

Eid-ul-Adha

Alhumdolillah, Allah the Almighty has given us the opportunity to celebrate this Eid-ul-Adha.

Eid-ul-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice) is a festival which comes about ten weeks after Eid-ul-Fitr, and marks the completion of Hajj (Holy pilgrimage to Mecca). It is the festival of Sacrifice that commemorates the obedience of Hazrat Ibrahim (as) and his son Hazrat Ismail (as) to the commandment of Allah. Hazrat Ibrahim (as) had a series of dreams in which he saw himself sacrificing his eldest son Hazrat Ismail (as). He inferred that it was perhaps the Will of God that he should sacrifice the life of his son. Hazrat Ibrahim (as), being most obedient to God, was about to sacrifice the life of his son Hazrat Ismail (as), when God commanded him to stop and gave him the good news that he had indeed fulfilled His command. God was so pleased with Hazrat Ibrahim (as) because of his obedience that He multiplied his progeny and was also given the great honour of being the forefather of the Holy Prophet of Islam (sa). On the day of Eid those Muslims who can afford to sacrifice an animal are enjoined to do so after Eid Prayer.

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, it is reported that the Holy Prophet (sa) preferred not to eat anything until he slaughtered his own animal for sacrifice. With the meat of that sacrifice, he would have the first meal of the day, but to eat before that is not forbidden.

Hazrat Abdullah (ra) narrated from his father, Buraidah (ra), that the Holy Prophet (sa) would not go for Eid-ul-Fitr without eating, and on the day of Eid-ul-Adha, he would not eat until he had offered the Eid prayer.

(Sunan at-Tirmidhi, Abwab al-Eidain, Hadith 542)



Perfume is worn by men and women alike, as it was the practice of the Holy Prophet (sa) to wear perfume on such occasions.

It should be noted that the sermon for Friday Prayer precedes the Prayer, whereas on Eid the sermon follows the Prayer.

After the two Rak'at of Eid Prayer, the Imam and the congregation recite the following words of glorification of God in an audible voice:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَ لِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

Allaho Akbar, Allaho Akbar, la illaha illalaho, wa Allaho Akbar, Allaho Akbar wa lillahil hamd.

Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest; there is no God but Allah, and Allah is the Greatest; Allah is the Greatest and all praise belongs to Allah.

This is a takbeer which is recited repeatedly on the way to and from Eid Prayer. It is also recited for three days following Eid after every prayer. This follows a tradition of the Holy Prophet (sa).

Hazrat Ali (ra) and Hazrat Ammar (ra) narrated that the Holy Prophet (sa) used to recite the takbirat from the Fajr prayer of 9 Dhul-Hijjah, to the Asr prayer on 13 Dhul Hijjah.

(Al-Mustadrik lil-Hakim, Book of Eidain, Chapter Takbirat al-Tashreeq)

A different route for going to and coming back from Eid gah

As was the practice of the Holy Prophet (sa) Muslims generally go to the Eid-gah by one route and return by another route. Hazrat Jabir (ra) bin Abdullah relates,

“On the day of Eid, the Holy Prophet (sa) used to return [after offering the Eid prayer] using a different route from that which he went by.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab al-Eidain)



How is Eid prayer offered?

In the first rakat of Eid-ul-Fitr, there are 7 takbirat [Allahu Akbar]. One should raise one's hands up to the ears and then bring them down by one's side each time.

On the second rakat, instead of 7, the imam says 5 takbirat and then completes the second rakat as mentioned above. After the prayers, the Imam then delivers the Eid sermon.

If someone joins the second rak'ah of Eid prayer, then according to the Jurists, the muqtadi should complete their rak'ah after the salaam of the Imam and also perform the takbirat.

For this, they provide the following reference:

“Offer the part of the prayer that you could with the Imam and complete the remaining part later.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab al-Azan)

Is it obligatory to offer Eid prayer?

The Eid prayer is (Sunnat-e-Mu'akidah) a practice that the Prophet (sa) told us to follow. Everyone should come for Eid prayer. Even women having their period should also come to the mosque, but they should not take part in the prayer and sit outside the mosque and instead, occupy themselves in the remembrance of Allah.



No supererogatory prayers before and after the Eid prayers

Hazrat Saeedra bin Jubair narrates from Hazrat Ibn Abbas (ra) that the Holy Prophet (sa) went out on the day of Eid and offered two rak'aat, and no prayer was offered before or after them.

(Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab al-Eidain, Hadith 989)

Eid-ul-Adha is an occasion on which Muslims everywhere are encouraged to make every kind of sacrifice for the spiritual, moral, social, and economic uplift of mankind and especially their own. If we make it a common cause and strive to manifest in ourselves the attributes of God in accordance with the teachings and guidance of the Holy Quran and teachings of the Holy Prophet (sa) then, indeed, the message of Eid-ul-Adha would have borne fruit.

Highlighting the importance and spirit of Eid, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V (aba) after reciting Sura Al-Hajj 22:38 states:

“ ...if the essence of sacrifice is not borne in mind during this practice, then these sacrifices are worthless. God is not desirous of the blood of animals, nor is He in need of this sacrifice. If anyone is bereft of Taqwa [righteousness], even if hundreds of thousands of animals are sacrificed, God’s pleasure cannot be won.”

(Eid-ul-Adha 12 Aug 2019)

