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## **HAJJ IS A SYMBOL OF ISLAMIC UNITY AND INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD**

**AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT, INDIA EXTENDS HEARTFELT EID UL-ADHA WISHES TO ALL THE MUSLIMS OF THE COUNTRY AND EXPRESSES OUR GOODWILL TO ALL THE CITIZENS OF INDIA.**

Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam. It is an obligatory pilgrimage to the Kaaba in Makkah that every capable Muslim should perform at least once in their lifetime. It is also known as the Festival of Sacrifice (Eid-ul-Adha). In remembrance of the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him), his wife Hajar and his son Ismail (peace be upon him), we celebrate the Eid of Sacrifice and perform the rituals of Hajj.

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, and his passion to fulfil his duties to God and fellow human beings that reach God. In other words, Eid celebration, Hajj pilgrimage, and the sacrificing of animals are not mere physical rituals that one ought to perform. Instead, they carry an inner spirit that draws man's attention towards a greater motive which is to fulfil the responsibilities they owe to their Creator and fellow creatures. The physical rituals serve as a symbolic representation of those objectives and remind man of his purpose in life. This true spirit of sacrifice can be seen to have culminated in the person of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>saw</sup> who dedicated his life, wealth and entire possessions to the cause of God and the service of mankind.

The Worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (May Allah be his Helper), says:

"The real essence is to adopt righteousness (taqwa), and this is what reaches Allah. The meat and blood of the sacrifices do not reach Allah; it is the spirit of sacrifice that truly matters."

Hence, while celebrating Eid al-Adha and performing physical sacrifice, a Muslim is actually renewing his pledge and declaring his readiness to offer any sacrifice for the cause of God and service of humanity.

On this blessed occasion of Eid al-Adha, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, India extends the message that we should sacrifice our personal desires for the greater good of society and should strive to fulfil the rights of others irrespective of religion, faith, colour or race. Only then can we say that we have fulfilled the purpose of celebrating Eid.

In Qadian, the National headquarter of the Community, neighbours also embraced their Muslim brothers, congratulating them on Eid, and expressing their good wishes.

We pray to Allah Almighty to bless this Eid for the entire Muslim Ummah and grant us the complete ability to fulfil the rights of Allah and the rights of His creation. Ameen.

**END**



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