

EID: The Day of Prize Giving

Jamiatul Ulama, South Africa

“In the bounty of Allah and in His Mercy– in this let them rejoice”: that is better than the (wealth) they amass. (10:58)

The Day of Eid is an occasion of joy, happiness and hope. Joy at having accomplished thirty days of intense devotion and happiness at a remarkable achievement in obedience to the command of Allah (God). Eid is more than just a celebration of food, drink and clothes.

Eid has another name in the kingdom of Allah known as ‘Yawm-ul-Jaa-izah’ – The Day of Prize Giving. It is a Day on which Allah showers His mercy, pleasure and forgiveness on those who have duly observed the month of Ramadhan. It is a Day wherein we receive our dues from Allah for having laboured hard in Ramadan.

The First Prize: Forgiveness of Allah

When the believers come out of their houses and assemble at the place for the Eid Salaah (prayers), Allah says to His angels: “O My angels, what is the payment of the hired labourer, who has done his work?” The angels reply, “Our Lord and our Master, You will pay him his wages in full!” So Allah says, “I now call upon you to bear witness, O My angels, that I have conferred My acceptance and My forgiveness as the reward for their fasting and night vigil during the month of Ramadan.” [Ghunyaalil Taalibi Tareeqal Haq]

The Second Prize: Acceptance of Du’aas (Supplications to God)

Allah Ta’aala addresses the Muslims who assemble at the Eid Salaah: “O My servants put your requests to Me now, for I swear by My Might and My Majesty, you will not ask Me this Day, in this gathering of yours for anything connected with your life hereafter, without My granting it to you; nor for anything connected with your life in this lower world, without My attending to your need. By My Might and My Majesty, I will not put you to shame, nor will I expose you to disgrace amongst those who are faithfully committed to observing the laws (of Shariah). Now you may depart, knowing that you have been forgiven. You

have won My approval, and I am well pleased with you.” (Ghunyaal Taalibi Tareeqal Haq)

The Third Prize: Entry into Jannah (Paradise)

“In Paradise there is a gate called Rayyaan, through which those who used to fast will enter on the Day of Resurrection, and no one but they will enter it. It will be said, ‘Where are those who fasted?’ They will get up, and none will enter it but them. When they have entered, it will be locked, and no one else will enter.” (Bukhari & Muslim) Eid gives us the key to enter through the Gate of Rayyaan.

The Fourth Prize: Freedom from slavery

Eid is a celebration of our faith, will power, discipline and resolve. It is a Day of victory over our carnal self. *“Indeed he who causes this (self) to grow in purity shall attain a happy state and lost is he who corrupts it” (91: 9/10)* Purification of the soul is a prerequisite for closeness to Allah. Our morality, self – confidence, perseverance are all derived from the extent of our self-purity. Zayd bin Arqam said that the Messenger of Allah would make the following Du’aa when reading the verse:

“O Allah! Verily, I seek refuge with You from weakness, laziness, senility (of old age), cowardliness, stinginess and the torment of the grave. O Allah! Give my soul it’s good and purify it, for You are the best to purify it. You are its Guardian and Master. O Allah! Verily, I seek refuge with You from a heart that is not humble, a soul that is not satisfied, knowledge that does not benefit and a supplication that is not answered. (Ahmed)

The month of Ramadan demonstrates that we have the faith, the resolve, the commitment and the willingness to sacrifice in quest of the pleasure of Allah. We have what it takes to change at both a personal and a collective level. Believe in yourself, have faith in your abilities and trust in Allah! The Day of Eid demonstrates our ability to purify our souls and to free ourselves from the shackles of bondage to our passion and brute lust. We celebrate our freedom from the enslavement of our passions.

The Fifth Prize: Unity of Hearts

Eid is a Day wherein we reaffirm the brotherhood of the Ummah (the global Muslim community) by assembling at the Eid 'gha' (Eid prayers in the open field) and by giving 'fitra' to the poor and needy. It is a time for Muslims to feel the joy of being united and to demonstrate mercy and compassion by giving charity before the Eid prayer. *"The believers, both men and women, are awliyya (helpers, supporters, allies) of one another" (9:71)*

This Brotherhood creates a sense of belonging, it gives us a distinct identity, it is a purveyor of peace and justice, it provides stability in a world torn apart by so many divisions, and provides sanctuary to the downtrodden and oppressed. Eid gives us the opportunity to demonstrate that we are one, united by our belief in Allah and that our oneness means that we care and support each other. This brotherhood is tattered, frayed and shredded in many parts of the Muslim world precisely because our souls have become tainted and polluted by the grime of craving and passion.

"In the bounty of Allah and in His Mercy— in this let them rejoice"; that is better than the (wealth) they amass." (10:58) Real joy, real happiness and pleasure is only found in the mercy and grace of Allah. Eid is a manifestation of the mercy and grace of Allah, our response to it is joy and happiness.

May Allah make us among those who He is pleased with and those who are pleased with Him.

<http://www.jmtsa.co.za/eid-the-day-of-prize-giving/>