

QURBANI

SIGNIFICANCE OF QURBANI

Qurbani (sacrifice) is a demonstration of total submission to Allah and a proof of complete obedience to Allah's will and command. The actual purpose of Sacrifice for Muslims is to create piety, devotion and a desire for obedience and submission to the will of Allah as the Qur'aan says: *"It is neither their flesh nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is your piety that reaches Him"*. The essence of Qurbani is that those who are fortunate enough to be well off should sacrifice and spend part of it on those who are less well off. For those who cannot afford to sacrifice, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) has already carried out their sacrifice; as a ram was brought to our Prophet (S.A.W) after the Eid Khutbah and after slaughtering it with his own hands he said: *"This is on my behalf and on behalf of every one of my Ummah who has not been able to sacrifice"*.

HISTORY OF QURBANI

Qurbani was actually been ordained as an Ibaadah (worship) from the time of Prophet Adam (A.S), however special importance was attached to it to commemorate the unparalleled sacrifice offered by Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) when he, in pursuance to a command of Allah conveyed to him in a dream, prepared himself to slaughter his beloved son, Ismail (A.S) and actually did do – but Almighty Allah after testing the quantum of his submission, sent down a sheep and saved his son from the logical fate of slaughter. This is a unique incident in world history and of great spiritual value, which the Holy Qur'aan mentions: *"And when (his son) was old enough to walk with him, (Prophet Ibrahim A.S) said: 'O my dear son, I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you. Now see what is your view? (The son replied) 'O my father, do that which you are commanded. If Allah wills, you will find me to be amongst those who are patient"*. Consequently after this incident took place it was made Waajib in the Shariah of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) to offer sacrifice of an animal. This has been recognised as a form of worship only during 10th, 11th, 12th of the month of Zul Hijjah.

VIRTUES OF QURBANI

The Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said: *"On the day of Eid-ul-Adha, no other action of the children of Adam, is more liked to Allah other than that of Qurbani. And the animal of Qurbani on the day of Judgment will come with its horns, hoofs and hair (to be weighed) and before the blood of the Qurbani falls on the ground, it reaches the status of the pleasure and acceptance of Allah. Hence, O' servants of Allah perform your Qurbani with happiness"*.

UPON WHOM IS QURBANI WAJIB?

Qurbani is wajib (compulsory) on every muslim who is of sound mind, mature, muqem (not a traveller) and possesses the nisaab amount of 87.48g of gold or 612.36g of silver or wealth equivalent to that value which is in excess of ones basic needs. It is not necessary that this amount be in one's possession for a complete lunar year. It's possession during the 3 days of Qurbani will make Qurbani obligatory. Each adult member of a family who owns the above nisaab amount must perform his Qurbani separately. It is also very highly virtuous for anyone on whom Qurbani is not wajib yet to offer sacrifice for the pleasure of Allah as he will be eligible for all the rewards mentioned in the Hadith.

DAYS AND TIME OF QURBANI

The days of Qurbani are the 10th, 11th and 12th of Zul-Hijjah. It is only in these days that slaughtering of an animal is recognised as an act of worship. Qurbani cannot be performed in any other days of the year. Although Qurbani is permissible in any of the three days aforementioned, however it is preferable to perform it on the first day i.e. the 10th Zul Hijjah. In towns and cities where Jumuah and Eid are performed, Qurbani is not permissible before the Eid Salaah. Therefore the time for Qurbani commences after Eid Salaah on 10th Zul-Hijjah until before the sunset of 12th Zul-Hijjah. The Prophet (S.A.W) has said: *“Whoever sights the crescent moon of Zul-Hijjah and is intending to make a sacrifice should refrain from cutting his bodily hair and cutting his nails”*. This is because the person is making a sacrifice on behalf of his own life. Each part of the sacrificial animal is in lieu of each part of his own body.

THE QURBANI ANIMAL

The animals that may be sacrificed include sheep, goats, bulls, buffaloes, cows and camels. A cow, bull, buffalo and camel will suffice on behalf of 7 people whilst a goat, sheep and ram will only be accepted on behalf of 1 person. It is permissible to eat the Qurbani meat and can also be distributed to relatives and friends whether wealthy or poor to Muslims or non-Muslims. It is better to divide it into 3 parts; one for the family, one for the relatives / friends and one for the poor and needy.

THE SUNNAH METHOD OF QURBANI

It is more preferable for a Muslim to slaughter the animal of his Qurbani with his own hands. However, if he is unable to slaughter the animal himself or does not want to do so for some reason, he can request another person to slaughter it on his behalf. In this case also, it is more preferable that he, at least, be present at the time of slaughter. However if he has authorised another person to slaughter the animal on his behalf then his absence will not render his Qurbani invalid. It is a Sunnah to lay the animal with its face towards the Qiblah and to recite the following verse from the Holy Qur’aan:

اِنِّىْ وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِىْ فَطَرَ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ حَنِیْفًا وَمَا اَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِکِیْنَ

“I, being upright; turn my face towards the One who has created the heavens and the earth and I am not among those who associate partners with Allah” (6:79)

The most essential recitation when slaughtering an animal:

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ

“In the name of Allah, Allah is great”.

If anyone intentionally avoids to recite the above essential dua, when slaughtering an animal, it does not only make his Qurbani unlawful, but also renders the animal haraam and it is not permissible to eat the meat of that animal. However, if a person genuinely forgot to recite the dua, when slaughtering the animal, then this mistake is forgiven and both the Qurbani and the animal will be lawful to eat. If somebody is unable to recite these words in Arabic then he can recite the name of Allah in his own language by saying “In the name of Allah”.