

عِيدُ مُبَارَكٍ

Eid Mubarak

The Struggle Between Leading & Following

Eid-Ul-Fitr lecture delivered

by

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at Eid Gha in Brisbane

on

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Praise and Glory be to Allah who has given us this opportunity and Taufeeque to fast during this blessed Month of Ramadan and the chance to celebrate Eid-UI Fitr Al Mubarak. Peace and Blessings of Allah upon Nabi Mohammed S.A.W and his Companions and all Muslims till the day of Qiyamah.

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters, Eid-UI Fitr is a great day the Eid to celebrate our victory in Ramadan. Yes, we were victorious over demands of our bodies. We nourished our souls, we proved to ourselves that our will can be strong, and as we prayed Taraweeh together every night.

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Let us pray together. May Allah accept – Bless and Reward all our Eibadha – Seum – Taraweeh, Tilawah – Iftar – Sahoor – Fitra - Zakat and Sadaqah.

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We have proved during Ramadhan that we are a single collective, we are one single Brotherhood, As AIQuran:49-10 has said: “Believers are but a single Brotherhood”.

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Prophet P.B.U.H has consolidated this in the practical life of the early Muslims between Muhajiroon and ANSAR

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“Remember Allah’s bounties, you were enemy for one another, he joined your hearts in love so that by his grace you became brothers and you were on the brink of the pit of fire and he saved you from it.” Al Quran 3:103.

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Ramadan taught us we are one Ummah – one body eating together, fasting together, breaking our fast together, praying together making dua together, we were focussed, we were united, we were dignified, we were epitome of Islam, we made our Prophet P.B.U.H proud that his Ummah in Brisbane 2007 managed to unite together for the Holy Month of Ramadan and Eid-UI Fitr Al Mubarak.

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We appreciate Ramadan and the closeness it brought to us. We can not afford to forget the message of Ramadan, we need to stay together, our livelihood depends on it, our faith demands it, and our future generations expect nothing less from us.

We need unity more than ever; we have forgotten the true meaning of belonging to this great faith, we have forgotten how to belong – and many of us are wondering lost between the desire to lead and the desire to follow, not knowing how to do either of the two.

No one can be a true Muslim leader unless he or she learns how to follow first. It is a struggle between wanting to be the leader,

- I want to be the leader, otherwise I will not get involved,**
- I do not want to follow or apply the idea of others because I feel that I know better than them,**
- I am better than they are**
- Because I want to take the credit,**
- Because I do not want my work to benefit their fame.**

Then there are those who justify their own behaviour to themselves by withdrawing and excusing this as their way of giving up on a Community which does not matter or care and so, they can no longer participate.

Nabi P.B.U.H was very clear in his direction, if three of us embark on a journey then we must appoint a leader this makes any three people a team rather than scattered fragments.

Al Quran says about Nabi Yusuf P.B.U.H who said “Set me over the store houses of the land, I will indeed guard them as one that knows their importance”. Al Quran: 12-55

He asked the King of Egypt to be placed in charge of all the storehouses, the most valuable treasury throughout the land and he put forward his resume. His bio data.

He is trustworthy and knowledgeable. He has the honesty and the skill to look after the stores. He asked the King for the most senior position, to be his treasurer, a prophet of God asking the King to be made his treasurer, he told him his qualification of honesty and knowledge the King immediately gave him the job.

Today, I see scattering of leadership, each singing to a different tune, why, when we could make a beautiful symphony together, do we still divide and sing to a different tune? Is it self interest, it certainly does not serve the interest of the community or broader society to keep singing to a different tune.

When we look at other ethnic groups and communities in Australia our great nation. I see that those are most successful are those that show the greatest unity and respect for each other and for their members.

Believe me my Brothers and Sisters, we will only win the respect of our fellow Australians if we show respect to each other, our fellow Muslims first.

Look at the other communities in Australia; take the weakest group or smallest group or even the latest comers they are all united under one leadership. Thanks to this they are able to raise their voice and to be listened, to be counted, to be respected by others,

We will only realize our worth as a community when we include every Muslim regardless of their ethnic, linguistic culture backgrounds, we grow with each other, our faith is a collective faith, it is not merely linked but rather it is strongly tied an unbreakable tie to each other. I reflect your strength and you reflect mine, but when we are divided all we reflect is each others weakness.

Dear Brothers and Sister 2006 Census shows nearly 350,000 Muslims in Australia, the real number should be two times larger than what has been recorded. However, according to this estimation approximately 3-4% of the population in this country is Muslim, the question I would like to ask is do we have 3% representation in the important field of life?

Do we make up 3% of Scientists in this country?

Do we make up 3% of Manufacturers in this country?

Do we make up 3% of Wholesalers in this country?

Do we make up 3% of Exporters in this country?

Do we make up 3% of Farmers in this country?

Do we make up 3% of Teachers in this country?

Do we make up 3% of Intellectual in this country?

Do we make up 3% of Influence to improve this county?

Do we make up 3% of the Councillors in the local Councils?

Do we make up 3% of the State Parliament Members in the State Parliament?

Do we make up 3% of the Federal Members in the Federal Parliament?

Do we make up 3% of the Ministers in the Federal and State Ministry?

WHAT DO WE REPRESENT HERE???????

➤ **What are we doing here if we do not take up our roles to be as affective as our fellow Australians**

➤ **What are we doing here if we do not take up our role and contribute to the construction of this country, at least as much as our fellow Australians.**

And remember you are the Muslims, everything that emanates from you should be Khair, goodness, and charity and benefit for all humanity.

Training and grooming the younger generation to take up the leadership is very vital for the survival of any society. It is very important to train and handover the leadership to coming generations. It is the collective duty of the community with the close cooperation of the parents to provide all the needed resources and facilities to train and groom the future leaders.

Remember what our beloved Nabi S.W.T (joining together two of his fingers) and he said:

“Who ever performs his prayers properly, spends on his children’s training, in spite of his modest means and does not speak ill of others will be in paradise as close to me as these two fingers of mine”

As we look at these important positions in life, professionals, businessmen, politicians and so on, your son can be a Member of Parliament or even Minister, or immigration director, or your daughter can be a medical scientist, chief editor of any newspaper, or education officer. Our future generation need to be helped and trained to fill all these key positions and take up the leadership from us and contribute more to the community, society and our beautiful country Australia.

In this spirit I appeal to all the learned Imams, I.C.Q, Islamic Societies and Associations to organise a program to bring and honour the high achievers of High Schools, Colleges and University students. This should be our number one priority for the preparation of our future Muslim leadership; they are the future of this community. We are only conduits to pass on the best that our culture has to offer. We are here to give them some divine guidance, they will take the flag and the banner, and they are the ones who will leave their stamp on society, a positive price worthy stamp that will make Australia the best nation in the world.

Before I conclude my Kitabah please remember the following Hadith:

- **"None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself."**
- **“The best people are those who are most helpful to others.”**
- **“Unity is mercy, while division is punishment and penalty.”**
- **“Be with the community as wolf eats the lonely sheep.”**

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and children on this Special auspicious and happy occasion of Eid-ul Fitr I would like to take this opportunity once again to wish each and every one of you a very happy Eid Mubarak.

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