



ISLAAMIC CENTER OF JONESBORO

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Udhiyah is one of the great rituals of Islam, in which we remember the Unity of Allah, His Blessings upon us and the obedience of our father Ibrahim to his Lord, it reminds us of the great act of sacrifice that Prophet Ibrahim and Isma`eel were willing to do for the sake of Almighty Allah. Allah spared the life of Prophet Isma`eel, but He told us that, (**And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice.**) (As-Saffaat 37: 107). The "momentous sacrifice (*dhibhin`athim*) is the sacrifice of the billions of people who have been remembering this tradition for the last four thousand years. Other people who claim to follow Prophet Ibrahim have forgotten this tradition, but we Muslims have kept it alive without any interruption. We must keep this Sunnah (way) and should not forget it. And in this act of *Udhiyah* there is much goodness and blessing. So the Muslim must pay attention to its great importance.

The *Udhiyah* is the Sunnah (way) of Prophet Ibrahim, Prophet Isma`eel and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them all).

Udhiyah refers to the animal (camel, cattle or sheep or goat) offered as a sacrifice, and it as an act of worship dedicated solely to gain Pleasure of Allah. *Udhiyah* takes place in the country in which the person offering the sacrifice lives, during the period from after the `Eid Prayer on the Day of *nahr* or `Eid Al-Adha until the last of the Days of *tashreeq* (the 13th day of Dhul-Hijjah- last month of the lunar calendar-), with the intention of offering sacrifice. Allah says: (Therefore turn in prayer to your Lord and sacrifice (to Him only).) (Al-Kawthar 108: 2)

He also says: (Say (O Muhammad): `Verily, my prayer, my sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the `Alameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists).) (Al-An`am 6:162)

(And for every nation We have appointed religious ceremonies, that they may mention the Name of Allah over the beast of cattle that He has given them for food. And your God is One God, so you must submit to Him Alone (in Islam)...) (Al-Hajj 22:34)

The basic principle is that it is required at the appointed time from one who is alive on behalf of himself and the members of his household, and he may include in the reward whoever he wishes, living or dead. It is not required for the head of the family to offer a separate sacrifice for every member of the house as one sacrifice is sufficient for the whole family.

The animal should have reached the required age, which is six months for a lamb, one year for a goat, two years for a cow and five years for a camel. It should be free of any faults. Meat is divided into three: one third for consumption, one third to be given as gifts and one third to be given in charity. May Allaah guide us all and accept our good deeds,Ameen.

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