

Eid Al-Adha Ceremony

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Allah Akbar, Allah Akbar, Allah Akbar

Allah is the Greatest, for all the Muslims making pilgrims to the old mosque.

Allah is the Greatest, for all the far and deep valleys they follow, All thanks be to Allah who because of His mercies the good deeds happen, and because of His grace the mercies and blessings come down, and through His guidance targets do materialise. Thanks be to Allah who guided us to this. We wouldn't have been guided if not for His guidance. Thanks be to Allah who completed for us the mercy of Islam, and made this valuable faith inclusive and comprehensive and whole. With this faith He made us the best nation to be brought out to man kind, commending the good and deterring against evil, and believing in Allah.

I testify that there is no God but Allah, the one, the only who Has no associates. He was happy for Islam to be out faith, and with Islam He complemented His grace upon us.

I testify that our master, our leader, and our example and ideal and our beloved Muhammad is the messenger of Allah and His slave. He is guidance for all man kind to righteousness and a leader of all creation to truth. He was sent by His Lord with the true faith bringing good tidings and also as a forewarning; and preaching to Allah with; His consent, and he was sent as a shining light. Through his message Allah made blind eyes see, and deaf ears hear again, and enshrined hearts reopen. And through him people were brought out from darkness to light to the path of Allah. May Allah's peace and prayers be upon him and upon his companions and his followers. Allah says: **{those who believed in him, and honoured him and supported him, and followed the light which was brought down with him, for they are the winners}** 7:157.

Dear Muslims, today is an EAD day, the day of Al-Adha Ead (Feast of the sacrifice). The greater day of hajj (pilgrimage) as Allah and His messenger called this day. The day of the great convention or great assembly when Muslims stand in their Iharm (most basic) outfit detached from all extras before Allah, calling and glorifying Him: “Labbake Allah um Labbake, At Your command Allah, at Your command, No partners are with You, At Your command, All thanks, blessings and possession are to You , No partners are with You”.

This is the second Eid for Muslims. For Muslims have two celebrations or two feasts. When the messenger ppbu came to Al-Madina, he found them to have two days during which they play and mess. He was told that they used to celebrate those two days during the days of ignorance. The messenger ppbu said: {**Allah has replaced those two days for you with two better days, the day of Al-Adha (sacrifice) and the Day of El-Fitr (fast-breaking)**}. Eid El-Fitr comes after the worship of fasting, and the second: Eid Al-Adha comes after the worship of Hajj (pilgrimage). It is like that those two days (Al-Fitr and Al-Adha) are two prizes and a reward from Allah to His slaves for all they did in perfecting the duties of fasting and pilgrimage (Hajj).

The Godly meaning and the human meaning of Eif in Islam

Eids in Islam have two clear meanings. A Godly meaning which is clear through tying it with other worships. For us Muslims an Eid starts with a glorification and a prayer. We Muslims do not chant or call a name of any creature. We only call the name of Allah alone the creator. This is the decoration of Eids. Muslims decorate their Eids through *takbeer* (glorifying Allah): so “decorate your Eid with *takbeer*”. *Takbeer* is allowed at the end of each prayer starting from Fajr prayer on the day of Arafa (yesterday) up until

the Asr prayer of the last of the celebration days (3rd day of Eid). That is a total of 23 prayers at the end of which a Muslim does a takbeer. The Godly meaning of Eid is bound with those meanings of faith.

The human meaning is that the individual is not to forget his brother, or not to feel happiness on his own, and is not to be a selfish person.

The duty of donation or Zakah on Eid El-Fitr

Islam enacted the Fitr donation (zakah) being compulsory for each Muslim, young or old, male or female. It acts as a cleanser the fasting during Ramadan, and provides food for the poor. Through zakah those who would need to ask for assistance, are spared the need to ask. Islam is not that one would eat to the fill of his stomach, and has a laugh that fills his teeth and sleep so sound to the fill of his eyes when he can hear of brothers of his who have nothing to eat. Even if this were allowed at any other time (and it isn't), then it certainly is not acceptable on any day of the days of Eid.

The sacrifice on the Eid of Al-Adha

Islam enacted the sacrifice on Eid Al-Adha (or Eid of sacrifice). It was enacted as a costume of Islam. Some scholars in fact see it as a compulsory duty for the well off Muslims to provide for himself, his family, and his neighbours and loved ones, and also to provide for the poor round him. *Let him not live; this who eats alone.* We must not live alone in a closed circle. We must open up on to the others round us, on to those in need and feed them and donate to them and give gifts to them.

The human meaning is also reflected through giving as a present part of the sacrifice both to Muslims and to non-Muslims. It is permissible to give a present to the non-Muslim as long as they are not in an on going war against Muslims. The messenger ppbu said:

{ Gabriel kept on advising and recommending neighbour to me until I thought the neighbour was about to be included in inheritance }

The greatness of Islam is in the greatness of its men

A non-Muslim studied Islam and became real fond of it. He liked its teachings and he said: “what a great religion if it had some men”. And it is true, we are a nation of over a billion Muslims in the world today, but as the messenger ppbu described us as the foam of flood. We need less numbers but more faithful and not more who are idle. We need the quality not the quantity.

One of the human meanings of Eid is that every Muslim will congratulate his fellow Muslim brother. Eid is to eliminate the gap between brothers, and to end disputes between brothers, and mend fences with others. If people were allowed to dispute and break up on other days (and remember they are not allowed on other days), then this is most definitely not allowed on Eid day. Seek out your relatives, your brothers, your blood relatives, and your neighbours, those who broke up with you, and those who shunned you, and reach those who broke up with you, and give those who stopped giving you, and forgive this who agressed against you. Be kind to this that hurt you. Those are the ultimate morals with which the messenger ppbu was sent.

Eid of sacrifice and redemption

The sacrifice enlivens the memories of the sacrifice of Prophet Abraham and his son Ishmael peace be upon them both. That is the story of the great sacrifice and great redemption. Where are the sacrifices of the youth of the nation of Islam today when compared with the sacrifice of Ishmael when he accepted to be slaughtered in compliance with the ruling of His lord? Ishmael was an example in obeying his father. Our youth today know nothing about sacrifice except the few and far in between.

You fathers, keep alive the custom of your father Abraham. Make sure to give a sacrifice and teach your children to keep it up. Teach them the meaning of sacrifice and make them dislike and deplore selfishness.

Today congratulate each other by saying: “May Allah accept from us and from you”. Exchange visits; establish contact between you for maintaining contact is one of Islam’s targets.