

Eid-ul-Adha

Narrated al-Bara (Allah be pleased with him) that he heard the Prophet (Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) delivering a *khutbah* saying: "The first thing to be done on this day (first day of Eid-ul-Adha) is to pray; and after returning from the prayer we slaughter our sacrifices (in the name of Allah), and whoever does so, he has acted according to our sunnah. (Kitaabul-'Eidayn, Bukhari)

Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated on the 10th through 12th day of *Dhul Hijjah*, the 12th month of the lunar calendar. Many of the rituals related to the *Eid* directly commemorate the sacrifices of Hadrat Ibrâhîm (*alayhis-salaam*) and his family for the sake of Allâh. On the way to the *Eid* prayer, while waiting for it and on the way back from the prayer one should recite the following *takbeer* as much as possible:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Allaahu akbar - Allaahu akbar – Laa ilaaha illallaahu – wal-laahu akbar Allaahu akbar wa lii-laahil-hamd

(Allah is the Greatest; Allah is the Greatest; There is no god except Allah; And Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest and for Allah is all praise.)

It is the tradition of the Prophet (Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) to go to the prayer by one way and return by another. The *takbeer-e-tashreeq* above is also to be recited after every *fard* prayer beginning from the *Fajr* prayer of the 9th to the 'Asr prayer of the 13th of *Dhul Hijjah* (23 times in all). The following actions are also *sunnah* on the day of *Eid*:

- To clean the teeth with *miswaak*;
- To take a bath;
- To adorn oneself and dress in the best clothes that are available and are permitted in *Shari'ah*;
- To use perfume;
- To rise early and go to the prayer grounds early;
- To walk to the prayer grounds if possible and to recite the *takbeer* above;
- Nothing is to be eaten before the prayer of *Eid-ul-Adha*, unlike *Eid-ul-Fitr*.

Procedure of the *Eid* Prayer

Eid-ul-Adha prayer consists of two *raka'ah* in congregation. The procedure of the prayer is as follows:

First, make the *niyyah* for the *Eid salaah*:

نَوَيْتُ أَنْ أُصَلِّيَ رَكْعَتَيْ الْوَأَجِبِ صَلَاةِ عِيدِ الْأَضْحَى مَعَ تَكْبِيرَاتٍ وَأَجَبَةٍ .

Nawaytu an usallee rak'atayil-waajibi salaata 'eidil-adhaa ma'a takbeeraatin waajibatin
(I intend to pray 2 *raka'ah* of *waajib* prayer of *Eid-ul-Adha* with the (extra) *waajib takbeeraat*)

Then the Imam says *Allahu akbar* (and the followers do so after him). Then the hands are folded as in other prayers and the *thana*' is recited:

سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ وَتَبَارَكَ اسْمُكَ وَتَعَالَى جَدُّكَ

وَلَا إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ

Subhaanakal-laahum-ma wa bi hamdika wa tabaarakas-muka wa ta'aalaa jad-duka wa laa ilaaha ghairuk
(O Allah! Glory and Praise are for You, and blessed is Your name, and exalted is Your majesty; and there is no god except You.)

Then *Allahu akbar* is said 3 times, every time raising the hands to the ears and dropping them except the last time when they are folded. Then the Imam recites the *Ta'awwudh* and *Bismillah* quietly and then recites *Surah Fatiba* and another *Surah*. Then *ruku'* and *sujood* are performed as in other prayers. In the second *raka'ah*, the Imam recites *Bismillah* quietly and then *Surah Fatiba* and another *Surah* loudly and then says *Allahu akbar* 3 times, each time raising the hands to the ears and dropping them. Then *Allahu akbar* is said a fourth time and the congregation goes into *ruku'* and finishes the prayer as any other. After the *Eid* prayer is completed, the Imam stands up and gives two *khutbah* in Arabic, sitting between them, as was the practice of the Prophet (Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam).

An alternate method of performing twelve extra *takbeeraat* during the prayer, instead of the six extra that are described above, is also permissible: 7 and then 5 extra *takbeeraat* are performed during the first and second *raka'ah* respectively (*Umdatus-Saalik*, Shafi' *madhhab*).

Selected Traditions from *Sahih-al-Bukhari: The Chapter of the Two Eids.*

• Narrated Aisha (Radhiyallaahu 'anhaa) that Allah's Messenger (Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) said: "There is an *Eid* for every nation and this is our *Eid*."

• Narrated Abdullah bin Umar (Radhiyallaahu 'anhu) that Allah's Messenger (Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) used to offer the prayer of *Eid-ul-Adha* and *Eid-ul-Fitr* and then deliver the *khutbah* after the prayer.



- Narrated Ibn Abbaas (*Radiyallaahu 'anhu*) that the Prophet (*Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam*) said: “No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these (first 10 days of *Dhil Hijjah*).” Then some companions of the Prophet (*Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam*) said, “Not even *jibaaad*!” He replied, “Not even *jibaaad*, except that of a man who does it by putting himself and his property in danger (for Allah’s sake) and does not return with any of those things.”
- Whoever missed the *Eid* prayer should pray two *raka'ah* and similarly the women and those who are at home and in the villages should do so, as is confirmed by the statement of the Prophet (*Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam*): “O Muslims, this is our *Eid*.”



• Narrated 'Urwa on the authority of 'Aisha (*Radiyallaahu 'anhaa*) that on the days of *Minaa* (11th, 12th and 13th of *Dhil Hijjah*) Abu Bakr (*Radiyallaahu 'anhu*) came to her while two girls were beating the tambourine and the Prophet (*Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam*) was lying covered with his clothes. Abu Bakr (*Radiyallaahu 'anhu*) scolded them and the Prophet (*Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam*) uncovered his face and said to Abu Bakr, “Leave them, for these days are the days of *Eid* and the days of *Minaa*.”

Procedure of the Sacrifice

The offering of sacrifice (*udhiyyah* or *qurbaani*) is of very great virtue. The Prophet (*Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam*) is reported to have said that during the days of *Dhil Hijjah* no other thing is dearer to Allah than the *qurbaani* (sacrifice) and during these days this good act is better than all others. Every drop of blood that falls is accepted by Allah before it reaches the ground and for every hair of the sacrificial animal, one virtue is recorded for one who offers the sacrifice! Therefore, *qurbaani* should be done with pleasure and a joyous heart. If anyone has the means, then it is desirable for him to offer sacrifice for the Prophet (*Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam*), his wives and other pious Muslims, and also one’s deceased parents and relatives so that their souls may also benefit by this reward. If a person is able but does not offer *qurbaani* at least for himself, then it will be not only a misfortune but a sin.

The method of performing the *qurbaani* is to lay the animal down on the ground with the head towards the *Ka'bah* and recite the following *du'a*:

إِنِّي وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِي فَطَرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا أَنَا
مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ إِن صَلَوْتِي وَنُسُكِي وَحَيَاتِي وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ۗ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ اللَّهُمَّ مِنْكَ وَلَكَ
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Innee waj-jahtu wajhiya lilladhee fa'aras-samaawaati wal-arda haneefan wa maa ana minal-mushrikeen
Inna salaate wa nusukee wa mahyaaya wa mamaatee lillaahi rabbil-aalameen • Laa shareeka lahu wa bi dhalika umirtu wa ana minal-muslimeen.
Allaahumma minka wa laka Bismillaahi Allaahu akbar

(Verily I divert my attention to the Lord Who has created the heavens and the earth: (I do so) as one by nature upright, and I am not of the idolaters. Truly my prayer, my sacrifice, my life and my death are all for Allah the Lord of the Worlds – He has no partner and thus am I commanded and I am the first of those who surrender to Him. Oh Allah! (This sacrifice is) from You and for You; In the name of Allah. Allah is the Greatest!...)

Then, while reciting *Bismillahi Allahu akbar*, cut the throat of the animal and then recite the following prayer:

اللَّهُمَّ تَقَبَّلْهُ مِنِّي كَمَا تَقَبَّلْتَ مِنْ حَبِيبِكَ مُحَمَّدٍ
وَخَلِيلِكَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَيْهِمَا الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ -

Allaahumma taqabbalhu minnee kamaa taqabbalta min habeebika Muhammadin wa khaleelika Ibraahima 'alayhimas-salaatu was-salaam
(O Allah! Accept this from me as You accepted it from Your beloved Muhammad and Your befriended Ibrahim, peace and blessings be upon them both.)

- It is most undesirable to slaughter an animal with a blunt knife because it is extremely painful for the animal. It is also execrable to remove its skin or to break its bones before the animal is cold.
- The period of sacrifice is on any of the 3 days of *Eid-ul-Adha* but the best time of sacrifice is the first day and then the second.
- Offering of the sacrifice should be done after the prayer, not before.
- The sacrifice is to be performed by anyone who fulfils the requirements of giving *Sadaqatul-Fitr*.
- The sacrifice of goat, sheep, bull, buffalo or camel – whether male or female – is permissible.
- One-third of the sacrificed meat should be given in charity to the poor and the rest is to be consumed by oneself and given as a gift to relatives and friends. However, if less than one-third is given in charity, it will not be a sin.

This is only a very brief account of the do's and don'ts of *qurbaani* and *Eid-ul-Adha*. Please consult your local Imam and/or an authentic book on this subject. A recommended book is *Bahishti Zewar (Heavenly Ornaments)* by Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi.



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