and his love and affection towards mankind that reach God.

Hence, when a person performs sacrifice, he is not only fulfilling his responsibilities towards God but is also fulfilling the duties he owes to mankind. In fact, the very wisdom behind the practice of sacrifice is the observance of these two obligations.

The Eid of Sacrifice also gives us the message that we should give preference to fulfilling our responsibilities towards others' over demanding our own rights, and that we should prioritize others' comfort above our own ease.

Following the example of Hazrat Ibrahim's sacrifice, we need to improve the standard of our loyalty to God. It is only when we forgo our desires for the sake of God and develop a strong bond of love with Him that we will become the recipients of His countless blessings and bounties.

On this blessed occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, our message to the nation is that we should sacrifice our personal desires and fulfil our responsibilities towards God and to mankind as this is the fundamental purpose of celebrating Eid-ul-Adha.

**End Release**

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