

FRIDAY MESSAGE

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The Beauty of Eid: A Gateway to Eternal Virtues

Eid is not merely a day of joy, or a festive day marked on the calendar; it is a gateway to reflection, renewal, and a reminder of the beauty within ourselves and our faith. It invites us to embody the highest virtues and values that Islam holds dear, and to carry these principles beyond the festive occasion. As we embrace the significance of Eid, let us journey through its deeper meanings and learn how to internalize its message in every aspect of our lives.

The True Essence of Beauty

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) reminded us that the outward expressions of beauty must align with inner purity. While it is important to dress well and carry oneself with dignity on Eid, the ultimate adornment lies in the sincerity of our hearts, the eloquence of our speech, and the integrity of our actions. In this way, believers become symbols of true beauty and goodness, inspiring others with their noble character and unwavering commitment to Allah's commands. They are role models of kindness, wisdom, and moral excellence, leaving behind legacies of grace and virtue.

Imam Al-Nawawi beautifully elaborated that outward adornment is only valuable when it reflects inner humility and gratitude to Allah. What we wear on Eid is symbolic of this principle—a reflection of joy in our hearts and gratitude for Allah's blessings. As we dress for this sacred day, let us also

beautify our souls with sincerity, kindness, and obedience.

In Islam, beauty transcends physical appearances; it is rooted in purpose and guided by morality. True beauty lies in using the gifts of Allah to obey Him and foster goodness. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) exemplified this when he adorned himself with dignity for delegations, reflecting the value of appearing well as an act of gratitude and respect. However, he cautioned against vanity and extravagance.

A Celebration of Balance

Eid reminds us to strike a balance between joy and responsibility, celebration and discipline. It is a day to adorn ourselves, share meals with loved ones, and rejoice in Allah's blessings. Yet, this joy is rooted in moderation, as the Quran advises: "Eat and drink, but do not waste by extravagance" (Surah Al-A'raf 7:31).

Let our celebrations reflect the beauty of simplicity, the warmth of community, and the light of gratitude. Let them inspire us to use our blessings to uplift others, for true joy is incomplete without compassion and generosity.

Forgiveness

Eid is a time to heal relationships, extend forgiveness, and celebrate the blessings bestowed upon us. The harmony of good character is a cornerstone of Eid, while discord and estrangement are signs of spiritual imbalance.

This spirit of forgiveness reflects the best of human virtues, while gratitude amplifies our ability to recognize Allah’s infinite mercy. A heart filled with gratitude and generosity not only strengthens one’s faith but also fosters community and mutual respect.

The Pursuit of Righteousness Beyond Eid

Eid is not the end of our journey; rather, it is a stepping stone toward greater piety and steadfastness. As Ramadan teaches us discipline, self-control, and spirituality, Eid reinforces the message that acts of devotion must continue. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Whoever fasts Ramadan and then follows it with six [days] of Shawwal, it is as if they have fasted for a lifetime” (Reported by Muslim).

Carrying the essence of Ramadan into Shawwal and beyond is a manifestation of sustained righteousness. It is through consistency in worship and good deeds that believers achieve a life illuminated by faith and virtue.

Conclusion: The Legacy of Eid

Eid is more than a day; it is an invitation to live a life of beauty, gratitude, and faith. It is a reminder to forgive, to foster harmony, and to uphold the values of integrity and compassion. Beyond the celebrations, it is an enduring call to embrace righteousness, reflect on Allah’s blessings, and let the light of faith illuminate every corner of our lives.

As we celebrate Eid, let us mend our relationships, express gratitude, and share joy with others. Let us transform our lives into a reflection of divine beauty and eternal virtues, becoming beacons of hope and inspiration for those around us. For in doing so, every day can become a celebration of Allah’s infinite mercy—a true and lasting Eid for our souls.

Let us make every morning an Eid of the soul, every act of kindness a celebration,

and every moment a chance to say: Allahu Akbar—Allah is the Greatest.

The Ritual of Ghusl, Eid begins with the act of ghusl, As we perform ghusl, let us imagine the water washing away not just physical impurities, but also the weariness of our worldly burdens and the remnants of our sins.

The Sweetness of Obedience: Eating Dates, The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) would begin Eid al-Fitr by eating dates in odd numbers, a gesture rich in symbolism. Imam As-Suyuti highlighted that this simple act of breaking the fast carries profound meanings—it is a celebration of Allah’s provision and a reminder of the sweetness of obedience.

The Reverberation of Faith: The Takbeer, This chant is a declaration of Allah’s greatness, a reminder that He is above every worry and fear. Let us take this Takbeer beyond Eid, infusing every challenge and triumph with the reassurance that Allah is greater than any adversity we may face.

A Greeting That Heals: Connection and Compassion, The companions of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) exchanged the heartfelt greeting, *“Taqabbal Allahu minna wa minkum”* (May Allah accept from us and from you). Imam Al-Ghazali reflected on the transformative power of such sincere well-wishing—it unites hearts, mends relationships, and uplifts spirits.

The Path of Kindness: Changing Routes, The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) had a unique practice of changing his route to and from the Eid prayer. Scholars like Ibn Hajar understood this as an opportunity to witness the beauty of creation, spread greetings, and engage with people in new ways. Let us incorporate this wisdom into our lives. Let each journey we take, no matter how simple, be filled with acts of kindness—whether it’s smiling at a stranger, visiting the sick, or helping a neighbour.

The Joy of Giving: Zakat Al-Fitr, Zakat al-Fitr is an essential aspect of Eid al-Fitr, ensuring that no one is left behind on this joyful day. Imam As-Suyuti emphasized its dual purpose: cleansing the fasting person of shortcomings and providing sustenance for the less fortunate.