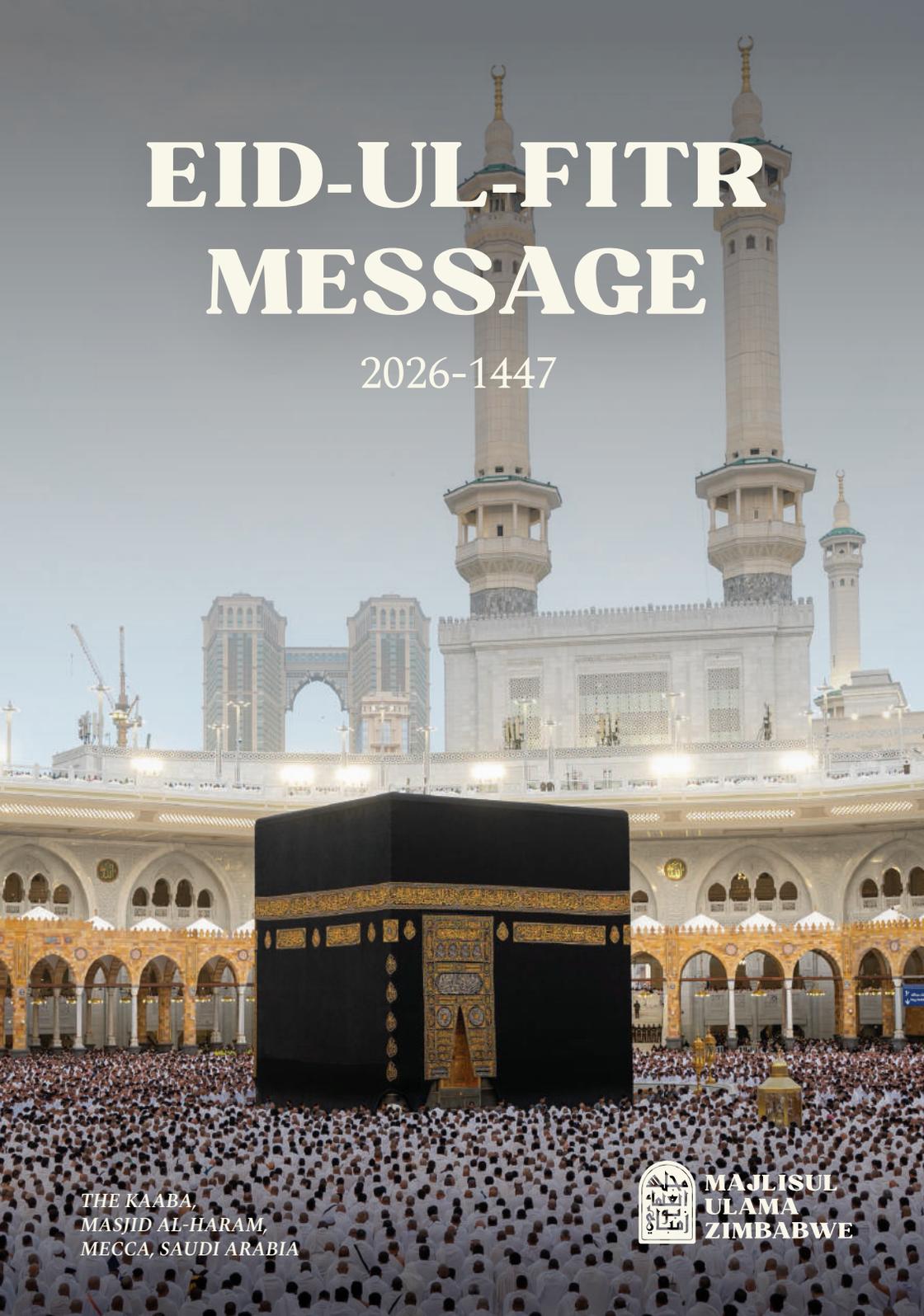


EID-UL-FITR MESSAGE

2026-1447



THE KAABA,
MASJID AL-HARAM,
MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA



MAJLISUL
ULAMA
ZIMBABWE

Contents

Eid-ul-Fitr message from <i>Majlisul Ulama Zimbabwe</i>	2
Understanding the Month of Ramadhaan	6
The Lasting Gains from Fasting	11
Understanding Zakaat-ul-Fitr	17
Charity: A Path to Spiritual Purification	22
Personal Hygiene in Islam	28
The Obligation of Verification	32
Navigating Times of Economic Challenge ...	36

Eid-ul-Fitr message from *Majlisul Ulama Zimbabwe*

Majlisul Ulama Zimbabwe (Council of Islamic Scholars) takes this opportunity to convey our heartiest greetings and best wishes to all Muslims and fellow compatriots on the joyous occasion of *Eid-ul-Fitr*.

As the month of *Ramadhaan* comes to a close, Muslims across the globe gather to celebrate the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. This celebration occurs on the first day of *Shawwal*, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar, immediately following the completion of the month of fasting. While Eid is a time of joy, it is also a period of deep reflection on the spiritual journey undertaken during the preceding thirty days.

The primary objective of the fast is to draw the believer closer to their Creator, Allah Almighty. It is designed to help the individual develop *Taqwa*

(consciousness of duty to Allah). Every human being must acknowledge the reality that we have been placed on this earth by the Almighty and that we will, eventually, depart from this earthly plane.

During our temporary stay in this world, it is only appropriate that we submit to the commands and requirements of the Almighty. A believer is not permitted to display arrogance or haughtiness toward their Creator. Indeed, He is the Supreme Sovereign who maintains absolute control over the entire universe. The fast serves as a practical lesson in humility, reminding us of our dependence upon His mercy.

Throughout the month of *Ramadhaan*, Muslims have engaged in fasting during the daylight hours and observed extra prayers, such as *Taraweeh*, during the night. These are essential requirements of the faith intended to purify the body, mind, and soul from the distracting effects of materialism and the influences of evil forces.

These obligations are meant for those who are mature and in good health. It is important to understand that Allah, our Creator, wishes goodness and ease for us rather than hardship and difficulty. As Allah states in the *Qur'an*:

﴿يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمْ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ﴾

Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship. (*Qur'an* 2:185).

Beyond the individual spiritual benefit, fasting generates a profound sense of sympathy and compassion for the less fortunate. By experiencing hunger and thirst, the believer gains a firsthand understanding of the struggles faced by those in need. This empathy is a core pillar of the Eid spirit.

A look around the globe today reveals untold hardship and suffering in many regions. In some instances, this arises from natural disasters, such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, and hurricanes. In other cases, suffering is a direct result of

human aggression, injustice, oppression, and occupation.

The loss of life, possessions, and resources creates a dire situation for affected communities. As these individuals are our brothers and sisters in humanity, we must develop a genuine sense of sympathy toward their plight. We are encouraged to render both material and moral support wherever possible.

As we celebrate this Eid, let us remember that our gratitude to Allah is best expressed through our kindness to His creation. We pray that the Almighty accepts our fasts and prayers, and that He brings peace and relief to all those suffering across the world.

May Allah accept your fasts and prayers, and grant you peace, joy, and prosperity.

Eid Mubarak to all!

Understanding the Month of Ramadhaan

Ramadhaan is the sacred fasting month for Muslims, a time when over one billion people throughout the world observe a fast from dawn until sunset. Alongside this physical commitment, believers engage in additional prayers throughout the night. It is a profound period dedicated to inner reflection, intense devotion to Allah, and the cultivation of self-control.

As the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, *Ramadhaan* holds a unique place in the hearts of the faithful. Its significance is rooted in the divine revelation, as Allah the Almighty states in the *Qur'an*:

﴿شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۗ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ

الْيَسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمْ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ
عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

The month of Ramadhaan is that in which the Quran was revealed as guidance for people, in it are clear signs of guidance and Criterion, therefore whoever of you who witnesses this month, it is obligatory on him to fast it. But whoever is ill or travelling let him fast the same number of other days, Allah desires ease for you and not hardship, and He desires that you complete the ordained period and glorify Allah for His guidance to you, that you may be grateful. (Quran 2:185).

The Spiritual Significance of Fasting

Fasting during *Ramadhaan* is the third pillar of the five main Pillars of Islam. While it requires physical endurance, its most vital benefit is the development of self-discipline. By stepping away from the daily preoccupation with physical needs during daylight hours, a person allows their spiritual nature to take precedence. This shift becomes a powerful means of drawing closer to the Creator.

For Muslims, *Ramadhaan* is not a holiday in the traditional sense. It is viewed as an opportunity to gain spiritual wealth by giving up worldly comforts, to prosper by going without, and to grow stronger by enduring moments of weakness. It is also a time of intensive worship, including the regular reading of the *Qur'an*, increased acts of charity, and the conscious purification of one's behaviour.

Compassion and Health

Beyond individual growth, fasting serves as a practical way to experience hunger. This first-hand experience develops deep sympathy for those in need and fosters a sense of genuine appreciation for the many bounties Allah has provided. Furthermore, fasting is beneficial to physical health, providing a necessary break in the cycle of rigid habits or over-indulgence.

Balancing the Physical and Spiritual

To achieve the full rewards of the month, a Muslim must adhere to both the spiritual and

physical aspects of the fast. Physically, this involves abstaining from food, drink, and sexual relations from dawn to sunset. However, the spiritual requirements are equally demanding. The fasting person must strive to abstain from lying, cheating, arguments, fighting, and foul language.

The Prophet *Muhammad* (peace be upon him) emphasised the importance of this internal discipline, stating:

مَنْ لَمْ يَدَعْ قَوْلَ الزُّورِ وَالْعَمَلَ بِهِ؛
فَلَيْسَ لِلَّهِ حَاجَةٌ فِي أَنْ يَدَعَ طَعَامَهُ وَشَرَابَهُ

If someone does not give up falsehood in speech and actions,

Allah has no need for such a person to give up his food and drink

(i.e. his fast will not be accepted). [Al-Bukhaari, 1903].

This reminds us that the essence of the month is the cleansing of the soul from every source of evil.

The Night of Decree

The final ten days of *Ramadhaan* are a period of heightened spiritual intensity. During this time, believers increase their prayers and devotions, seeking to maximise their connection with Allah. Within these nights lies *Laylat al-Qadr* (the Night of Decree), the night in which the Holy Qur'an was first revealed to the Last and Final Messenger, *Muhammad* (peace be upon him). In the Qur'an, Allah describes the virtue of worship on this specific night as being better than the worship of a thousand months.

Once the month concludes, Muslims celebrate *Eid-ul-Fitr*. On this joyous day, they offer thanks to Allah for His guidance and for the strength granted to them to fulfil their spiritual obligations and control their desires throughout the month.

The Lasting Gains from Fasting

The journey through the month of *Ramadhaan* is far more than a simple change in routine; it is a profound spiritual expedition. The primary objective of the fast is to provide the believer with a sacred opportunity to draw closer to the Creator and develop an even greater consciousness of Him and one's duty toward Him.

Every human must eventually acknowledge the reality of their existence: we have been placed on this earth by the Almighty, and we will depart from this earthly plane sooner or later. During this temporary stay, it is only appropriate that we submit to the commands and requirements of our Creator. A believer is not permitted to display arrogance or haughtiness towards the Almighty,

for He is the Supreme Sovereign who maintains overall control over the entire universe.

A Period of Intensive Training

In essence, the month of *Ramadhāan* serves as a period of intensive training for those who possess a genuine yearning and zeal to please their Creator. It requires a remarkable level of discipline and self-control. Consider the act of voluntarily forgoing food, drink, and desires; items that are ordinarily permitted by the Creator at other times, solely for His sake.

This constant awareness of one's duty to the Almighty prevails throughout the fasting period. It is designed to be a transformative experience that carries over into every other aspect of a person's life long after the month has concluded. If one can control their most basic physical needs for the sake of Allah, they develop the strength to

control their speech, their temper, and their actions in the wider world.

Guarding the Soul

We must remember that the carnal self is constantly bombarded by the onslaught of distracting and evil forces. These influences have made it their mission to distance us from our Creator, Sustainer, and Cherisher, Allah Almighty.

Ramadhaan calls upon every person of reasoning to reflect deeply upon the countless bounties and bestowments Allah has granted to humanity. When we pause to consider the intricate systems of life that sustain us, we must ask: which person in their rightful mind could show ingratitude to Him? He is the One who has shown unparalleled compassion and mercy to all of creation. Fasting is our way of showing that we

recognise these blessings and are willing to prioritise the Provider over the provision.

Physical and Moral Excellence

The benefits of fasting are not limited to the spiritual realm; they extend to our physical well-being as well. On the health front, physical purity reaches a peak during this month. The internal organs and the bloodstream are cleansed, allowing for a natural and thorough detoxification of the body.

Furthermore, the believer who responds positively to the call of the Almighty in a sincere and devoted manner gains more than just health. They cultivate noble characteristics that define a person of true faith, such as:

- **Firmness in Faith and Sincerity:** Strengthening the bond between the heart and the Divine.

- **Patience and Perseverance:** Learning to endure discomfort with grace.
- **Humility and Kindness:** Softening the heart toward the struggles of others.
- **Compassion:** Developing a deep sense of empathy for the less fortunate.

A Framework for Life

Every aspect of the month of *Ramadhaan* contains immense benefit for our daily lives, both individually and collectively. We are duty-bound by Allah Almighty to reflect and ponder regularly. This introspection allows us to develop ourselves spiritually, morally, and physically within the framework of the laws and commandments set down by our Creator.

As we reach the conclusion of this blessed time, the true gain is not merely the completion of the month, but the enduring change within ourselves. We emerge with a rejuvenated spirit, a

cleaner body, and a heart more attune to its duty unto Allah.

Understanding Zakaat-ul-Fitr

Zakaat-ul-Fitr, also known as *Sadaqat-ul-Fitr* is a unique form of charity tied specifically to the month of *Ramadhaan*. It becomes due upon the completion of the month and must be distributed at before the commencement of the *Eid-ul-Fitr* prayer, and therefore it is named: *Zakaat* of the Breaking of the Fast.

The Prophet *Muhammad* (peace be upon him) established this practice as a vital part of *Ramadhaan*, even urging the believers to pay this charity in advance during *Ramadhaan* to ensure it reaches those in need in time for the celebration.

The Purpose of the Charity

The wisdom behind *Zakaat-ul-Fitr* is multi-faceted. It is intended to cement the relationships

between the various members of Muslim society. By directing resources from those who have plenty to those who have little, it alleviates the hardships of the poor and cultivates a deep sense of brotherhood and solidarity within the hearts of the believers.

This charity ensures that the less fortunate members of the community can take care of their immediate needs, such as food and clothing, allowing them to celebrate the *Eid* festival with dignity alongside their fellow believers. It transforms the holiday from a private family matter into a collective communal celebration where no one is left behind.

Eligibility and Obligation

Zakaat-ul-Fitr is unique because it is mandatory on the individual Muslim, rather than on their accumulated wealth or annual income. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) declared

it compulsory for every Muslim, male or female, young or old.

Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said:

فَرَضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ زَكَاةَ الْفِطْرِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ صَاعٌ مِنْ تَمْرٍ أَوْ صَاعٌ مِنْ شَعِيرٍ، عَلَى كُلِّ حُرٍّ أَوْ عَبْدٍ، ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَى، مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) made Zakat al-Fitr compulsory, one saa' of dates, or one saa' of barley, obligatory on the Muslims, slave and free, male and female, young and old. [Al-Bukhaari, 1407].

Every self-supporting adult Muslim is required to give *Zakaat-ul-Fitr* on behalf of themselves and their dependents. The obligation applies to anyone who possesses food or cash more than their basic needs for the day of *Eid*.

While some scholars use the *Nisaab* (threshold) of silver (approx. 612.3g) to allow more people to participate in the blessing of giving, the general

rule is that if you have enough to feed your family for the day of *Eid*, you should contribute for the sake of those who do not.

Timing and Measurement

The Prophet (peace be upon him) established clear guidelines for the distribution of this charity:

Timing: It becomes obligatory when the sun sets on the last day of *Ramadhaan* and can be fulfilled a day to two before. It must be distributed before the commencement of the *Eid-ul-Fitr* prayer. Whoever fulfils it before the *Eid* prayer, it is an accepted *Zakaah*, and whoever fulfils it after the prayer, it is just a *Sadaqah* (charity). [Abu Dawood, 1371].

Measurement: The required amount is one *saa'* of staple food. A *saa'* is defined as four *müdds*, which is equivalent to four double-handfuls (approx. a vessel 1.8 litres in volume). In weight,

this is approximately 1.2kg of dates, 1.3kg of barley, or 1.5kg of rice.

Practical Application

While this charity involves giving staple foods, some scholars allow for the payment of a monetary equivalent to the value of one *saa'* of the staple food. This is often accomplished by designating a third party to purchase and distribute the food to those eligible.

It is crucial to ensure this charity reaches its recipients on or before the day of Eid.

Furthermore, any associated costs, such as transport or administration, should be borne by the donor and never deducted from the amount intended for the poor.

By fulfilling this duty, we acknowledge that our wealth is a gift from the Almighty and that we have a responsibility to share it with those in hardship.

Charity: A Path to Spiritual Purification

In the journey of faith, giving in charity is far more than a simple act of philanthropy; it is a fundamental process that purifies the soul. Islamic teachings emphasise that a believer cannot truly attain piety unless they regularly spend their wealth in good causes according to their capacity. In the Holy Qur'an we are reminded of the importance of charity and almsgiving so frequently that it is clearly one of the primary elements of belief in God Almighty.

Allah Himself declares in the Holy Qur'an:

﴿لَنْ تَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتَّى تُنْفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ

بِهِ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٩٢﴾

By no means shall you attain righteousness unless you give (freely) of that which you love. And whatever

you spend, indeed Allah is Knowing of it. (Qur'an 3:92).

The Success of the Soul

The link between charity and the state of the heart is profound. Various verses of the Holy Qur'an explain that charity serves as a means to cleanse our inner selves from greed and attachment to the material world. We are encouraged to remain mindful of our duties and to understand that generosity is a benefit to our own souls.

﴿فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ وَأَسْمِعُوا وَأَطِيعُوا وَأَنْفِقُوا خَيْرًا
لِّأَنْفُسِكُمْ وَمَنْ يُوقِ شُحَّ نَفْسِهِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٦﴾

So, keep your duty to Allah as best you can, and listen, and obey, and spend; that is better for your souls. And whosoever is saved from his own greed, such are the successful. (Qur'an 64:16).

Furthermore, the ultimate success in the Hereafter is tied to this internal cleansing:

﴿قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا ﴿٩﴾﴾

He has succeeded who purifies it (the soul). (Qur'an 91:9).

Charity as Expiation and Increase

The history of the Noble Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) provides a powerful example of charity as a tool for repentance.

When some of his companions sought forgiveness for actions that had caused divine displeasure, they offered charity from their wealth. While the Prophet (peace be upon him) initially hesitated, Allah Almighty instructed him to accept it to facilitate their spiritual growth:

﴿حُذِّ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ صَدَقَةٌ تُطَهِّرُهُمْ وَتُزَكِّيهِمْ بِهَا وَصَلَّ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ صَلَاتَكَ سَكَنٌ لَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿١١٣﴾﴾

Take, (O Muhammad), from their wealth a charity which will purify them and cause them increase (in good character, deeds, rewards) through it, and invoke blessings upon them. Indeed, your invocations are a reassurance for them. And Allah is All Hearing and All Knowing. (Qur'an 9:103).

Overcoming the Fear of Poverty

When we give to others, we actively suppress our natural desire for wealth and prioritise our rewards in the Hereafter. This helps us maintain a healthy balance between this temporary world and our permanent future. However, this act of giving often meets internal resistance. Allah warns us that Satan uses the fear of poverty to discourage generosity, making us feel that our financial security is at risk.

We are reminded to look beyond these whispers:

﴿الشَّيْطَانُ يَعِدُكُمُ الْفَقْرَ وَيَأْمُرُكُم بِالْفَحْشَاءِ وَاللَّهُ يَعِدُكُم مَّغْفِرَةً
مِّنْهُ وَفَضْلًا وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ﴾

Satan threatens you with poverty and bids you to conduct yourselves unseemly, while Allah promises you His forgiveness and bounty. And Allah is very bountiful and He knows the conditions of His slaves. (Qur'an 2:268).

The Eternal Investment

Ultimately, wealth and resources are trials. If they are not spent in a good cause, they can become a burden. The things that truly endure are our good deeds. Allah assures us that whatever we "send before us" for our souls, we will find it waiting with Him.

The return on this spiritual investment is incomparable to any worldly profit. Allah does not merely reward one for one; the reward can be multiplied seven-hundredfold or more:

﴿مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنْبَتَتْ سَبْعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنبُلَةٍ مِائَةٌ حَبَّةٌ وَاللَّهُ يُضَاعِفُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٦٦﴾﴾

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed (of grain) which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies (His reward) for whom He wills. And Allah is very bountiful and He knows the conditions of His slaves. (Qur'an 2:261).

As we celebrate this *Eid*, let us remember that every act of charity is a step towards a purer heart and a more successful life in both worlds.

Personal Hygiene in Islam

Islam upholds exceptionally high standards of personal hygiene, placing great emphasis on all aspects of cleanliness; physical, mental, social, and spiritual. While humankind generally considers cleanliness to be a pleasing attribute, Islam insists upon it as a fundamental requirement of the faith.

As a holistic religion, Islam accounts for the human need for balance between physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Maintaining personal hygiene keeps both the body and the mind free from disease, forming a core part of the values inherent in the Islamic way of life.

Cleanliness as a Pillar of Faith

Muslims are required to take care of their personal hygiene by ensuring they are well-groomed and that their bodies, clothing, and surroundings are immaculate. The Prophet

Muhammad (peace be upon him) famously highlighted this importance when he stated:

الطُّهُورُ شَطْرُ الْإِيمَانِ

Cleanliness is half of faith. [Muslim, 223].

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah is even more specific regarding the Divine love for those who maintain purity:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ﴾

Truly, Allah loves those who turn unto Him in repentance, and He loves those who purify themselves. (Qur'an 2:222).

Categorising Physical Purity

Personal hygiene is desirable at all times, and certain aspects are compulsory. Broadly speaking, physical cleanliness in Islam can be categorised into three parts:

- **Wudu (Ritual Purification):** Washing specifically performed to engage in *Salah* (prayer). This includes washing the hands,

rinsing the mouth and nose, washing the face and arms up to the elbows, and wiping the head and ears.

Prophet *Muhammad* (peace be upon him) taught believers to perform these acts in an environmentally friendly manner, recommending the use of only as much water as is necessary, even when it is plentiful.

- **General Upkeep:** Keeping the body, clothing, and environment free from impurities.
- **Specific Grooming:** Removing the dirt or grime that collects in various parts of the body, such as the teeth, nostrils, and under the nails.

Fitra (The Natural Way)

The traditions of the Prophet (peace be upon him) include advice on actions that are part of the natural way to maintain hygiene. He identified five specific practices:

خَمْسٌ مِنَ الْفِطْرَةِ: الْخِتَانُ، وَالْإِسْتِحْدَادُ، وَتَقْلِيمُ الْأَظْفَارِ، وَتَنْفُ
الْإِبْطِ، وَقَصُّ الشَّارِبِ

Five things are part of the natural way: circumcision, shaving the pubic hair, cutting the nails, removing the hair of the armpits, and trimming the moustache. [Al-Bukhaari, 5889].

These practices have been followed by the Messengers of the Almighty throughout history and are enjoined upon believers to reduce the risk of bacterial growth and disease.

The Harmony of Body and Soul

In Islam, physical cleanliness is inseparable from spiritual cleanliness. To worship God correctly, one must strive to be healthy in both mind and body. While physical washing prepares the body for prayer, spiritual cleanliness requires the heart to be free from sin, arrogance, and hypocrisy.

The Obligation of Verification

The harmony, peace, and stability of any community or nation are firmly based upon adherence to essential rules of conduct. Among the most vital of these is the principle that news or information must not be accepted or spread until it is conclusively proven to be accurate and true.

In an age of rapid communication, disregarding this rule has become a major cause of social chaos and disorder.

Even when one hears information from what is perceived to be a "reliable" source, it is imperative that clarification is sought before accepting it as fact or passing it on to others.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah provides a timeless and definitive command regarding this responsibility:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا أَن تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًا بِجَهَالَةٍ

فَتُصِيبُوهَا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَادِمِينَ ﴿٦﴾

O you who believe! If a person comes to you with information, then verify it, lest you cause harm to other people out of ignorance and later regret your misdeeds. (Qur'an 49:6).

The Consequences of Unverified Information

Great damage can easily be inflicted upon individuals and entire communities if this principle of verification is not upheld.

An enemy of social harmony only needs to spread a few unsubstantiated tales and then wait for the flames of destruction to rise. Such individuals thrive on spreading false information and negative propaganda, intentionally causing confusion, ill feelings, and instability.

In some instances, people in positions of responsibility or authority, and even modern media outlets hasten to share "news" or offer public comments without following the

fundamental requirement of clarification. Such haste often leads to tremendous chaos, followed by deep regret once the damage has already been done.

The Difficulty of Correction

A significant issue with the spread of unverified news is the vigour and determination with which it is often shared.

Conversely, when the information is later found to be incorrect, those who spread it often find it difficult to apologise sincerely. If an apology is issued, it is frequently muted, hidden in an obscure corner of a publication, or delivered half-heartedly due to embarrassment.

This cycle of misinformation and inadequate correction can be entirely avoided if we commit to genuinely screening and verifying every piece of information we receive. This effort is essential for the sake of preserving peace and maintaining the trust that binds a society together.

The Sacrifice for Truth

The search for the truth requires conscious effort and a sacrifice of time. To disregard this effort is to risk the very goodness and harmony that we enjoy within our communities. Believing and acting without verification can only lead to future regret, by which time it may well be too late to undo the harm caused to others.

Let us be truthful in our speech and diligent in our research. By striving to search for and accept only that which is the truth, we protect our society from the discord of falsehood and ensure that our interactions are built on a foundation of integrity.

Navigating Times of Economic Challenge

In every circumstance, it is vital to remind ourselves of the ethical practices we are meant to uphold as part of one human family. Regardless of the broader economic climate, we all share similar needs, emotions, and vulnerabilities.

The fact that Allah Almighty has made us interdependent requires a high degree of sensitivity toward one another. Sincere reflection on our individual conduct is essential to ease the general situation and improve the collective well-being of society.

Islam provides many basic guidelines for all time. Through the sayings and teachings of the Last and Final Messenger of God Almighty, Muhammad (peace be upon him), we find great wisdom and practical life lessons that remain relevant in every generation.

The Ethical Treatment of Labour

A primary concern in any society is the protection of those who provide manual or professional labour. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) issued a noble and emphatic command:

أَعْطُوا الْأَجِيرَ أَجْرَهُ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَجِفَّ عَرَقُهُ

Give the labourer his due before the drying of his perspiration. [Ibn Maajah, 2443].

This command is directed to all employers, whether in formal contracts or informal "piece work". It is an emphatic statement declaring that as soon as a job has been accomplished, payment must be made duly. The worker must get to enjoy the fruits of their labour instantaneously; any undue delay is unacceptable. Good morals should guide one to pay those they have contracted even before the expiry of the agreed time of payment.

We must remember that each individual tries their best to earn a respectable and pure living.

When an employer fails to provide timeous payment, entire families suffer as a result. This can lead to anxiety, stress, animosity, and suspicion. As the running of each household depends on the breadwinner, an employer should ponder how they would feel if those upon whom their own earnings depend delayed their payments.

Fair Trade and Business Policy

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) always taught goodness and fairness in all aspects of human life, including business dealings. He stated:

رَحِمَ اللهُ رَجُلًا، سَمَحًا إِذَا بَاعَ، وَإِذَا اشْتَرَى

Allah showers His mercy upon the one who is lenient and considerate when selling and when buying.
[Al-Bukhaari, 2076].

This declaration highlights that giving due consideration to a customer's capacity and being polite are means of earning Divine blessings. A

seller should not be arrogant or insensitive; prices should be set within reasonable limits and maintained within reach of the customer.

While every person engages in business to earn a profit, we are all interdependent. Social harmony is promoted when we realise there are more blessings in smaller profit margins with a greater turnover than in seeking excessive profits from a struggling public.

If services are priced too high, they fuel price hikes in other sectors, eventually pushing essentials beyond the reach of the masses.

Livelihood and the Art of Budgeting

Amongst the most beautiful teachings of Islam is the principle of financial discipline:

To budget and economise when spending is half of livelihood.

This concept is derived from the guidance of the Almighty in the Holy Qur'an:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ

﴿قَوَامًا﴾ ﴿٦٧﴾

And those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor miserly, but maintain a medium (balance) between those (extremes). (Qur'an 25:67).

While we must make a sincere effort to earn a permissible living, we must also learn to "stretch" that income by avoiding extravagance and wastage. If we plan wisely and prioritise our needs over our status, we will rarely run short or face future regrets.

Impulsive buying, often done to enhance one's status in the sight of others or to imitate others, channels hard-earned income away from priorities.

To progress economically, we must set strict limits and budgets for ourselves and our families. By acting wisely and focusing on essentials, we can build a reserve of resources for the future.

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