



NIZAMIYE MOSQUE COMPLEX

“Where heart and mind meet”

FRIDAY SERMON – 13 : EID-ul ADHA (FESTIVAL of SACRIFICE)

In Islam, every form of worship or issue bears a special meaning of its own. Feeling this meaning profoundly depends first on a person’s faith and subsequently on his efforts of renewal by making efficient use of willpower against the human tendency to take blessings for granted. Those who can constantly renew themselves with respect to their belief and thoughts can feel everything afresh.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ إِنْ يَشَأْ
يُذْهِبْكُمْ وَيَأْتِ بِخَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ ﴿١٩﴾

As in the Divine command, “Have you not seen that Allah created the heavens and the earth in truth? If He so wills (for the fulfillment of His purpose in creation), He can put you away and bring another generation” (Ibrahim 14:19)

Eid- ul Adha: A Ground for Remembrance and Thankfulness

The days of *Eid* are a magical segment of time when heavenly blessings and bestowals come showering down on the servants of God. What needs to be done in the face of these Divine graces is to overflow with feelings of praise, gratitude, and zeal. Otherwise, it is not correct to take the days of *Eid* only as a time for being merry; each of them is a chance of forgiveness granted as a Divine favor. Then, the wise thing to do is to spend these blessed days in vigilance of the heart and feelings, with their otherworldly depth and metaphysical immensity.

Bediüzzaman also underlines this point in “The Twenty Eighth Gleam”: “... For this reason, the noble Prophet strongly encouraged giving thanks to God and remembering Him on religious festive days so that heedlessness should not prevail or lead to acts forbidden in religion. It is hoped that through thanksgiving and God’s remembrance, the bounty of joy and happiness on these days may be transformed into thankfulness, which in turn may cause that bounty to continue and increase. Giving thanks increases bounty, but heedlessness dispels it.”

As a matter of fact, neither at the time of the noble Prophet nor in the following periods there were no activities—as it happens today—transgressing the lawful frame drawn by religious sources about *Eid*.

That is, in the earlier period of Islam there were no traditions of trips, festivals, fireworks, visiting all relatives and children expecting pocket money from elders, and kissing the hands of elders (as assign of respect) since they did not go against the essential teachings of religion. However, as some nationalities accepted Islam, they tested their own traditions according to the established criteria of religion, and they continued certain traditions that did not contradict those criteria.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS:

- The day of **Eid-ul-Adha** falls on the tenth day in the final (twelfth) month of the Islamic Lunar Calendar; Dhu-al-Hijjah. The day that celebrations fall on is dependent on a legitimate sighting of the moon, following the completion of the annual Holy Pilgrimage of Hajj one of the important **Five Pillars of Islam**.
- The celebration of **Eid-ul-Adha** is to commemorate Prophet Ibrahim’s devotion to Allah SWT and his readiness to sacrifice his son, Ismail. At the very point of sacrifice, Allah SWT replaced Ismail with a ram, which was to be slaughtered in place of his son. This command from Allah SWT was a test of Prophet Ibrahim’s willingness and commitment to obey his Lord’s command, without question. **Therefore, Eid-ul-Adha means the festival of sacrifice.**
- Depending on the country, the celebrations of Eid-ul-Adha can last anywhere between two and four days. The act of **Qurbani** (sacrifice) is carried out following the Eid Salaah (Eid Prayers)
- The sacrificial animal must be a sheep, lamb, goat, cow, bull or a camel; the sheep, lamb or goat consist of one Qurbani share, whereas a bull, cow or camel consist of seven shares per animal. The animal must be in good health and over a certain age in order to be slaughtered, in a “halal” friendly, Islamic way.

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهُ لُحُومَهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤُهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ

- **Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you. (Hajj- 37)**The **Qurbani** meat can then divided into three equal portions per share; one-third is for you and your family, one-third is for friends, and the final third is to be donated to those in need.

What can be done during Eid Days?

As the days of *Eid* are a blessed and bountiful segment of time where deeds are rewarded so generously, every moment of theirs needs to be efficiently spent in friendly love, brotherhood, sisterhood, and acts of goodness. For example;

1. *the welcoming atmosphere of Eid which embraces everyone can be taken as a chance for eliminating bitter feelings,*
2. *organizing activities to bring people closer,*
3. *visiting the elderly and win their hearts,*
4. *making children happy with good words and gifts,*
5. *and also for building bridges of dialogue with non-Muslims in a peaceful atmosphere and break the ice.*

Undoubtedly, respect toward faith, religion, and the truth the Messenger of God stands for has a separate place and significance. On the other hand, honored with the best pattern of creation, being human has dignity in its essence and deserves to be respected.



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