

All praises to Allah for His countless blessings.

We thank Him for honoring us to pray, fast, and observe charities, devotions, and supplications.

We also thank Him for blessing us to celebrate Eidul Fitr after a month-long fasting.

Allah says:

قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فَبِذَلِكَ فَلْيَفْرَحُوا هُوَ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ

Say, 'In God's grace and mercy, let them rejoice. That is better than what they hoard.'

Brothers and Sisters

I wish you all a most joyous Eid. May Allah make it a harbinger of peace, dignity, and honor for Muslims worldwide.

Eid is a celebration of our successful completion of fasting and the training course of Ramadan. It is the day of awards, but Allah will give us our final award in the Hereafter.

The Prophet says, “A fasting person has two moments of joy: one of them is when they break their fasts, and another is when they meet their Lord, and the latter is the ultimate triumph and supreme bliss:

وَجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاضِرَةٌ

إِلَىٰ رَبِّهَا نَاظِرَةٌ

“Faces on that Day will be radiant Looking towards their Lord.”
(Qur’an: 75: 22-23)

I pray to Allah to gift us all with such an honor.

Brothers and sisters,

While celebrating Eid, we must never fail to reflect upon the lessons of Ramadan.

If we fail to do so, we end up being servants of Ramadan.
Instead, we ought to be servants of the All-Merciful.

The first point that comes to my mind is how quickly time passes. We only welcomed Ramadan yesterday, and today, we are bidding farewell. This should remind us of the transient nature of life and our mortality.

Let us remember that many of our brothers and sisters who were with us in previous years are no longer with us. Who knows how many of us would be alive to witness another Ramadan?

Therefore, we should always be conscious of our journey to Allah and standing before Him for the Final Reckoning:

وَاتَّقُوا يَوْمًا تُرْجَعُونَ فِيهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ

“And be mindful of a day when you shall be returned to God. Then every soul will be paid in full for what it earned, and they shall not be wronged.” (Qur’an: 2: 281)

Now, let us mention some of the crucial lessons of Ramadan.

Ramadan's lessons include among others: Developing mindfulness of Allah, training in self-restraint and discipline, reflection and self-examination, spiritual cleansing and purification, empathy, and fostering solidarity and strengthening community bonds.

Most importantly, Ramadan teaches us resilience and willpower.

Let the lessons of Ramadan guide us in the coming days, weeks, and months. We must be servants of Rahman and not servants of Ramadan. Therefore, we should continue to frequent mosques, read the Qur'an, and practice charity and compassion.

Ramadan should also instill in us a moral responsibility to stand up for the values we share.

That is the logical outcome of *taqwa* or consciousness of Allah. Allah reminds us in the Quran that helping to develop *taqwa* is the fundamental objective of fasting.

Taqwa entails the moral responsibility to stand forth as witnesses of truth and justice.

As the world drifts farther away from the divine mandate for humanity, our duty has become even more critical.

Therefore, as Muslims, we must call humanity back to the divine covenant of defending truth, justice, compassion, and mercy.

The unprecedented atrocities inflicted upon the people of Gaza and Palestine under the watchful eyes of the world and the sheer apathy of the religious and political leadership makes it

imperative that Muslims fulfil their mandate of serving as the Middle Nation:

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا

“Thus did We make you a middle community, that you may be witnesses for mankind and that the Messenger may be a witness for you.” (Qur’an: 2: 143)

Today, there is a greater need for Muslims to stand united to defend freedom and justice. The genocide and the most brutal atrocities inflicted upon the people of Gaza and Palestine, as well as the persecution of minorities in various parts of the world, should compel us to push back the relentless campaigns of falsification, racism, and islamophobia across the world. We ought to train a new generation of intellectual warriors who can counter the barrage of fake news and expose hypocrisy and double standards.

We should also wholeheartedly support organizations like NCCM, Doctors Without Borders, human rights agencies, and everyone who stands for truth and justice regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or other identities.

While we see darkness all around, we must never despair of the mercy of Allah.

If we look carefully, we can see light at the end of the tunnel.

Our spiritual insights should help us discern how Allah works behind the scenes.

An increasing number of people are waking up to see through the smoke screens: Yes, people of conscience worldwide are slowly waking up.

As Allah has promised us eventually, truth will prevail over falsehood:

Allah says:

وَقُلْ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَهَقَ الْبَاطِلُ إِنَّ الْبَاطِلَ كَانَ زَهُوقًا

“Say, “Truth has come, and falsehood has vanished. Truly falsehood is ever vanishing.” (Qur’an: 17: 81)

Allah works in mysterious ways.

The media is reporting that there is a sharp rise in the number of people picking up the Qur’an and embracing the faith; even some hard-core atheists have done so after seeing the extraordinary resilience of the Muslims of Gaza, who even in the face of overwhelming challenges cling to their faith.

There is also an increasing number of Muslims who were previously slack in their practice of Islam, gaining stronger faith.

However, nothing is more inspiring of hope than the incredible resilience and faith of the people of Gaza themselves.

There is no shortage of their heroic stories.

I want to mention only one of them: That is the heart-rending story of a female professor of psychology from Gaza. When

pulled from the rubble after having lost every single member of her family she was found sobbing uncontrollably. When offered comfort, rather than complaining of her profound loss, what she instead said was "Why did Allah deny me the honor of martyrdom?"

With this kind of faith, we here in North America should have no reason to lose hope for the cause of Palestine.

How can we lose hope for believers who display such immense resilience, faith, and steadfastness in the face of such overwhelming challenges?

Allah reminds us in the Qur'an:

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ رُسُلًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِمْ فَجَاؤُوهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَاذْتَمَنَّا مِنَ الَّذِينَ أَجْرَمُوا
وَكَانَ حَقًّا عَلَيْنَا نَصْرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

“We have indeed sent messengers unto their people before thee, and they brought them clear proofs. Then We took vengeance upon those who were guilty; and it is incumbent upon Us to help the believers.” (Qur'an: 30:47)

So, we can rest assured that the Palestinians will ultimately triumph.

However, we should ask ourselves, are we ready to do our part?

Our duty is not to go and fight in Gaza but to support them in their struggle.

We must convey the message of the Qur'an to a world that is thirsty for its life-giving message, a message that teaches us the value and dignity of every human being, that calls humankind to

a message that reminds us of the sacred bond of the oneness of human family; that to take a single life is like killing all of humanity.

That is the message that the world needs to hear.

That is the message we need to remind the world.

It is the perennial divine message revealed to all prophets, yet what even religious people have walked away from. As a middle nation, we Muslims are called upon to serve as witnesses of the truth.

I wish to conclude by reflecting on the words from the shortest khutba possibly delivered. And it is by Shaikh **Mahmoud Al-Hasanat**. He said:

“If 30,000 martyrs, 70,000 injured, and 2 million homeless Palestinians couldn’t awaken the ummah, what impact will my words make? What more do I say, and to whom? Straighten your rows, let’s pray.”

With these words, he delivers a powerful message for all to hear and respond:

He encapsulates the immense suffering of our Palestinian brothers. Their struggle for justice, dignity, and peace continues, and his message should resonate in the hearts and minds of every Muslim and every human being with a conscience.

So, let us stand in solidarity with them, raise our voices, and work to stop such genocide and atrocities everywhere.

Let us pray:

O Allah, we implore You to accept our prayers, fasts, charities, devotions, supplications, and good works.

O Allah, we have greatly wronged our souls. Forgive our shortcomings and mistakes.

Shower us all with Your mercy and inspire us to repent to You.

O Allah, have mercy on those who have passed away: our parents and grandparents, uncles and aunts, brothers, and sisters; forgive them and reward them for their best deeds and forgive their transgressions.

O Allah, we call upon you to ease the pain and suffering of those who are afflicted with physical, emotional, and mental challenges; cure them, heal them, and bless them with sound health.

O Allah, You are the Lord of humankind, the Lord of the Oppressed; we implore You to come to the aid of our brothers and sisters in Gaza, Palestine, Myanmar, Kashmir, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, and other parts of the world.

O Allah, bless them with victory over their oppressors, defeat their plans, and turn their plans against them; O Allah, accept their martyrs, cure the wounded and the sick, feed them and shelter them, and be with them as their guardian and protector.

O Allah, return to the fold of Islam all our brothers and sisters who are going astray.

O Allah, do not cause our hearts to go astray after You have guided us, and grant us Your grace, for You are the dispenser of graces and mercies.