First Sermon:

**Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar Kabira wa al Hamdu Lillahi Kathira, wa Subhana Allahi Bukratan wa Asila (Allah is the greatest- (said nine successive times) -and to Allah goes all praise. And Glory to Allah, eventide and in the morning).**

Whatever is in the heavens and earth pays tribute to Allah, and He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise. There is no deity save Allah, having no associates. He says, “**The seven heavens and the earth and whatever is in them exalt Him. And there is not a thing except that it exalts [Allah] by His praise, but you do not understand their [way of] exalting. Indeed, He is ever Forbearing and Forgiving**.”(Al Israa: 44).

I also bear witness that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Guide Muhammad, his family, his companions, and all those who will follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

**O Muslims,**

Today is the day of celebration, a day of delight and enjoyment and a time to show sincere obedience to Allah. It is the blessed Eid al Adha-the celebration of the sacrifice, one of the greatest days to Allah, about which our Prophet Muhammad pbuh said, “The greatest day in Allah’s sight is the day of sacrifice.”

Eids in Islam are unique for they come to bring joy to Muslims after having strived hard and succeeded in offering acts of worship. They are also some valuable occasions to thank Allah for His infallible pledge to forgive His believing servants’ faults. So today is the time for the great remission Allah, the Almighty, has promised His servants who headed to Haj or those who increased acts of worship on these days of Dhu al Hijja by, for example, fasting the Day of Arafa.

O blessed those who have stood on the Mount of Arafat and came back from it with their sins expiated. On their way back to Al Masjid Al Haram, they would pass by Muzdalifa overwhelmed with Allah’s Mercy. From there they would set out for Mina for stoning of the Jamarat and again for the Ancient House (Kaaba) to perform Tawaf.

For every act they do, Pilgrims will have angels surrounding them and light shining on them, not to mention the limitless bounties they will get as recompense. Credit also goes to non-pilgrims who would choose to stand by their counterparts performing Haj by fasting and praying to Allah with great hope to receive His blessed forgiveness, satisfaction and guidance.

**Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Illaha Illa Allah (there is no deity except Allah), wa Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar wa Lillahi Al Hamd.**

**O Believers,**

Takbir (pronouncement of Allah is the Greatest) is one of the Eid rituals with which Muslims would express their gratitude to their Lord for His favours on them on these blessed days and times. That is why our Prophet Muhammad pbuh recommended pronouncing Takbir after each obligatory prayer since the Day of Arafa until the sunset of the last days of Tashriq (11-12-13th of Dhu al-Hijja).

**Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Illaha Illa Allah, wa Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar wa Lillahi Al Hamd.**

**Dear Muslims,**

Please remember that Eid days are moments for joy and celebration but also for Dhikr and Takbir. Abu Huraira, may Allah be satisfied with him, reported that the Prophet Muhammad pbuh sent Abdullah bin Hudhafa to Mina to convey his message: “do not fast these days for they are the days of eating, drinking and remembering Allah.”

On these days, it is also highly recommended to honors ties of kinship, visit friends and neighbor’s and shake hands with people. By doing this, Muslims will be rewarded and have their sins removed, as our Prophet Muhammad pbuh said, “Two Muslims will not meet and shake hands having their sins forgiven them before they separate.” Allah has made for us these moments for showing joy and cherishing some good leisure times for the sake of remembering His bounties on us and bringing happiness to our family.

In this regard, Aisha, may Allah be satisfied with her, said, “Abu Bakr came to see me and I had two girls with me from among the girls of the Ansar and they were singing what the Ansar recited to one another at the Battle of Buaath. They were not, however, singing girls. Upon this Abu Bakr said protestingly, ‘Musical instruments of Satan in the house of Allah’s Apostle and this too on Eid day?’ Upon this the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) said, ‘ Abu Bakr, every people have a festival and it is our festival (so let them play on)’.”

**Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Illaha Illa Allah, wa Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar wa Lillahi Al Hamd.**

O Allah, we ask your favour to render all our days Eids and make the best of our days, the day when we meet You. O Allah, keep us in Your care and protect us. May Allah also help us to obey Him and those He has ordained upon us to obey.