

**Transcription of the English translation of the Eid Al Fitr Khutbah (sermon) in
Makkah delivered by Sheikh Humaid on 1 Shawwal 1441 (24 May 2020)**

All praise is due to Allah, the most exalted in His might and glory. Allah is greater than every created being, since they are all provided for from the resources that lie with Him. He is the one who created your forefather from clay and then decreed one period of time. Additionally, there is another specified period of time that lies with Allah alone. Yet, despite that, those of you who reject the truth, doubt Allah's ability to restore the dead to life.

All praise is due to Allah, who brought creation into existence by His limitless ability. Allah is the greatest and there is none greater than Him. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah alone, without any partner. His kindness to us is constant. Goodness from Him continues to reach us. His favours to us are complete and the blessings He grants us are all-encompassing. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah alone, without any partner. His authority is invincible, His names are perfect and none deserves worship besides Him. I further bear witness that our leader and Prophet Muhammad is Allah's worshipping servant and messenger. His message is the last one that will be sent to humanity. His miracles and evidences astounded minds and led them to submit and his call allowed the religion Allah prescribed to become established. May Allah grant continuous commendation, protection and blessings to His messenger, to the messenger's immaculate family, to the messenger's esteemed companions and to all who continue following their path.

Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. None has the right to be worshipped except Him. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest and to Him alone belongs all praise. Allah is greater than all else. He deserves abundant praise and He deserves His perfection be affirmed at all times.

My dear audience, I counsel all of you, as well as myself, to observe Taqwa (consciousness) of Allah by fulfilling His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. May Allah grant all of you His mercy. You must observe Taqwa (consciousness) of Allah, since that is the best provision you can store for yourselves and it is the trade that will always be profitable for you. When a person spends much time asleep, he will not achieve his objectives and he will be outdone by others. Remember that different days will have different circumstances and that sins are like debts that have to be settled.

Dear Muslims, the human was indeed created with the tendency to be quite irritable and greedy. He can be quite argumentative. In the case of each human, there was a long time throughout which he did not even exist. Al-Fudayl ibn 'Iyad, may Allah have mercy upon him, commented that, when people are in circumstances of wellbeing, they remain protected, but when adversity strikes, their true colours show, such that the Mu'min (believer) resorts to his Iman (belief), while the Munafiq (hypocrite) resorts to his Nifaq (hypocrisy). During adversities, it becomes clear, which people worship their Lord and which people worship their own disobedient inclinations. During adversities, the ranks of people who genuinely accept the truth from Allah are distinguished from the ranks of those who merely pretend to accept the truth, but actually reject it within themselves.

Allah is the greatest and the most entitled to our praise and gratitude. All praise is due to Him and He is the most merciful.

Servants of Allah, a pandemic has spread throughout our world. It knows no borders, does not ask permission to enter, cannot be controlled by any person's authority and cannot be restrained by any barrier. It is a pandemic that has made manifest display of how feeble and short-sighted humans actually are. It does not respect anyone's riches or lack of means. The army of Abraha was decimated by birds and Namrut perished because of mosquitos. The current pandemic has taken hundreds of thousands of lives and kept people confined in their places. It has cut-off certain relationships, closed borders of nations, caused states of emergency to be declared and halted travel, such that planes have been left grounded on their runways and trains have been left parked in their rail yards. All of this has happened due to a miniscule creation of Allah, which cannot be stopped by even the largest and most powerful of nations. People are now terrified by a mere cough or sneeze and everyone is looking for safety. All of this has happened due to a creation of Allah that is too small to be seen by the naked human eye. It has come to awaken people from their heedlessness, exposed their feebleness and show that Allah is unique, omnipotent, almighty and most majestic, such that none has the right to be worshipped except Him.

The current pandemic stopped our world and did not just slow it down. It paralysed the limbs that support entire nations. When faced by its threat, the strong have become fearful, countries have become unsettled and the platforms of the world have been shaken.

Through it all, nothing has been as great, as strong or more invincible than Allah, the one who can never be overpowered. The pandemic has altered the circumstances of countries, societies, families and individuals. It has changed plans of all sorts. It has closed schools, universities, places of worship, shops, marketplaces and sport venues. It has shaken the economy of our entire world, such that some of the humblest have been empowered and some of the most powerful have been humbled. It has written stories of death, induced periods of mourning and cancelled occasions of happiness. These are among the realities, trials and effects of this pandemic. Nonetheless, Allah always remains greater than everything else. He is the only one who has complete invincibility. He promised success in the Hereafter to those who worship Him in the best way and that is an immense glad tiding from the one who never goes back on His promise.

My dear brothers, there are many lessons we must learn from the circumstances brought about by this pandemic. Servants of Allah, those are lessons that pertain to trials. So long as trials are faced with perseverance, they strengthen the heart, wipe away sins, do away with conceit, eliminate arrogance, melt away heedlessness, revive mindfulness, prompt supplications from the righteous, awaken those who became complacent about things in this world, make hearts soft and induce surrender to Allah.

My dear brothers, during adversities people have to review their relationship with their Lord, how true they are to Him, how genuine their trust in Him is and how strong their attachment is to Him, instead of others besides Him. A Hadith (saying of the Prophet) states: "Any male or female who has complete Iman (belief) will continue to be tested considering their own selves, their offspring and their property. That would continue until they meet Allah without having any sins." Al-Hafiz ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy upon him, commented that, if Allah did not treat His servants' ailments with the medicines of hardships and trials, they would persist in transgression and oppression. Allah deserves that His greatness be affirmed, as He instructed us to do, and He deserves all praise throughout all circumstances.

Dear Muslims, among the lessons to be learned from this pandemic, are remaining devoted to Allah and worship and standing before Him in the best way. Al-Imam Masruq ibn al-Ajda', one of the leading prominent scholars among the Taba'een (followers), may Allah have mercy upon him, remained in his home during a plague that occurred in his time and he stated: "These are days in which people will end up preoccupied with others;

thus it is more beloved to me that I remain in solitude for the purpose of worship.” Even more truthful and profound, is the statement of our Prophet, may Allah grant him commendation and protection: “Worship during strife is like migrating to me.” Therefore, servants of Allah, you must endeavour to migrate to Allah and His messenger. You must endeavour to migrate to Allah and to His messenger with your heart and with your worship of Allah. Affirm you Lord's perfection, praise Him, pray to Him, give charity, fast, perform other righteous deeds and stay in your homes during this time. Keep yourself safe and keep others safe too. When a servant of Allah deals in the correct way with the evidences of Allah that are a cause for fear, that person's reward would grow, his heart would be at peace and his Iman (belief) would increase.

Allah is the greatest. His inconspicuous blessings are greater than the apparent ones. Our sins He conceals are much more than what He exposes and what He forgives is far greater than what He does not.

Dear Muslims, another lesson is the issue of social distancing, which in fact has been an important form of bringing certain people closer to each other and this is something for which we praise Allah. It has allowed for a short gathering between loved ones, with our fathers, mothers, spouses, children, brothers and sisters. In general, they are in circumstances such that they have not been expelled from their homelands, they do not live in camps, they do not lack any nutritional necessities and, for the most part, you find yourselves in a general state of health and wellbeing. Current circumstances have brought about togetherness between family members and strengthened the human interpersonal relationships, which may have degraded due to people desiring to travel, being away to attend social functions or focusing on their own cravings and material appetites. Now, stores are all closed and family members can spend their days in the comfort and warmth of their own homes. They now eat at home, study at home and pray at home. Relationships have grown and care is more prominent between them. They have learned how to shop remotely and continue their education remotely. In fact, they even raise legal matters to courts remotely and their issues, whether private or public in nature, are handled remotely. People's recreation is now remote and they even make their major decisions remotely as well. What used to require days or weeks, is now done in hours or minutes. Families have learned how to preserve many of their resources, depend on what is at home and do work for themselves. Special occasions have now been held without halls, fancy venues or wasting time and money. There have been total transformations in

how families handle spending, utilise social media, look after each other in positive ways and balance between necessities and non-essentials. Beyond that, all people have become acutely aware of what it really means to have the blessings of safety, health, time, freedom of movement and freedom to gather. Perceptive individuals have grasped the fact that, limiting oneself to the necessities and being self-reliant, are among the greatest means of overcoming many of life's unforeseen changes.

Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. None has the right to be worshipped except Him. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest and all praise belongs to Him.

My dear brothers, a further lesson from the exceptional circumstances of this pandemic is that we hear the Adhan (the call to prayer) now containing the phrase "Sallu fi rehalicum" or "Sallu fi buyuticum" (pray in your homes). However, the same one who gave the instruction for the call to have the phrases "Hayya alas salah" (come to prayer) and "Hayya alal falah" (come to success), is the same one who gave the instruction for the phrase to change during times that are out of the ordinary. The phrase "pray in your homes" at this time unmistakably underscores the importance of human life and represents the rights humans have in Islam. Congregation has been halted for the five daily prayers and the weekly Friday prayer, even though those prayers are among the most important of Islam's acts of worship. This has been done to preserve people's health and it is part of the mercy and the directives that our Lord has prescribed for humans. What mercy could be greater than our religion containing the directive to pray at home, leaving all Friday prayer and congregational prayers for the purpose of preserving people's health. Allah is indeed greater than all else. The major element and cornerstone in Islam is the human being and that includes preserving his life and health. Allah is indeed greater than all else. All things yield to His majesty and He is the one whose decrees take effect according to His wisdom.

Dear Muslims, another lesson to be learned from this miniscule creation of Allah that has led to the state we are in, is that it has exposed the reality of the extreme materialist mentality, which gives no importance to a human beyond him being a slave who turns the wheels of the economy and moves the tools of manufacturing. It is a mentality that looks after a person's health, so that he can stay strong enough to keep turning those wheels and moving those tools, but when he himself needs something from it, for his own health, it leaves him abandoned. The real problem does not lie in epidemics or wars at different

eras. The real problem lies in people's ethics, principles and genuine preservation of rights, with justice, honesty and mercy. The materialist mentality leaves the elderly, weak and ill to themselves. As for the teachings of our religion, the Prophet, may Allah grant him commendation and protection, said: "Are you granted assistance and provision due to anything besides the weak ones among you?" The current pandemic has also shown that some nations chose to decisively put precautions in place and, by Allah's permission, they preserve people's lives and dealt fittingly with the universal laws decreed by Allah. In contrast, there have been other nations that chose to do otherwise and the pandemic ended up doing to them what it has done. Allah deserves that His greatness be proclaimed at all times.

My dearly beloved audience, our blessed nation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has made historic decisions and put in place an insightful vision in order to make the health of all upon its soil, both citizens and residents, a top priority. That is done with balance in matters of religion and deep consideration of human values. Consequently, all parts of the nation's government and its human resources have been harnessed around-the-clock. Assistance has been sought from Allah, first and foremost, and then from our nation's manpower and abilities. It has been sought to prepare for all possibilities. By Allah's grace and favour, He has blessed our nation with wisdom and sound judgment. Due to that, it has taken all possible precautions, made all means of treatment available and done all it can, given present circumstances, to ensure people's comfort, safety and dignity. This has been done for all, without exception. In addition, at the current time, I would like to extend a word of appreciation, acknowledgement and gratitude to all security personnel, health personnel, social service personnel, scholars of Islam, teachers of Islam and all who assist the aforementioned and pray for them. The foregoing are people who live to serve our society under the auspices of our blessed nation's government and in line with its directives. We also acknowledge all the outstanding services that have been provided by the official bodies in charge of all those related to medical treatment and availability of food. Allah is certainly the greatest. He is greater than all else.

My dear brothers in Islam, something which stands out amidst the many lessons to be learned is the issue of complying with the directives of the leader in authority, as well as the effects that has in terms of people being pleased, being at piece and having stability. The aforementioned has allowed for our blessed nation to effectively implement momentous initiatives and care for all who reside within it. It has also allowed for

philanthropists to contribute in ways that relate to each of them, whether by way of finances, accommodation, health facilities and others. All of these have been facilitated under official governmental regulations, as brilliantly shining instances of generosity and giving, as well as the government's unflinching support for serving people. Thus, I say to all of you, this Eid (festival) of yours is a time you can enjoy and at which you should feel much happiness due to having Allah's blessings.

Allah is the greatest. He is the greatest at all times and He deserves His greatness to be proclaimed at all times.

Servants of Allah, success and salvation during this time of difficulty come from maintaining a proper approach to elements of dealing with trials. Some of those elements have to do with our relationship with Allah, including being pleased with Him, patiently persevering for Him, placing full trust in Him, always returning back to Him, keeping ourselves attached to Him and remaining constant in obeying Him. Those are the people who, when afflicted with adversity, say: "We all most-certainly belong to Allah and to Him alone we will all most-certainly return." They are the ones whom their Lord will commend and grant mercy and they are the ones who are soundly guided. Other elements include taking heed of directives issued and co-operating with officials. Doing those, leads a Muslim to operate responsibly regarding his awareness, conduct, compliance of regulations, avoidance of rumours and respecting the government's procedures and decisions. By Allah's permission, difficulties will pass, but what state will we be in afterwards? The person who will be saved, is the one who comprehends the message, hastens to repent and reorganises his life and priorities correctly. The person who will be saved is the one who understands that safety does not lie in hoarding wealth or climbing in status. True safety comes from pleasing Allah, having a sound ending and preparing for departure from this world. This pandemic came to nurture people and fix the unsound practices they have. When trials continue coming, each one eventually passes and most of them are for refining, not punishing. Allah told His messenger: "Would you go as far as ruining yourself a grief over the fact that people do not accept your message? If We wanted, We could send down to them from the heavens a sign to which their necks would remain lowered in humility." May Allah enable all of us to benefit from the guidance of His book and the Sunnah (practices) of His Prophet. I say this much, I implore Allah to forgive all the sins that have emanated from myself and you.

Allah is the greatest. None has the right to be worshipped except Him. Allah is the greatest and to Him alone belongs all praise. Allah is greater than everything else. He deserves plentiful praise and He deserves His perfection be affirmed at all times of the day. May Allah grant an abundance of His commendation, protection and blessings to His worshipping servant and messenger, our Prophet Muhammad, as well as to the Prophet's family and companions.

All praise is due to Allah. He is the greatest. His generosity is endless and His bounty cannot be depleted. To Allah alone belongs all praise. Every prayer, bowing and prostration a servant performs are to be directed to Allah alone. He is the one to whom we devote our fast, our breaking of the fast and our Eid. I praise Allah, as He is perfect in every way and I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah alone and I bear witness that our leader and Prophet Muhammad is Allah's worshipping servant and messenger. May Allah grant continuous commendation, protection and blessings from Himself to His messenger, His messenger's family, His messenger's companions and all who continue following their path until the Day of Resurrection. Allah deserves for His greatness to be proclaimed each time the blessed month of Ramadan concludes and the day of Eid dawns. Allah deserves praise and He deserves for His greatness to be proclaimed, since He will honour those whose deeds He accepts by being pleased with them and drawing them nearer to Him.

Servants of Allah, the state of humans is quite remarkable. Something we have learned, from the current time of trial, is that the thing people hoped for most is to return to life the way it used to be. When they had that life, they were heedless about how beautiful it was and how much they actually had. They have not understood the meaning of the Hadith (saying of the Prophet) that states: "If anyone of you reaches the morning with his family and dwelling safe, with his health intact and possessing his provision for that day, it is as though everything in the world was gathered and given to him." Al-Hafiz ibn Rajab, may Allah have mercy upon him, commented that, one of the subtle aspects of the wisdom behind combining relief with adversity and ease with difficulty, is that when an adversity becomes so intense that a person reaches the point of despairing that it will be removed by people, the person's heart would become attached to Allah alone. This is precisely the essence of placing full trust in Allah and doing that is among the most effective means to having one's needs fulfilled.

Servants of Allah, preserve yourselves and your time. Seek Allah's forgiveness for your sins. Affirm your Lord's perfection and praise Him in the early and latter parts of the day. Avoid overdoing, conveying statements here and there or preoccupying yourself with scrolling through multitudes of tweets, since life goes to waste when used-up on such things and their benefit is relatively little. Present circumstances have made people's true colours show. Some have genuine trust in Allah, while others are merely complacent or lazy. Some are hopeful, while others remain pessimistic. You have come to know the true worth of health and wellbeing, as well as the true worth of your nation, those at its helm, its security personnel, its health personnel and all the amenities it contains.

My dear brothers, I beseech Allah to grant you His mercy. Continue to knock at His door, since He is the supreme sovereign and the bestower of mercy. Maintain your hope that He will remove this trial. Make your cries to Him with sincere devotion and supplication. Your Lord hears your supplications and knows your intentions. By Allah's favour, hardships in this world do not last for very long, let alone forever.

Oh Allah, we implore you to remove what has left us constricted and weak. Place us among those whom you grant your protection, care, love and blessings. Oh Allah, we earnestly seek refuge with you from the distress of adversity, being overtaken by misery, evil resulting from pre-ordained matters and the spite of enemies. Oh Allah, by your mercy and grace, we implore you to protect us from the evils of all disasters, avert this pandemic and save us from trials. Oh Allah, grant your relief to us, to our nation, to the lands of our Muslim brothers and to our world at large. Oh Allah, forgive our sins, conceal our faults, alleviate our difficulties, relieve our afflicted, cure our ailing and have mercy upon our deceased. Oh Allah, we earnestly beseech you for kindness in all that you have decreed and assistance concerning all that you have put into effect, since you are the one who suffices those who hope in you and protects those who relegate all matters to you. Oh Allah, we implore you to remove from us all complaints, avert from us all hardships, accept from us every call we raise to you, bestow upon us the garments of obedience to you and make Jannah (paradise) our abode in the Hereafter. Oh Allah, we have brothers who have been unable to be here with us today. Oh Allah, we have brothers in many places, all of whom have been held back from attending here with us today. Oh Allah, we beseech you to grant all of them acceptance and to reward them in light of the current circumstances and in terms of what has held them back. Oh Allah, we beseech you to make this day one

of many blessings for us and we beseech you to let it find us again, many times again in the future.

Dear Muslims, you should rejoice with this Eid (festival) of yours. I pray that it is a time of many blessings and that Allah accepts your acts of obedience. Remember to smile, be happy and spread happiness among yourselves, your families and your Muslim brothers. Eid is an occasion of delight for those who put smiles on the faces of the needy and bring joy to the ailing and suffering.

Dear Muslims, Eid is also a priceless opportunity for people to purify their hearts towards one another and rectify things between themselves. It is a time to wash away the grime of spite, malice and stored-up enmity.

Furthermore, social media and the groups created by relatives, friends and people of shared interests provide an effective platform for spreading kind words, circulating beneficial statements, making others happy, kindly asking how others are doing and expressing joy to each other in ways that are permissible.

Eid is a time of delight and enjoyment for people whose souls are pure, whose intentions are sincere, whose conduct with others is good and whose words to others are soft and kind. You can find happiness from Eid in pleasing your fathers, pleasing your mothers, loving your brothers, loving your sisters, maintaining ties of kinship, feeding the needy, clothing the unclothed, making the afraid feel safe, removing injustice, caring for orphans and assisting the ill. Doing good for others is a means to being protected against an ill outcome. Seek happiness during Eid by pleasing your Lord and desisting from your sins.

In addition, among the manifestations of worshiping Allah in the best way after Ramadan, is for an individual to continue in steadfastly obeying Allah and following one righteous deed with another. Your Prophet Muhammad, may Allah grant him commendation and protection, encouraged you to follow fasting in Ramadan by fasting six days in Shawwal. When a person does that, it merits the reward of having fasted for the entire year.

I implore Allah to accept all of our fasting, prayers and righteous deeds. Allah deserves His greatness to be proclaimed as profusely, as all of the blessings and favours He has so graciously granted us.

In conclusion, remember the instruction that Allah gave to us when He said: "Indeed Allah grants His commendation to the Prophet and the angels invoke Allah to grant him even further commendation. People of Iman (belief), invoke Allah to grant the Prophet commendation and to grant him protection as well." Oh Allah, grant your commendation to your Prophet and we implore you to be pleased with his four rightly guided successors, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali. Oh Allah, we implore you to be pleased with them, with the rest of the Prophet's companions and with all who continue following their path.

Oh Allah, we beseech you to grant strength to Islam and those who submit to you in Islam. Oh Allah, we implore you to defeat the enemies of your religion and those who spread corruption and those who oppose you. Oh Allah, we implore you to grant us safety in our nations and we ask you to make our leaders and authorities, individuals who are righteous. Oh Allah, make them people who seek to obey you. Oh Allah, we ask you to grant your guidance to our leader, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. We ask you to grant him and his Deputy your direction. Grant them direction to all that pleases you. Oh Allah, we implore you to grant our leader guidance to all that will be best for your servants and their lands. Oh Allah, we implore you to grant your guidance to all leaders of Muslims, such that they comply with the guidance in your book and the Sunnah (practices) of your messenger. Oh Allah, unite them upon sound guidance and the truth. Oh Allah, we implore you to exact retribution from the Zionist occupiers in Palestine. Oh Allah, we implore you to grant us your protection from their harms. Oh Allah, we beseech you to grant your reward and support to our security personnel in all areas. Oh Allah, we implore you to avert from us this pandemic. We implore you to avert from us all ills, epidemics and disasters. Oh Allah, we implore you to avert from us all forms of immorality and harm. Oh Allah, we ask that for ourselves and for all lands of those who submit to you in Islam. Our Lord, grant us goodness in the Hereafter and protect us from the torment of the Hellfire. And the last of our prayers, all praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all creation.

Allah is the greatest. None has the right to be worshipped except Him. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest and all praise belongs to Him. He is perfect in every way and we implore Him to grant commendation and protection to our Prophet Muhammad, as well as to the Prophet's companions and family.