

Eid ul-Adha from A to Z (part 3 of 3)

Description: Muslims celebrate two festivals: *Eid ul-Fitr* and *Eid ul-Adha*. These lessons will cover everything you need to know about *Eid ul-Adha* to make it a part of your life and please Allah.

By Imam Mufti (© 2013 NewMuslims.com)

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Objectives:

- To learn two methods of offering the *Eid* prayer.
- To learn greetings exchanged on *Eid* and their proper response.
- To understand seven vital pieces of advice for a 'Happy Eid'.

Arabic Terms:

- *Allahu Akbar* - Allah is the Greatest.
- *Eid* - festival or celebration. Muslims celebrate two major religious holidays, known as *Eid-ul-Fitr* (which takes place after Ramadan) and *Eid-ul-Adha* (which occurs at the time of the *Hajj*).
- *Eid Mubarak* - *Eid* greeting that means 'Blessed *Eid*.'
- *Eid Saeed* - *Eid* greeting that means 'Happy *Eid*.'
- *Fatihah* - the opening chapter of the Quran that is recited in every *rakah* of prayer.
- *Imam* - someone who leads the prayer.
- *Rakah* - unit of prayer.
- *Ruku'* - the bowing position in prayer.
- *Salat ul-Eid* - two units of ritual prayer offered on *Eid*.
- *Takbir* - uttering "Allahu Akbar".
- *Takbiratul-Ihram* - saying 'Allahu Akbar' that commences the prayer.
- *Udhiyyah* - the sacrificial animal.
- *Wajib* - obligatory.

Procedure for The *Eid* Prayer (*Salat ul-Eid*)

The *Eid* Prayer is required (*wajib*). It consists of two *rakahs*, with extra *takbirs* (saying 'Allahu Akbar'). The wisdom behind the *Eid* prayers, like the *Eid* days themselves, is to thank Allah for His countless blessings. The *imam* will pray in one of two ways. He will explain how he is praying before the beginning of the prayer:



METHOD 1

In the first *rakah* of the *Eid* prayer, the *imam* will offer 3 additional *takbirs* after the *Takbiratul-Ihram* and opening supplication but before reciting the *Fatihah*. Raise your hands with each *takbir*, as one does for *Takbiratul-Ihram*. After each *takbir*, let the hands rest at the sides. Place hands together after the third and final *takbir*. After this, the rest of the *rakah* is the same.

In the second *rakah* of the *Eid* prayer the *imam* will recite the *Fatihah* and some portion of the Quran. He will then say 3 additional *takbirs*. They are like the first *rakah's* *takbirs*, except that you leave your hands to your sides after the third *takbir*. After these three *takbirs* have been called and completed, one says the *takbir* for going into *ruku*, without raising one's hands.

METHOD 2

Like any prayer, the prayer begins with *Takbiratul-Ihram* followed by the opening supplication. It is followed by 7 *takbeers* in the first *rakah* and 5 additional *takbeers* in the second *rakah*. Rest of the prayer is like any other prayer.

Greetings Exchanged On *Eid ul-Adha*

Not knowing the greetings flying around during *Eid* can be an uncomfortable experience. Not exchanging any greeting is perfectly acceptable in Islam, but socially awkward. Therefore, knowing what are the greetings and their appropriate response will help you with social acceptance.

People from India and Pakistan congratulate one another by saying "*Eid Mubarak*" (Blessed *Eid*).

Arabs tend to say "*Eid Saeed*" (Happy *Eid*) or '*kullu 'aam wa antum bi-khair*' (may each year bring you good health).

The Companions of Prophet Muhammad used to say, '*taqabalallahu minna wa minkum*' (May Allah accept it from us and from you).

They are all fine. Simply respond by repeating the same greeting back! It will be fine if

you smile or ask for help in repeating back the words.

Advice for *Eid ul-Adha*

1. Take the day of *Eid* off from work or school. If you cannot, please make arrangements for time off for at least the *Eid* prayer.
2. Make arrangements for the sacrificial animal ahead of time. You can go with local Muslims to a ranch or a slaughter house. It will be an experience you will not forget! You may want to slaughter the animal yourself or you can have a fellow Muslim do it for you. You can also send money to an Islamic charity to do it on your behalf and they will distribute the meat to the poor. For millions of Muslims it is the only time in the year they get to eat meat. You can locate many charities by doing an online search for “udhiyyah 2013.”

At least for the first few years after accepting Islam, I will recommend that you simply send the money to feed poor Muslims overseas either through your mosque or one of the online Islamic relief organizations. You can join the local Muslims to get the experience if you like. Costs of doing *udhiyyah* overseas will vary based on the country you want it to be performed in. A few organizations are listed below, you can find many more online:

<http://www.irusa.org>

<http://icnarelief.org>

www.zakat.org

3. Call your local mosque or Islamic center a week before *Eid ul-Adha* to find out the time and place where *Eid ul-Adha* prayer will be held. After the *Eid* prayer, ethnic sweets and foods are usually served. Most mosques will hold *Eid* dinners either in the evening or within the next few days. Find out when and where they are and attend them.
4. Do not get lonely or feel isolated. Make arrangements with your Muslim friends or families ahead of time to visit them for *Eid ul-Adha*. Invite Muslim friends and cook for them. If you can't cook, eat out with them. Try to involve your non-Muslim family members by taking them to the *Eid* prayer with you or have them visit you for dinner with your Muslim friends. It will take some planning. Do it ahead of time. You have four days to celebrate!
5. Families give gifts to children on *Eid*. Prophet Muhammad said: “Exchange gifts with each other, you will love each other.” (Bukhari, Al-Adab Al-Mufrad) You may like to give gifts to your non-Muslim and Muslim family members and friends.
6. Volunteer on *Eid* day at your local mosque. They will need volunteers for parking, food set-up, clean up, children's activities, and more.
7. Dress up for *Eid*. Buy some new clothes and be in the ‘celebration’ mode!

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