

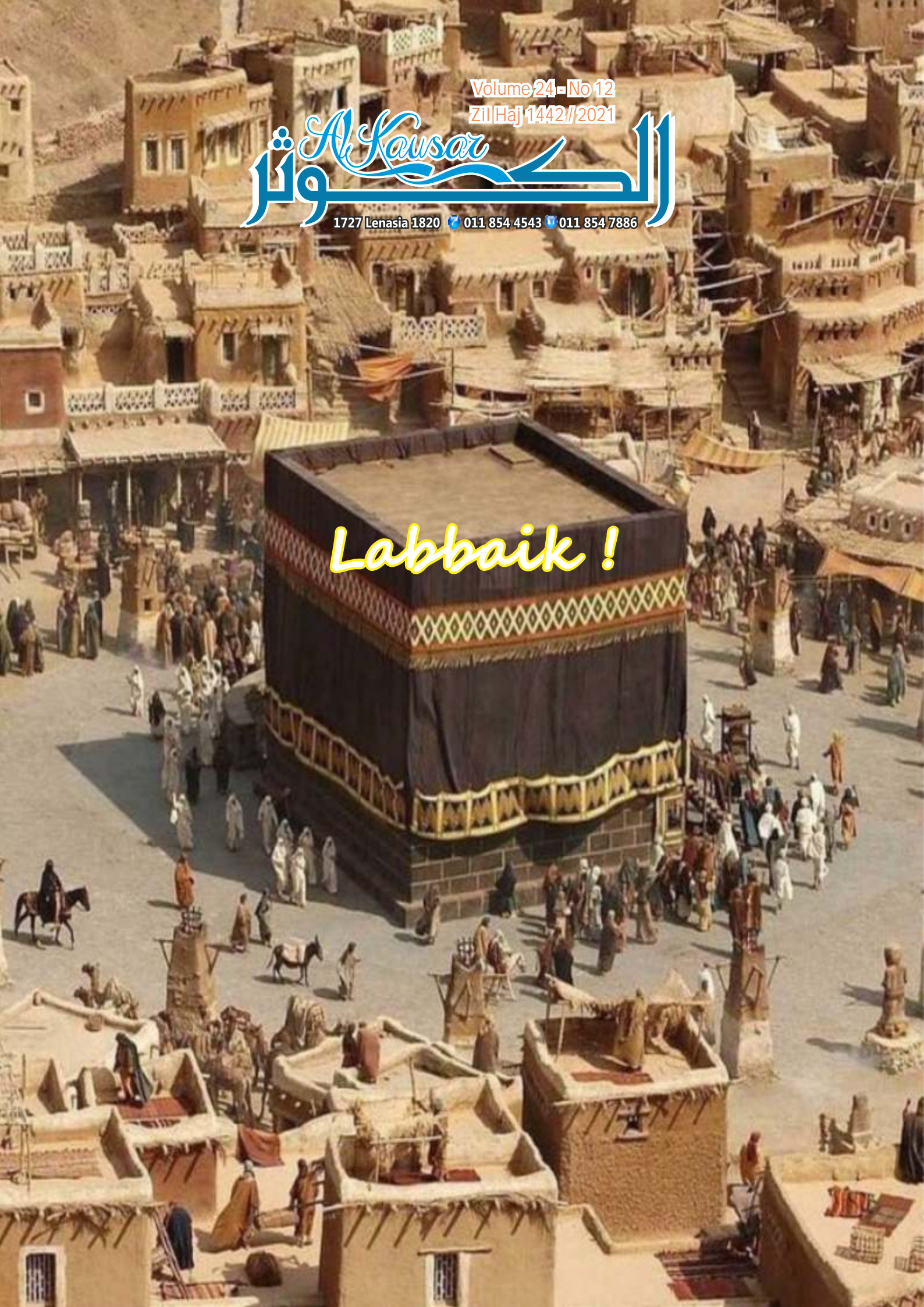
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Zil Hajj 1442 // 2021

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Labbaik !





INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

BY FAKIR HASSEN

Ramallah, PALESTINE - The eleven days of attacks by Israel in Gaza last month resulted in the deaths of over 260 people, including 66 children and 41 women, and close to \$400 million damage to infrastructure. This was stated in the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment conducted jointly by the World Bank Group, United Nations and European Union immediately after the cessation of hostilities. The group said the findings were preliminary and the final figures might be higher.

promising that his country would support the Afghan army and economy as the US ends a 20-year military presence in Afghanistan. Violence remains high in the country amid stalled peace negotiations with the last US troops scheduled to leave the country by next month. The Chairman of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, Abdullah Abdullah, said the Afghan people would defend the country if war were imposed on them by the Taliban.

period," Hasina told the IX Moscow Conference on International Security in a recorded speech.

Riyadh, SAUDI ARABIA - Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has announced a decision to limit registration for those wishing to perform 1442 AH Hajj rituals to citizens and residents inside the Kingdom only, with a total number of 60,000 pilgrims. The decision comes in light of the continued developments of the coronavirus pandemic across the world and the emergence of new COVID-19 variants, the ministry said. It stressed that those wishing to perform Hajj must be free of chronic diseases, aged 18 to 65, and vaccinated against COVID-19.

Jeddah, SAUDI ARABIA - The Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Dr Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen and Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia Dr Ausaf Sayeed held discussions to discuss issues facing the Muslim community in India, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Al-Othaimeen said that a delegation of the OIC would visit the disputed territory. He also offered to mediate if India and Pakistan agreed to do so.

Islamabad, PAKISTAN - Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that the government is making earnest efforts to make Pakistan a polio-free country despite the challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. In a telephonic conversation with Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Khan expressed appreciation for the Foundation collaborating with Pakistan to rid the country of polio. The prime minister reaffirmed that polio eradication remained a key national priority for the government.

Dubai, UAE - The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment has confirmed that 750,000 meal kits have been distributed in Tanzania, Kenya and Senegal in collaboration with local authorities and charities there. The kits given to low-income families contained basics for them to prepare their own meals, with each food parcel able to sustain a family of five for a month. The initiative was part of the 100 Million Meals project that has seen 30 countries benefit so far. The campaign is a practical response to the global challenge of hunger and malnutrition that has doubled in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, threatening 821 million people around the world, said Sultan Mohammed Al Shamsi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for International Development Affairs.

Abu Dhabi, UAE - The United Arab Emirates has overtaken Seychelles to become the world's most vaccinated nation, according to Bloomberg's Vaccine Tracker, with enough 15.5 million vaccinations to cover 72.1 percent of its population. The UAE tests more people per capita than most nations and has one of the lowest fatality rates in the world.

Dhaka, BANGLADESH - Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has again called for global assistance to ensure the dignified and peaceful repatriation of over 1.1 million Rohingyas. "You are aware that Bangladesh has been hosting more than 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals-Rohingyas for about four years. They are posing a huge security threat to Bangladesh as well as the region. We have sheltered them on humanitarian grounds but such a huge population can't be lodged for indefinite

Washington, USA - President Joe Biden has told President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan that US support for the Afghan government will not end,



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1 Zil Haj 1442

PUBLIC STATEMENT A NEW CRISIS

In the last few days since the incarceration of former President Jacob Zuma we have witnessed acts of violence in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng with the potential of this violence spreading further.

The violence which followed cannot be condoned in any way. The socio-economic dilemma of the citizens of this country is a contributing factor and this position is misused by what can best be described as agent provocateurs.

We call upon the government of South Africa to implement with a clear plan going forward whereby the masses are given hope. Furthermore, we expect political parties to refrain from using this opportunity to garner votes through the use of provocative statements which will inflame the current situation. We expect that the law enforcement agencies will act without fear or favour to ensure that stability is returned.

We respect the right to voice grievances, however that should be done within the context of respecting the rights, property and dignity of fellow citizens, already reeling under the pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our appeal is for everyone to be calm and at the same time be responsible, more so on the social media platforms.

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CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

MOULANA NASIK AHMED BROOD



As a human being, and more so as a Muslim, the way we live our lives is very important. How we present and carry ourselves can clearly define our character. Every Muslim need to understand that character development is building one's character with unique qualities and habits wherein the personality traits can stand out with distinctive mannerisms. It is up to every individual to decide whether they would want to have a character that is static or dynamic.

The character of a Muslim is an amalgamation of their qualities which makes him/her unique and helps make the person stand apart from the rest. We must remember that character development is not only about looking good and wearing expensive brands. It is also about developing one's inner self and being a good human being. A good character assists in developing a winning personality. As Muslims, we know that acts of worship hold great significance. However, we also need to remember that Islam is a way of life. Everything in the life of a Muslim, including manners and personality, should correspond with the teachings of Islam. Therefore, correct Islamic values, ethics, and traits are not only important but also very much significant and pertinent in the lives of every Muslim. After all, one's good character will impact others and therefore improve society as a whole. This dynamic change all begins at the individual level. It is unfortunate though that they are neglected at times. The guiding principle for the behaviour of a Muslim is "Virtuous Deeds". This term covers all deeds, not only acts of worship. Islam encourages Muslims to build their personality and develop it on benevolence, which could be portrayed as the true goodness of the mind and spirit, the unbiased kindness to do good. It confers thought and regard for the welfare of other people and finds expression in sympathy and kind gentleness. The Holy Quran refers to various Islamic values at different points. One of the best examples is found in Surah Luqmaan (Surah 31). Sayyidina Abu Hurairah (Radiyallahu Anhu) has narrated that Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) has said: "Surely I have been sent to perfect good moral character" (Al-Adab Al-Mufrad - 273). Hazrat Abdullah ibn Amr (Radiyallahu Anhu) narrates that Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) said: "The best amongst you are those who have the best manners and character" (Bukhari - 3559).

As the world gets more hectic and becomes more advanced, people are rushing around and are far too busy for their good. It can be said that it is this busyness that people use as a ticket to be insensitive, loathsome, and even toxic. Many of us must have noticed that even

though we are currently going through such a challenging time where we are faced with the COVID-19 pandemic there are many Muslims in the various communities who have a high lack of concern, compassion, and consideration for the dilemmas of other people because they believe that they need to scramble around to keep up with their problems even if it is at the expense of others. It is sad to say, but many of these people are NOT behaving the way they should i.e. aiming for the character traits like the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam). You will find people who hide behind excuses and false sweetness thus thinking that they are being good and pleasant wherein the fact of the matter is that their actions are an obvious sham and deliberately phony thereby making it more hurtful to the other person. Some people think that freedom of speech gives them the dispensation and concession of being judgemental and critical of what others think and say. The heartbreaking part is that we have become more concerned with the feeling of being wronged by others and fail to see how much we have wronged people. It is a known fact that it takes lots of time and patience to incorporate these character traits in ourselves when dealing with ignorant people. It is not an easy task, but it is vital if we want to aim for personality and character traits like the beloved Rasool (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam).

Always remember that "Nothing is heavier upon the scale of a believer on the Day of Resurrection than his good character" (Tirmidhi - 2002) and "The most beloved people to Allah are those with the best character" (Ibn Hibbaan - 486).

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THE PICTURE OF ISLAM FROM THE CANVAS OF HAJ

BY IRSHAD SIDDIQI SABRI

Haj is considered the 5th pillar of Islam.

At no time is the theme of unity in diversity more explicitly demonstrated than at the platform of Haj. Makkah, land of the Holy Ka'aba, the first house of worship known to mankind, is the direction muslims face to pray.

The annual pilgrimage becomes the global headquarters for every race, from every nation on earth, joining the universal commonwealth of subscribers to the unitarian belief of Islam, Wa Ilaahukum Ilaahun Waahid (and your God is a God that is One).

This sea of humanity clad in the most humble of garments, swarming around the Sacred House, chanting the " labbaik" and praises of Allah is a most awe-inspiring spectacle, as is the assembly at Arafat.

Arafat, symbolic of Recognition, or ma'arifah (gnosis), where the seeker finds the One he seeks, is also the place where prayers are accepted and sinners forgiven.

It is the place where the last Messenger of Allah, Muhammad Mustafa (ﷺ), delivered his farewell message proclaiming Islam as the religion chosen and favoured for mankind by the Creator himself. Declaring emphatically the equality of all mankind and justice for all, he emphasised Taqwa (God-consciousness and righteous behaviour) as the only standard for distinction of rank and rating of people.

By this he smashed all racist ideologies and theories of " chosen People", " master race", or anything " supremacist", which was a message that appealed to the whole world, as was proven in later years when the expansion of Islam would extend across the world.

In India Islam spread rapidly amongst the oppressed and poor because of the popularity of its call to equality and universal brotherhood. In a country where " Brahminist" mythology exploited " low-castes", Islam was always going to be championed as salvation into a free, just, and equitable society modeled on the life and example of the Holy Apostle of the Merciful, Muhammad (ﷺ).

The Prophet (ﷺ) confirmed the Qur'anic revelations mostly by his own example and the sermon on Arafat was his legacy summarised in an epic oration that resounded in the hearts of all that were present. Clearly he was highlighting the principles and priorities in Islam, for all mankind.

Haj is also the visiting and witnessing of the landmarks and the revision of the history of Prophets Ibraheem and Isma'eel (عليه السلام).

It was also the greatest story about submission and surrender to the command of Allah, Ibraheem's willingness to sacrifice his son, and Isma'eel's patience, unprotestingly allowing his father the opportunity, while rejecting the satanic intrusions.

After running between the hills of Safa and Marwa, nothing could be more cherished than the blessed water from the well of Zam Zam to cool the throat and eyes, carried back home to be gifted to family and friends. Every sip of Zam Zam is like a pilgrimage for those who have yet to go, or those who have no hope, due to disability.

May Allah accept and bless the Haj of those presently attending and those planning to in future.

May Allah bless our festival of the Sacrifice, Eid-ul-Adha. Al Kausar wishes all muslims Eid Mubarak!

ISLAM'S GREAT LEADERS

Important death anniversaries (wisaal Shareef) of note in the holy month of Zil-Haj include, amongst others, Hazrat Sayyidina Ameerul Mu' mineen Umar ibnul Khattaab (رضي الله عنه), the second of the khulafa-ar-Raashideen, as well as the third successor of the leadership, Hazrat Sayyidina Usman Ghani (رضي الله عنه).



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Both of these esteemed personalities were martyred, assassinated by rebels. Hazrat Umar (رضي الله عنه) was attacked whilst performing salaah, while the final moments of Hazrat Usman (رضي الله عنه) arrived as he was reciting the Holy Quran.

Hazrat Umar's (رضي الله عنه) achievement during his reign as leader were remarkable. The humble Islamic state made great territorial gains, bringing to surrender both the Persian and Roman Empires. His firm grip and control saw law and order at its highest, and the spread of Islam overflow the boundaries of the Arabian peninsula.

The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) was very fond of Usman ibn Affaan (رضي الله عنه), who was given the title Zun-Noorain, the possessor of two lights, on account of his successive marriages to two of the Prophet's (ﷺ) daughters. Being one of the richest men in Arabia, Sayyidina Usman (رضي الله عنه) constantly financed the struggling nation especially in its early defensive wars against the enemies of Islam.

May Allah grant them the highest mansions in paradise, and inspire every muslim to walk in their footsteps.

TAKBEERAAT-E-TASHREEQ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ط
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ ط

Beginning from the fajr of 9th Zil Haj upto the Asr of 13th, it is Waajib on every Muslim to recite the Takbeer-e-Tashreeq after every Fard Salaah

N.B. Whether one is performing with Jamaat or on one's own, it makes no difference. One must recite the Takbeers. Males should recite it in a loud voice, females in a low voice.

Eid Al Adha
MUBARRAK

ETIQUETTES OF Qurbani

ON WHOM IS QURBANI WAAJIB

The sacrificing of animals has been made waajib and incumbent on the entire ummah. Rasulallah ﷺ Himself and all the Sahabah y, Tabi'een, and the whole Ummah from every country and place have continuously fulfilled and up kept this waajib.

Qurbani is waajib on every muslim who is mature, sane, muqim (i.e. Not a traveller) and possesses the amount of fifty two and a half tolas of silver (equivalent to 612,36 grams) or wealth equivalent to that value in excess of one's basic (asli) needs.

In the case of Qurbani it is not necessary that this amount be in one's possession for a complete lunar year, like in zakaat.

THE DAYS OF QURBANI

The act of Qurbani is prescribed for three special days - the tenth, eleventh and twelfth of Zil Haj. Qurbani may be performed on any of these days, but the first day is better.

SADAQAH OR CHARITY INSTEAD OF QURBANI

There is no Ibadah more lovable in the eyes of Allah Ta'aala during the days of Qurbani than Qurbani itself. By giving the equivalent amount of Sadaqah or Charity during the days of Qurbani will not compensate nor fulfill the Wujoob. One will always remain sinful because of leaving the Waajib (Qurbani is a unique Ibaadah). In the manner that salaah cannot compensate for Saum, or Saum cannot compensate for Salaah, similarly Sadaqah or Charity cannot compensate for Qurbani. The practices of Rasulallah r and the Sahabah y are a testimony to this.

WARNING FOR THOSE WHO IGNORE QURBANI

It is reported by Hazrat Abu Hurairah y that Rasulallah r said, "that the person who has the means of performing Qurbani but does not do so should not even come near our Eid Gah (where Eid Salaah takes place).

THE TIME FOR QURBANI

In towns where Jumuah Salaah and the Eidayn are performed, qurbani is performed after the Eid Salaah and not before. In villages where Jumuah Salaah and the Eidayn's are not performed, Qurbani may be performed after Subha Saadiq (true dawn) on the tenth day of Zil Haj till the 12th of Zil Haj until sunset. It is makrooh to perform Qurbani at night.

AGE OF THE QURBANI ANIMAL

A camel 5 years old.

A cow, ox and buffalo must be 2 years old.

A goat or sheep must be at least at least 1 year old.

A sheep that has reached the age where it is thought to be 1 year old could be used for Qurbani.

Animals that are younger in age are not suitable for Qurbani. If an animal seller says that an animal has reached the required age, and outwardly there is no sign to disprove it, then it is permissible to rely on such a statement.

DEFORMITY IN A QURBANI ANIMAL

There are two kinds of deformity in a Qurbani animal, some deformity in an animal prohibit Qurbani while other faults does not affect the Qurbani at all.

UYOOB- E- MUKHALLA (Deformity which prohibits Qurbani)

- * Horns which are broken off from the root.
- * Weakness which does not permit the animal to walk to the place of slaughtering
- * Animals which are blind, squint eyes or limping.
- * If more than a third of the ear or tail of the animal is cut off.
- * An animal that was born without ears.
- * An animal without teeth.
- * An animal that has three or less legs.

UYOOB-E-GHAIR MUKHALLA (Deformity which does not)

- * Horns which are broken above the roots.
- * An animal born without horns.
- * Less than a third weakness visible.
- * Limps but is able to walk on its own.
- * If less than a third of the ear or tail is cut off.
- * While slaughtering the animal jumps and thereafter becomes injured or deformed.

MISCELLANEOUS MASAA'IL

- * If an animal that has been selected for Qurbani gives birth before it's slaughter, or while slaughtering a live lamb or calf is born, then the newly born animal should also be slaughtered.
- * A person may eat the meat of every Qurbani slaughtered, be it a Waajib, Nafil or Nazr (mannat) Qurbani.
- * Seven people are allowed to the part in the sharing of a cow for Qurbani, providing each shareholder contributes 1/7 towards purchasing the cow. If any of the shareholders share is less than a 1/7 then no - one's Qurbani will be correct, (even those who have given a full share.)
- * If seven people have a share in a cow or bull, then the meat should be weighed and divided equally.
- * It is better to slaughter your own Qurbani yourself. If for some reason or the other one is unable to slaughter, then it is permissible to let someone else slaughter it.
- * It is preferable to be present when the animal is being slaughtered.
- * Rasulallah ﷺ made Qurbani on behalf of his ummah.



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Some Rules of

SLAUGHTERING



1. Ensure that the knife is sharp.
2. Let the animal lay on its left side, allowing its face to be towards the Qiblah.
3. It is Sunnah to recite the following Dua:

اِنِّى وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِى فَطَرَ السَّمٰوٰتِ
وَالْاَرْضَ حَنِيفًا وَّمَا اَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِيْنَ ط اِنَّ الصَّلٰوةَ
وَنُسُكِيْ وَمَخْيَاىَ وَمَمَاتِيْ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعٰلَمِيْنَ ط
اَللّٰهُمَّ مِنْكَ وَلَكَ ط

" Inni Wajjahtu Wajhiya Lillazi Fataras Samaawaati Wal Arda Hanifaw Wa Maa Ana Minal Mushrikeen. Innas Salaati Wanusuki Wamah Yaaya Wa Mamaati Lillahi Rabbil Aalimeen. Allahumma Minka Walak."

For me I have set my face firmly and truly towards Him who created the Heavens and the earth and I am His alone (hanif) and never shall I ascribe partners to Allah. Oh Allah this sacrifice is from You and for You.

4. Then say: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ ط Bismillahi Allahu Akbar" And slaughter

5. After slaughtering read this Dua:

اَللّٰهُمَّ تَقَبَّلْ مِنِّىْ كَمَا تَقَبَّلْتَ مِنْ خَلِيْلِكَ
اِبْرٰهِيْمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ وَحَبِيْبِكَ مُحَمَّدًا ﷺ

" Allahumma Taqabbal Minni Kama Taqabbalta Min Khaleelika Ibrahim Alayhis Salaam wa Habeebika Muhammadin Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam"

Oh Allah! Accept from me (this sacrifice) like you have accepted from Your friend Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) and Your Beloved Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam)

6. If slaughtering on behalf of someone else, then read:

اَللّٰهُمَّ تَقَبَّلْ مِنْ... كَمَا تَقَبَّلْتَ مِنْ خَلِيْلِكَ
اِبْرٰهِيْمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ وَحَبِيْبِكَ مُحَمَّدًا ﷺ

" Allahumma Taqabbal min (mention the person's name) Kama Taqabbalta Min Khaleelika Ibrahim Alayhis Salaam wa Habeebika Muhammadin Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam"

Oh Allah! Accept from (mention the person's name) this sacrifice like you have accepted from Your friend Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) and Your Beloved Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam)

7. Do not skin the animal until it has cooled.
8. Do not slaughter an animal in front of other animals.
9. Four veins should be clearly cut. The throat, the windpipe and two jugular veins. Even if three are cut, the meat would still be considered Halaal.

MEAT OF THE QURBANI ANIMAL

It is preferable to divide the Qurbani meat into three portions.

1. A portion for one's own use.
 2. A portion for one's relatives and friends.
 3. A portion for the poor and needy.
- * However, it is permissible to keep all the meat or give all the meat away.
- * The Qurbani meat of shareholders should be distributed by weight and not estimation.
- * It is Haraam to sell the Qurbani meat.

SKIN OF THE QURBANI ANIMAL

- * The skin of the Qurbani animal may be kept for one's personal use, such as tanning the skin and using it as a Musallah or water bag etc.
- * If the skin is sold, the money cannot be used for one's self. It is Waajib to give it away as Sadaqah.
- * A needy Muslim engaged in religious activities (organisations) may be given the skin as Sadaqah. It is preferable to do this.
- * It is incorrect to give the labourers (who skin the animal) the skin, fat or unusable flesh as payment for their labour. They must be paid for their labour in terms of cash.

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"O Mankind ! Eat of the lawful and good things from what is in the earth, and follow not the evil. Surely he is an open enemy to you (S2: V168)



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THE TWO SONS OF MUSLIM BIN AQEEL ﷺ



Of all the children that accompanied Imam Husain ﷺ, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ & progeny) to Karbala, the story of the suffering and death of Muhammad and Ibrahim, the two young sons of Muslim bin Aqeel ﷺ, is particularly sad and moving. Muslim ﷺ was cousin of Imam Husain ﷺ and nephew of Hazrat Ali ﷺ.

Muslim ﷺ arrives in Kufa. Imam Husain ﷺ had sent his cousin Muslim ﷺ to Kufa to assess the political and social environment there. Muslims of Kufa had invited Imam Husain ﷺ to come and guide them in the religious affairs as the Imam of the time. Muslim ﷺ was treacherously killed in Kufa by the orders of Yazid, the ruler of that time. This order was executed by the Governor of Kufa, Ubaidallah ibn Ziyad. This was particularly sad and shocking, because Kufans themselves had invited Imam Husain to Kufa. Initially he was welcomed by Kufans and 18,000 to 24,000 people made pledge of support for Muslim ﷺ. He thereafter, sent a letter to Imam Husain advising him of the large support of Kufans for him. However, when Ibn Ziyad arrived with just a handful of companions as the new Governor of Kufa, the environment changed overnight. Ibn Ziyad used intimidation, threats, bribery and lies and managed to disperse the huge crowds of Muslim's supporters. Muslim ﷺ was cowardly and treacherously abandoned by Kufans, rather quickly. He did not know where to go and where to hide from his enemies. He wandered alone in the streets of Kufa, and finally took refuge in the house of Hani bin Urwah. Ibn Ziyad learned about Muslim's whereabouts and ordered Hani's arrest. Muslim ﷺ escaped and took refuge in the house of an old woman by name Tua.

Muslim was martyred. Ibn Ziyad discovered the hiding place of Muslim ﷺ and sent his army to kill him or capture him. Muslim ﷺ fought bravely in the tradition of the bravest of Bani Hashim.

Finally he succumbed to the onslaught by the numerous but coward forces of Kufans who attacked him from all sides, even hurling stones from the roof of the house. He was thirsty but could not even drink water because he was bleeding from injuries to his face. He was beheaded and his head was sent to Ibn Ziyad. His body was desecrated in the worst pre-Islamic barbaric tradition. He was the first Bani Hashim from the camp of Imam Husain to die. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Rajioon."

The two Sons of Muslim ﷺ. The name of the older child was Muhammad and the younger was Ibrahim. Their exact ages are not known. However, according to some accounts they were pre-teens, possibly 12 years and 10 years old. There are two versions of their initial whereabouts. According to the Books: "Nasak-ut-Tawarikh," and in "Roda al Shod' a" by Qazvini, they were with their father, Muslim ﷺ. The other version is that they were with Imam Husain in Karbala and later on imprisoned by Ubaidallah Ibn Ziyad, the Governor of Kufa. However, all historians agree that they were subsequently imprisoned in Kufa on the

orders of Ibn Ziyad.

Life in the prison. The young orphans spent about one year in the prison. They underwent extreme hardship. Ibn Ziyad had ordered to treat them harshly. They only received two pieces of barley bread and a cup of water daily, in the evening. In the tradition of Ahlul Bayt, they fasted in the daytime, even though they were so young. They became weaker by the day. After a year had passed by, one brother said to the other, "O' brother! It is a long time that we have been imprisoned, our life is being wasted away and our 2 bodies have suffered. Tonight when the jailer comes, we are going to introduce ourselves to him, perhaps he might release us."

Release from the prison. When the jailer learned that these youngsters were from the family of the Prophet, he was shocked. He fell on their feet and asked for forgiveness. That night he set them free with some provision and directed them towards Medina with caution to travel only at night to avoid being caught by Ibn Ziyad's soldiers. After a while, they lost their way and became tired and exhausted. They asked an old woman, who was outside her house, to give them shelter for the night. When she learnt that they were from the family of the Prophet, she was kind to them. However, she worried about her son-in-Law, Harith, who was Ibn Ziyad's supporter, and who might harm the boys. The boys slept in a dark room. They were unfortunately, discovered by the man and he found out who they were. He bound their feet together.

Final moments of the youth's life. In the morning, Harith ordered his slave named Fatih to take them to the bank of the river and kill them and bring back their heads. The slave when he learned that these were from the Ahlul Bayt of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, he refused to obey his master and fled.

The man asked his son to kill them, but he also refused and left. Finally, the man himself took the boys to the bank of river Euphrates to kill them. They pleaded with him to sell them as slaves rather than kill them. The man refused. They again pleaded with him to take them to Ibn Ziyad and let him decide their fate, but the cruel and greedy man would not listen. He said, "I better earn his nearness by spilling your blood." They finally requested permission to offer the Salaat, which was granted.

Their last words. After the Salaat, they looked up towards the heaven and prayed: "O' Thou alive, O' Thou wise, O' who is the best of all the judges; Thou judge us and him with justice." Then the evil man killed the older youth first, and then the younger one. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'oon."

The heads of Mohammad and Ibrahim brought in Ibn Ziyad's Court. The man wrapped their heads in a cloth and took them to Ibn Ziyad expecting two thousand Dirhams in bounty. When Ibn Ziyad saw the heads of the children, he arose and sat three times and then exclaimed, "Woe upon you! Where did you find them?" The man related the whole story. Ibn Ziyad asked him why did he not bring them alive, so he would give him four thousand Dirham. The man replied, "my heart did not allow me, except that by spilling their blood I should seek your nearness."

Fate of the killer of the youth. Ibn Ziyad asked what their last words were. The man repeated their prayer seeking Justice of God. Ibn Ziyad said, "Allah had done justice between you and those children." Then he ordered that this cruel man be taken to the same place where the two children were killed and behead the man and bring his head back. Thus, the prayers of the innocent victims were answered. Their tomb is situated at a place called Musaiyib, about ten miles from Karbala.



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THE LEGACY OF HAZRAT “UMAR AL FAROUQ” (The Discerner)

Al Kausar

رضي الله عنه



Umar ibn Al-Khattab (RA) was one of the most powerful and influential Muslim caliphs in history. He was a senior companion of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). He succeeded Abu Bakr (RA) (632–634) as the second caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate on 23 August 634. He was an expert Muslim jurist known for his pious and just nature, which earned him the epithet Al-Farooq (the one who distinguishes – between right and wrong). May his quotes inspire you to be a good person and an individual of action.

" The best way to defeat someone is to beat him at politeness."

" Do not grieve over what has passed unless it makes you work harder for what is about to come."

" Whosoever shows you your faults is your friend. Those that pay you lip service in praise are your executioners."

" I have never regretted my silence, as for my speech I've regretted it many times."

" The less attachment to the world. The easier your life."

" Remind yourselves of God, for it is a cure. Do not remind yourselves of the people, for it is a disease."

" A man should be like a child with his wife, but if she needs him, he should act like a man."

" The most beloved of people to me is he that points out my flaws to me."

" To speak less is wisdom, to eat less is healthy, and to mingle less with the people is safe and serene."

" Sit with those who love God, for that enlightens the mind."

" The women are not a garment you wear and undress however you like. They are honored and have their rights."

" Sit with those who have sinned and repented for they have the softest of hearts."

" No amount of guilt can change the past and no amount of worrying can change the future."

" Sometimes the people with the worst past, create the best future."

" My heart is at ease knowing that what was meant for me will never miss me and that what misses me was never meant for me."

" Get used to a rough life, for luxury does not last forever."

" Patience is the healthiest ingredient of our life."

" To be alone you avoid bad company. But to have a true friend is better than being alone."

" Be dignified, honest, and truthful."

" When one's intention is sincere, God will suffice his needs, protect him, and guide him in his dealings with the people."

" Let not your love become attachment, nor your hate become destruction."



OLD NORMAL



by: Faizul Khamker

The corona pandemic created a new cliché, namely the “new normal”, however in the world of politics it is back to the old normal. This past week saw Biden authorising air strikes in Syria and Iraq. Since taking over power as President of the United States this is the second attack authorised by the new President. This attack was carried out on the excuse of protecting Americans including the armed forces operating in Iraq and was supposed to target militias who is supposed posed a threat having new sophisticated weaponry including drones. This attack was described as “conducted defensive precision airstrikes”. The old excuse of “defence” by the well-armed and resourced aggressor is starting to wear thin. Interestingly enough these airstrikes came shortly after the election of Ebrahim Raisi as the new President of Iran who is viewed as a hardliner by the United States and the efforts to renew the anti-nuclear deal with Iran. The Sunday before the latest airstrike the Secretary of State of America had discussions with Yair Lapid of Israel. This adds to the intrigue. At the end of the day it comes down to the old policy of hegemony by another hawkish President following a line of hawks with the possible exception of Trump.

Unsurprising these attacks (the first of which took place in February) had reactions. The victims of the reaction were the residents of the town Idlib. Syrian forces conducted airstrikes in Idlib which is regarded as the vanguard against the unsuccessful attempt to dislodge Assad from power has been under siege for some

time. It is also reported that the people of this town is reeling under the corona virus pandemic. Needless to say that the ones that are paying the price with their blood are the innocent. Compounding the problem of the residents of Idlib is the Russian intervention to stop all aid from entering this town. The old normal of being heartless and cruel bordering the crossing of the line of all norms of humanity is once more displayed.

The humanitarian aid which is vital to many Syrians in Idlib and elsewhere has also become the playground to demonstrate power. The United Nations which originally had four access points through which aid could come into Syria had been reduced to one. That one is endangered because the agreement which was in place to ensure that the aid could come through has almost come to the end of the term of the agreement. This issue will come up for debate in the United Nations on the 10th of July, however, if Russia exercises its veto power as it had done with the other three than the remaining passage of providing aid to millions of destitute people will also be closed. This being the old normal of political influence over lives.

The airstrike by American forces in Syria and Iraq also has the footprint of the old normal in that it is intended to show dominance and thereby create an atmosphere of intimidation. With the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan the intent is not to remove the effects of intimidation through dominance and the same weaponry that they wish to deny the militias fighting occupation is intended to be used in Afghanistan after their withdrawal, namely drones. This tactic has become problematic with the intended use of military bases in Pakistan. Pakistan's top leadership including Shah Mehmood Qureshi has gone record that Pakistan has refused access

to its bases to the Americans. Even a visit by William J Burns the director of CIA (where Prime Minister Imraan Khan had refused to meet him personally) had been unsuccessful. The old normal of the Pakistani Prime Minister was opposing the use of drones. This stance has been motivated by the fact that between 2004 and 2018 US drones had carried out more than four hundred strikes resulting in the death of up to 969 civilian including one hundred and seventy-two children.

The greater concern is the election of leaders who wield enormous power and have at their fingertips the indiscriminate right to be extremely destructive. When we look at Biden who has a history of violent leanings and now that his cognitive powers are being questioned on a global scale we need to look at a new normal to elect leadership who have morality and a fair sense of justice.



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Sidestepping Apartheid as Goldstein does is a Copout

Media Review Network

Having read Chief Rabbi Goldstein's convoluted "open letter" to Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, I'm not surprised that his defensive stance on the racist settler colonial regime leans on an attempt to divert attention from Israel to Islam.

As absurd as it may be, it is not untoward for defenders of Israel's Apartheid regime to do so. After all, the issue of Israel is closely linked to the issue of Islamophobia.

In his desperation and failure to find sound convincing responses to Archbishop Makgoba's letter to the Anglican Church members in which he correctly criticized Israel, Goldstein injects a bizarre narrative implying Hamas is linked to the insurgency in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique.

Not only is it a ridiculous notion; it is entirely at odds with authentic probes undertaken by among others, Amnesty International. But facts don't matter if your mission is to deliberately portray Mozambique's socio-economic woes as a "religious war".

The absurdity of Goldstein's mischievous conflation is captured in his own words:

"In northern Mozambique, there is a religious war being waged by Ansar al-Sunna, known locally as al-Shabaab, a militant Islamist group that pledges allegiance to Islamic State and shares the same violent ideology as Hamas, both of which are funded by Iran."

Classic Islamophobic language. "Militant Islamist", "Violent ideology" are terms associated with Israel's Hasbara (propaganda) programmes, aimed precisely to stoke fear and alarm of Muslims.

However it becomes more menacing. Goldstein's misplaced argument to depict Israel's genocidal policies as no more than a defence against "violent extremists", ought to be an embarrassment to the office he holds.

But unashamedly his purpose is to persuade the Anglican Church that the "very same violent religious ideology drives extremists right here on our borders - and their intended victims are your Christian congregations".

Casting Hamas as being driven by the "most violent, extreme form of Islam..." adds up to warning Archbishop Thabo Makgoba to desist from casting Israel as evil, unjust and comparable with apartheid South Africa.

Profiling Palestinian resistance movement Hamas as a "murderous ideology", Goldstein castigates Makgoba for being on the wrong side of history and in neglect of protecting his parish...all because of "your support for Hamas".

The attack, warning and threat inherent in Goldstein's open letter to Archbishop Thabo Makgoba is apart from demeaning, also insulting. Failing to address the core issues driving Palestinians to strive for freedom and justice, which are aligned with fundamental rights espoused by the Anglican Church, is a copout.



These issues arise from Israel's incremental genocide against Palestinians. The Israeli barbarity of disproportionate military devastation caused by relentless bombings and missiles on Gaza, which is under a crippling siege by Israel as the Occupying power, is both immoral and criminal.

Any moral leader, especially one who is vested as the chief rabbi, is expected to lead the charge against Israel's tsunami of war crimes. Failure to do so will raise questions about his ability to be a moral leader.

Having read the letter addressed by the Arch to his parish and the response by the Rabbi to him, I remain astonished that Goldstein resorts to fear mongering instead of distancing himself from the atrocities perpetrated by Israel.

That Israel is an Apartheid State is not in dispute any longer. Betselem, an Israeli-based human rights NGO, as well as the US-based Human Rights Watch are two of the most recent institutions who have undertaken extensive studies to arrive at this conclusion.

More importantly HRW warns against enabling crimes arising from the apartheid regime.

Rampant injustices against Palestinians (Muslim and Christian), have been a dominant feature of Zionist colonialism for more than seven decades. From ethnic-cleansing to military occupation; from dispossession to illegal land grabs; from settlements to forced expulsions; remains a deliberate pattern defining an unjust and immoral ideology underpinning the apartheid regime.

To sidestep the horror emanating from Israel and divert attention by leaning on Islamophobia, as Goldstein has attempted to do is disingenuous.

By Iqbal Jassat



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From Arafat to the World...All time final message of the Last Messenger (peace be upon him)

“O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. Allah has forbidden you to take usury (interest); therefore all interest obligations shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. Allah has judged that there shall be no interest and that all the interest due to Abbas ibn Abdul Muttalib (the Prophet's uncle) shall henceforth be waived...

Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste.

“O People, listen to me in earnest, worship Allah, perform your five daily prayers (salah), fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in zakat. Perform Hajj if you can afford it.

All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor does a black have any superiority over a white, except by piety and good action.

Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves.

Remember, one day you will appear before Allah and answer for your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the Quran and my example, the Sunnah, and if you follow these you will never go astray.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O Allah, that I have conveyed your message to your people”.

A Kausar

أَلْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

“This day have I perfected your religion for you, and completed My favour upon you, and have chosen Islam as your religion”