

EID-UL-ADHA

The Night Preceding to “Eid-ul-Adha”

The night Preceding to Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr is described in the Hadith as amongst the great and sacred nights of the Islamic calendar. To remain awakened on these nights and to worship Allah is a source of great virtue and reward. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said: *“Paradise is waajib for those who stay awake with the intention of performing ibaadah on the following nights: 8th, 9th, 10th of Zul Hijjah, the night of Eid-ul-Fitr and the night of the 15th of Shabaan”*. Therefore this blessed night should not be passed by in idleness. Instead full advantage should be taken of this blessed night by engaging in seeking forgiveness of sins, reciting the Qur’aan offering Nafl Salaah, Zikr etc.

The Day of Eid-ul-Adha

Eid-ul-Adha, also known as the Day of Sacrifice (Qurbani) is celebrated annually on 10th Zul-Hijjah. The Prophet (S.A.W) said: *“The Greatest Day of Hajj is the Day of Sacrifice”*. This is because this day combines many acts of worship, the like of which is not possible on any other days, such as Eid Prayer, Sacrifice, reciting the Takbeer and widespread Zikr of Allah. And for the pilgrims it includes offering Sacrifice, stoning at the Jamarat, shaving the head and performing Tawaf and Sae. Both Eids are alike except for the fact that Eid-ul-Fitr is characterised by Sadaqat-ul-Fitr which is paid to the poor and needy and Eid-ul-Adha is characterised by Sacrifice. The annual sacrifice is made by pilgrims and non-pilgrims alike in commemoration of the historic sacrifice made by Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) of his son Prophet Ismail (A.S). Thus Eid-ul-Adha is an important occasion which helps illustrate a Muslim’s submission to Allah and his commitment to make any sacrifices in His path. Like the two Eid days, it is forbidden to fast on the three days following Eid-ul-Adha known as Ayyam Al-Tashriq as the Prophet (S.A.W) said: *“The day of Fitr, the day of Sacrifice & the Days of Tashriq are days of Eid for us Muslims and they are days of eating and drinking”*.

Takbeerut-Tashreek

It is compulsory (waajib) for every adult male Muslim to recite Takbeer loudly after every obligatory Salaat from the Fajar of 9th of Zul Hijjah up to the Asar prayer of 13th of Zul Hijjah. Whether the salaat is performed with Jamaat (collectively) or individually Takbeer must be recited. For women however, it is commendable though not obligatory. Men should recite the Takbeer in a loud voice whilst women should recite the Takbeer in a low voice in the following words:

*Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar, Laailaaha Illallahu
Wallahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar Wa lillahil Hamd.*



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

Translation: Allah is Great Allah is Great, There is no god but Allah and Allah is Great, Allah is Great and to Him belongs all Praise.

THE SUNNATS OF EID-UL-ADHA

1. To awaken earlier than usual.
2. To brush the teeth with miswaak.
3. To have a bath (ghusl).
4. To adorn oneself in one's best clothes (not necessarily new). Note: care should be taken that one does not transgress the Islamic limits of modesty on such clothes.
5. To apply Itr (perfume).
6. Not to eat anything before Eid-ul-Adha prayer.
7. To perform Eid prayers at the Eidgah (an open space).
8. To go to the place of Eid prayer early.
9. To walk to the place of Eid prayer (if it is within walking distance).
10. To use different routes to and from the place of Eid prayer.
11. To frequently recite the Takbeer loudly on the way to the place of Eid prayer.
12. To read two rakaats waajib (obligatory) Eid prayers without any Azaan or Iqamah.
13. To greet one another on Eid day.

REFRAIN FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- Do not perform any Nafil Salaat before or after the Eid prayer until the time of zawaal has elapsed in the Masjid or at the Eidgah.
- The concept of visiting a deceased person's family on the occasion of the 'First-Eid' is totally un-islamic.
- "Eid cards" are an imitation of "Christmas cards" so it must be avoided.
- It is totally prohibited (haraam) to walk around, talk or even read salaah whilst the khutba is in progress.

EID CARDS

Sending Eid cards to friends and relatives is a custom which is widely observed by the Muslim community of today. According to the Shariah, the custom of Eid cards is a practice which cannot be condoned permissible. Eid cards are an imitation of Christmas cards and Muslims have taken this practice from the Christians. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) has said: "*Whoever imitates a nation becomes one of them*". This is a stern warning by our beloved Prophet (S.A.W) so we must therefore refrain from following any such practices of the non-believers.

EID PRAYER

The Eid Prayer expresses thanks to Almighty Allah who gave Muslims courage to fulfill His orders and commands. Hence we are specifically told to glorify His name with takbeer. Muslims of all races, cultures and social status attend this prayer, thus demonstrating the unity and solidarity of the community. There is no Azaan or Iqamah given for the Eid prayer and there are no voluntary prayers said before or after the Eid prayer. There are two rakaats for Eid prayer with additional takbeers made in both rakaats. Unlike the Friday Prayer, it is sunnah to deliver the sermon (Khutbah) after the Eid Prayers. The Sermon usually emphasizes the need for continued charity, self-control and sacrifice and supplications are made for the welfare of Muslims.

HOW TO PERFORM EID PRAYER

Eid Prayer is waajib i.e obligatory and consists of two rakaats with six takbeers in congregation of Muslims lead by the Imam followed by the Khutba of Eid.

At first, one should make the intention in the heart or utter with his tongue that he intends to perform waajib Eid prayer with 6 extra takbeers behind the Imam. Saying Allahu-Akbar he should then fold his hands to recite Thanaa. Then the three Takbeers will be called out by the Imam. During the first two takbeers raise both hands up to the ears, saying Allahu-Akbar and drop them. After the third takbeer, saying Allahu-Akbar the hands should be folded in front. Now, Surah Fatiha and an accompanying Surah will be recited by the Imam and the rakaat will be completed like any other Salaat.

In the second rakaat the Imam will first recite Surah Fatiha and a Surah, then call out four takbeers. During the first three Takbeers raise both hands up to the ears, saying Allahu-Akbar and drop them. And after the fourth Takbeer, saying Allahu-Akbar the ruku will be performed without raising the hands up to the ears and the rest of the rakaat will be completed as usual. After the Eid prayer the Imam recites Khutba and the followers must lend their ears to it attentively. It is waajib to listen to the Khutba after the Eid Prayer.

Please Note:

While Islam has declared these occasions as days of happiness and joy, it regulates our activities to make sure that we do not transgress the boundaries of Shariah. Islam emphasizes that while celebrating these events, Muslims should not forget to revive the spirit of the historical significance attached to them. Celebrating Eid according to the way of our Holy Prophet (S.A.W) is living up to Islam and consequently a source of blessing and happiness.