

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

Dhul Hijjah ١٠, ١٤٤٤ A.H./June ٢٨, ٢٠٢٣ C.E

***Eid al-Adha* and the Memory of the Obedient Son Ismail (peace be upon him)**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds; Allah is the Greatest; Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest; and much praise is due to Allah. Exalted is Allah in the morning and in the evening. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment!

Eid al-Adha is our greatest feast. It is a season of goodness and blessings, during which souls rejoice and hearts feel happiness. This is a blessing of Allah, the Almighty, Who says, **"Say, 'In the bounty of Allah and in His mercy - in that let them rejoice; it is better than what they accumulate."** When the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) came to Medina, the people of Medina had two days on which they engaged in games. He asked: What are these two days? They said: We used to engage ourselves on them in the pre-Islamic period. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: Allah has substituted for them something better than them, the day of the breaking of the fast (*Eid al-Fitr*) and the day of sacrifice (*Eid al-Adha*)."

The blessed day of *Eid al-Adha* is a great day in the sight of Allah. It is on that day that the pilgrims rejoice for completing the basic rituals of Pilgrimage, and all Muslims across the world enjoy the blessings of Allah on these days, especially when they practice the ritual of slaughtering a sacrificial animal. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) says, "The greatest day in the Sight of Allah is the day of sacrifice (*al-Adha*) and next to it is the day of *Al-Qarr* (i.e. resting)." The day of "Al-Qarr" is the day that comes next to the day of sacrifice, because people rest in Mina city on this day after completing the works required in the Day of Sacrifice.

Eid al-Adha is a celebration of sacrifice, giving and goodness. When Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) reached an old age and he was blessed with a child, Isma'eel, he had a dream that he saw himself sacrificing his son Isma'eel (PBUH). In the Qur'an we read, "**And when he reached with him [the age of] exertion, he said, "O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I [must] sacrifice you, so see what you think."** Ishmael offered the most perfect example of submission and surrender, "He said, "O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast."

As life goes, hardship is followed by easiness, and obedience leads to good consequences. Therefore, Allah rescued Prophet Ibrahim and his son by sending them a sacrifice. Allah, the Almighty, said, "**And when they had both submitted and he put him down upon his forehead; We called**

to him, "O Abraham! You have fulfilled the vision." Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good. Indeed, this was the clear trial. And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice."

This is a great sacrifice from Prophet Ibrahim. Therefore, the Almighty Allah blessed him and raised his status among mankind. Allah described him in the Qur'an saying, "Ibrahim was truly an example: devoutly obedient to Allah and true in faith. He was not an idolater." Also Allah praised Prophet Isma'il in the Qur'an saying, "Mention too, in the Quran, the story of Isma'il. He was true to his promise, a messenger and a prophet. He commanded his household to pray and give alms, and his Lord was well pleased with him." It is because of this story that slaughtering a sacrificial animal became a recommended action and a Sunnah of our Prophet Muhammad to follow. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "It is a custom which has come down from your father Abraham."

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and prayers and peace be upon the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers, our Lord Muhammad, and upon all his family and companions.

There is no doubt that the feasts are a great opportunity to strengthen social ties between relatives and among all people, and spread affection, mercy and brotherhood, and enhance connections and relieve distresses.

The Prophet (PBUH) said, "A man set out to visit a brother (in Faith) in another town and Allah sent an angel on his way. When the man met the angel, the latter asked him, 'Where do you intend to go?' He said, 'I intend to visit my brother in this town.' The angel said, 'Have you done any favour to him?' He said, 'No, I have no desire except to visit him because I love him for the sake of Allah, the Exalted, and Glorious.' Thereupon the angel said, "I am a messenger to you from Allah (to inform you) that Allah loves you as you love him (for His sake)." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "You will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you shall not believe until you love one another. May I inform you of something, if you do, you love each other. Promote greeting amongst you (by saying As-salamu 'alaikum to one another)". The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "He who removes from a believer one of his difficulties of this world, Allah will remove one of his troubles on the Day of Resurrection."

It is in this way our joy comes to be complete in the feast, and this is how we show gratitude to Allah, the Almighty, for His favors upon us, as He said, "So remember Me; I will remember you. Be thankful to Me, and never ungrateful."

O Allah! Protect our country Egypt and all other countries of the world!

May this Eid fills your life with Happiness!