

# **EID-UL-FITR**

## **The Night Preceding to “Eid-ul-Fitr”**

It has been the practice of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) that he would not sleep in the night preceding the day of Eid-ul-Fitr. This night has been named in Hadith as “Laylatul Jaa’izah” (The night of Reward). 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-Fitr**

Eid-ul-Fitr is the first day of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic month of Shawaal. On this significant day Allah showers His blessings and forgiveness on His servants who have fasted during the blessed month of Ramadhan. Eid is a day of happiness, celebration and gratitude to Allah after the performance of duties assigned by Him. The two annual Muslim festivals are Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha. They follow the completion of two of the greatest pillars of Islam, Hajj and Fasting. On these days, Allah forgives those who observed fasting and performed the pilgrimage therefore he showers His Mercy on all of His obedient servants”. Almighty Allah asks Muslims to complete the days of fasting and at the end of the month to celebrate Eid by giving thanks to Him for giving numerous blessings in Ramadhan.

## **The Reward of Eid-ul-Fitr**

It has been reported that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) has said: *“When the morning of Eid comes, Allah sends His angels to every (piece of) land. The angels descend to the earth and stand on every elevation and cry out in a voice that can be heard by the entire creation besides Man and Jinn, “O’ followers of Muhammad! Leave your houses to (turn to) a merciful Lord, who gives abundantly and forgives great sins”. When they set off for the Eidgah, Allah asks the angles, “What reward is there for a labourer who has completed his duty”. The angels reply “Our Lord! Our Master! his reward should be his receiving payment”. Allah then decrees “O my angles! I make you witness that in lieu of his fasting Ramadhan and standing (in prayer) throughout it, I have fixed My Pleasure and My Forgiveness”. Allah then states, “O my servants! Ask from me. By My Honour and Grandeur! There is nothing that you ask of me in regards to your afterlife that I shall not grant and nothing of (the good of) your worldly life that I shall not allow. By My Honour! I will hide your faults as long as you think of Me. By My Honour! I shall never disgrace you, nor expose you to those who transgress. Return forgiven. You have (strove to) please me and I am pleased”. (Al-Bayhaqi)*

In Islam Eid is also a token of showing our gratitude to Allah. We thank Allah for the numerous blessings bestowed upon us during the blessed month of Ramadhan. Eid-ul-Fitr is also a new day for Muslims to emerge as spiritually clean and refreshed. We inculcate a positive mind to become better Muslims, stronger in our faith and greater in devotion to our Creator and Sustainer Almighty Allah. 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. To celebrate 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.

## THE SUNNATS OF EID-UL-FITR

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. To give Sadaqat-ul-Fitr before leaving for the place of Eid prayer.
7. To eat anything sweet, preferably dates, before going for Eid-ul-Fitr prayer.
8. To perform Eid prayers at the Eidgah (an open space).
9. To go to the place of Eid prayer early.
10. To walk to the place of Eid prayer (if it is within walking distance).
11. To use different routes to and from the place of Eid prayer.
12. To frequently recite the Takbeer softly on the way to the place of Eid prayer.
13. To greet one another on Eid day.

### Takbeer

Upon the way to the place of Eid Prayer softly recite the following Takbeer: "Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Laa ilaaha illallahu Wallahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Wa lillahil Hamd".

The image shows the Takbeer in Arabic calligraphy, enclosed in a red rectangular border. The text is written in blue ink on a white background. The calligraphy is in a clear, bold style, with the words 'الله أكبر' (Allahu Akbar) repeated twice, followed by 'لا إله إلا الله' (La ilaha illa Allah) and 'والله أكبر' (Wa Allahu Akbar), and finally 'و لله الحمد' (Wa lillahil Hamd).

(Translation: Allah is the greatest, He is the greatest.

There is no god except Allah. He is the greatest. All praises and thanks are for Him).

### 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.

## **OPTIONAL 6 FASTS**

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) has said: *“Whoever fasted during Ramadhan and then fasts another six days in Shawwal, he will be rewarded as if he fasted during the whole year”*. One can fast any six days of Shawwal after Eid-ul-Fitr, though it is more preferable to fast them consecutively.