



Translation of the *Khutba* on the occasion of 'Id al Fitr, July 28, 2014

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Bismi-llahi rahmāni rahīm

Allahumma sallī ālā Sayyidina Muhammadin wa-ālihi wa-sallim

Allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar.

Allahu akbar, each time a hardworking rolls up his sleeves and knuckles down; *allahu akbar*, each time one repents in the evening and at night finds his way back to Him; *allahu akbar*, each time a fasting fasts and breaks his fasting; *allahu akbar*, each time the believer completes his fast and praises God; *allahu akbar*, each time the believer is confident that from God come the goodness and the good tidings; *allahu akbar*, as much as there are creatures and as often as He is pleased with them, as much as His throne weighs as much as the ink writes His words. *Ashhadu an la ilaha illa-llah wahdahu la sharika la, ashhadu ana sayyiduna muhammadin rasulu rabbi-l-alam.* I testify that there is no god but God and no gods beside him. I testify that our Lord Mohammed is the messenger of the Lord of the Worlds. Prayers and peace rest on the 'Mercy of God' for the worlds, through whom He has completed the religion. May God be satisfied with the righteous among his relatives and companions and followers, and their successors and those who follow them in righteousness until the Judgment Day.

O you beloved of Allah's Messenger,

Thanks be to God Who has guided us here, without His guidance, we would not be rightly guided. Thanks be to God Who has bestowed us the grace to accomplish this month. See, the month of Ramadan has passed, as it has arrived yesterday. Blessed be He Who keeps day and night in exchange, Who let pass the years and decades. Only a few hours have passed since the sun of the best month has left us, with all that it contained in terms of obedience, happiness, and pleasure in enjoying the closeness to God. We belonged to the best group on

the face of the earth, a group of conducting and obedient, winners in this world and in the hereafter. Only a few hours will pass until some of us forget fasting, nightly prayers, supplying food to the needy and generous spending. And some of us will return to neglect prayers and reciting Qur'an. So we again received our mortal world which is aligned with fatigue, worries, and competition because of desires and vices. Maybe in a few hours we will have forgotten the Ramadan, which perhaps does not return for many of us.

O servants of God, thank your God that you have completed the month, and your God said to you:¹ "[...] and that you should complete the period, and that you should praise Allah for having guided you." So now you have fulfilled the number, and what remains is the other part of the verse, which many people do not pay attention to, namely: "[...] that you should praise Allah for having guided you." When in the night the expected date of the feast has been announced, we begin that night at home with the praise *allahu akbar*, and continue to do so on the way to the 'Id prayer, and at the place of prayer until the Imam comes, and after each prayer until the end of the first day. This praise in Islam appears as a reminder of the majesty of God and as an expression of admiration of something. "The Prophet Muhammad [PPBUH] said, 'I hope you would be half of the inhabitants of Paradise.' Thereat we exclaimed '*allahu akbar*'."²

O servants of God,

This celebration is a real opportunity for joy: "Say, 'With GOD's grace and with His mercy they shall rejoice'."³ So rejoice, brothers and sisters in the faith, and remember and mention the true meaning of the 'Id celebration, namely our love for the Prophet Muhammad [PPBUH], obeying his Sunnah and what he has taught his companions (may God be pleased with them). Let us listen to what one of the important companions (may God be pleased with them) said when he called our attention to an important fact - speaking of Sd. Omar Ibn Al Khattab (may God be pleased with him) when he said: "Do not be fooled by the man's nightly muttering (meaning his prayers), because the right man, the real man, is the one who returns the trusts to the one who entrusted him and from whose hands and tongue the Muslims are safe."

Truly, this is a wonderful statement and an important message. Because he wanted to say: there is a kind of man whose appearance impresses you and who appears in the Islamic form, praying in the mosque and spending the night in prayer. But his dealings are not Islamic: if you lend him money, he delays the repayment; if you entrust him with something, he embezzles it; if he promises something, he does not keep it; if someone is doing something to him, he is not merciful, neither with his hands nor with his tongue. His family complains to God about his unrighteousness, and he is dishonest in his circle and at work.

¹ Sura Al Baqqara (2), verse 185

² Musnad Ahmad, Sahih ibn Habbab

³ Sura Yunus (10), verse 58

Sd. Omar says to you: Beware before this character, because it is a lying character, he hides behind religion, but Islam is not related to this at all. Because the true Muslim is the one whose dealings are Islamic and who translates his prayers into action: “[...] for prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds.”⁴ A prayer that does not prevent the performer from committing vile and ignoble acts is nothing worth.

Sd. Omar ibn Abdelaziz (may God be pleased with him) had a young son. When he saw his son on the feast day in torn apart old clothes, tears welled up in his eyes because he could give his child no new garment on this occasion. When his son saw him crying, the son asked his father, “Why do you cry, o commander of the believers?” He replied: “O my son, I am worried that your heart breaks when the boys see you with such bad clothes.” The son said, “O commander of the believers, the heart breaks of him for whom God does not grant his satisfaction, or who is disobedient to his mother or father. And I hope that God is pleased with me by your satisfaction.” *Allahu akbar*. So Sd. Omar wept and embraced his son and kissed him between the eyes, and asked him for blessings and goodness. Then the son became the richest man after his father.

Verily, this is the true meaning of ‘Id celebration. Because the celebration is not for those who adorn themselves with beautiful clothes and shoes, but it is for those whose sins will be forgiven. The celebration is not for the one, who accumulates dirham and dinar, but for the one, who is obedient to the Exalted and Forgiver and who follows the commands of the chosen prophet.

The great joy is when we face God with our good deeds. Imam al Bukhari reported (via Abi Sa'id al Hudari, may God be pleased with him) that the Prophet [PPBUH] said: “God, the Exalted, said to the people of Paradise, ‘O people of Paradise’ and they answered, ‘O God, here we are in devotion, goodness and blessedness are between Your hands.’ God said, ‘Are you satisfied?’ and they replied, ‘O God, how can we not be satisfied where You have given us what You have not given any of your creatures.’ God said, ‘Shall I give you something even better?’ They said, ‘O God, what is better than that?’ He said, ‘That I grant you My satisfaction and then never will be discontent with you.’”

Each day that passes without sin, is a joy for you. The celebration [*al 'id*] is the return to religion. The celebration [*al 'id*] reminds us of the perfection of religion, as the Exalted said: “This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.”⁵

The celebration is the joy of graciousness: “Say, ‘Who prohibited the adornment God has created for His servants, and the good provisions?’”⁶ Welcome are the good habits, welcome are adorning and beautifying oneself, in so far as God likes seeing the signs of His

⁴ Sura Al ‘Anqabut (29), verse 45

⁵ Sura Al Ma’ida (5), verse 3

⁶ Sura Al A’raf (7), verse 32

graciousness to His servant. But, in doing so, repel the sinful and the desire, because these destroy the graciousness.

O nation of the Beloved [PPBUH], this is the day on which one commands the good and prohibits the bad, this is the day on which one keeps up the religion, this is the day of breaking the fast, this is the day of celebration. This reminds us to worship continually, because worship does not end at the end of Ramadan. God, the Exalted says:⁷ “And serve your Lord until there comes to you that which is certain.” Therefore, we give God the promise in this gathering and in this celebration that we continually ensure obedience to Him and that we will not return to disobedience after Ramadan. Rather, we will continue: “The acts most favored by God are the perpetual, even if they are small.”⁸

O God, bless that which You have given us and make it a pillar of obedience to you. O God, we ask You that we do good and refrain from evil and love the needy. O God, give us Your love and the love of Your Prophet [PPBUH] and love of the relatives of Your Prophet [PPBUH] and the love of every action which brings us close to You.

I speak these words and ask God for forgiveness for me and you. So ask Him for forgiveness, for He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

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Allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar, allahu akbar,

Allahu akbar, as long as the stars shine and the clouds mingle; *allahu akbar*, a praise which is worthy of the majesty of the Living, the Subsisting.

O brothers and sisters in the faith,

O you owners of humble hearts in Ramadan, of weeping eyes, of reciting tongues, and of disbursing hands. O you lover after you have tasted the sweetness of obedience, make sure that you do not return to the bitterness of disobedience. Is it right for you, after you were on the side of the Merciful, to change to the side of the devil? Is it worthy of you, after you belonged to the obedient and blessed, to become one of the disobedient and excluded? Is it worthy of you, after you were humble and faithful in Ramadan, to become vicious and arrogant? Because Iblis, the enemy of man, was degraded and enchained during Ramadan, and today he has been released. He dances happily, announcing that the fight will be

⁷ Sura Al Hijr (15), verse 99

⁸ Musnad Al Shihab

resumed. And he fights with the souls, so that they neglect the duties. "He only invites his adherents that they may become inmates of the blazing fire."⁹

He, Iblis, embellishes for the human his sins and makes him forget the punishment. And he waves the flag of the divine mercy to tempt him to sin again and again. When Iblis was sure that he remains forever, he breathed hatred, and showed deeply hidden envy and enmity. And he made temptation his business and rolled up his sleeves to lead astray. God, the Exalted, lets Iblis reply:¹⁰ "My Lord, since You have let me go astray, I will surely make fair-seeming to them on earth; I will send them all astray, except Your servants from among them." And also:¹¹ "I will come to them from before them, and from behind them, and from their right, and from their left, and You will find that most of them are ungrateful." Iblis will omit no way to mislead, and will not miss any door to knock for seduction. His weapon is the insinuation into the chest of the servant. He leads him to doubt the divine unity, and keeps him from his prayers. He makes him sad in his sleep, and in his wakefulness he sows the seeds of discord. He embellishes for the servant what is forbidden in his dealings. Iblis orders the evil, makes empty promises and brings the bad thoughts. He sows the seeds of enmity between the Muslims, and he lets the servant follow the faults of others, rather than that he occupies himself with his own faults. He lets the servant stumble through a small misstep and think this is a big deal. He provides the servant with the justification for defamation, gossip, profanity and vices. Beware of him, and seek refuge in God from his viciousness. Remain God-fearing, so that God saves you from his viciousness. The Lord says:¹² "Those who fear Allah, whenever the devil approaches them with an idea, they remember, whereupon they become seers." Be aware that the return to the disobedience after obedience is a sign of rejection of the deeds and of the non-recognition of God's goodness. Be careful that you do not fall into disobedience, because it is only a fleeting pleasure, followed by continuous regret and burning hell fire. We seek refuge in God from blindness after enlightenment, and from being misled after being rightly guided.

Remain God-fearing, servants of God, and let the feast be an opportunity to love and to forgive each other, to maintain contacts, to be merciful to one another and to get closer, to support each other, to be benevolent and devout. This way you accomplish what the Prophet of Mercy [PPBUH] has given us as eternally valid piece of advice:¹³ "Do not break off contact among you and do not turn your back on each other, do not envy each other and be brothers and sisters as God's servants. A Muslim must not banish his brother from his life for more than three..."¹⁴

O our Lord, accept our fasting, our nightly prayers, our *zakat*, and all our good deeds -- let them be alone for Your noble face. O our Lord, let the month of Ramadan be witness for us

⁹ Sura Fatir (35), verse 6

¹⁰ Sura Al Hijr (15), verses 39-40

¹¹ Sura Al A'raf (7), verse 17

¹² Sura Al A'raf (7), verse 201

¹³ Imam Ahmad, Sahih Muslim

¹⁴ This refers to time units, such as days

and not against us, and let it return to us repeatedly and for a long time. Let us be of those who fast Ramadan for the faith and for Your sake. O our Lord, give our souls fear of God. Elevate and purify our souls, You are the best of the purifying, for You are their lord and provisioner. O our Lord, bestow honor upon Islam and the Muslims, and humiliate the polytheism and those who do associate, and grant victory to Your servants, who hold on to Your unity, by Your mercy, O You Most Merciful of the merciful.

Wa kullu 'am wa antum bi khair wa salam alaikum wa rahmatu-llahi wa barakatuhu ...

Translation by committee; contact: Hasan Ralf; last edit: August 7, 2014