

# Eid al Adha 2025

Eid al Adha 2025 may be will be celebrated on Friday, 6th of June 2025.

**Eid ul Adha** is a festival celebrated among Muslims all over the world in remembrance of the sacrifice that Prophet Ibrahim (AS) made out of his strong faith in Allah (SWT). Ibrahim (AS) showed a willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail (AS) but his son was replaced with a lamb by Allah (SWT). Allah (SWT) was so pleased with Ibrahim's (AS) submission to Him that He made this demonstration of sacrifice and faith a permanent part of a Muslim's life.

Hence, every year on the **10th of Dhul Hijjah**, Muslims all over the world celebrate **Eid ul Athha**. On this day, Muslims slaughter a lamb, sheep, goat or a camel to honor the sacrifice of Ibrahim (AS). A sense of generosity and gratitude colors this festival.

This festival is meant to make a Muslim more virtuous in his or her deeds. It should not be meant only to offer sacrifices; rather it is meant to learn hidden lessons of freedom from selfish desires and to elevate a Muslim from anything that hinders his ability to fulfill his responsibilities as a Muslim. Allah says in the Quran: **"Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you. Thus have We subjected them to you that you may glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and give good tidings to the doers of good."** ([Surah Hajj:37](#))

## [Haji Guide](#)

### Frequently asked questions

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<https://www.islamicfinder.org/special-islamic-days/eid-al-adha-2018/>

## **When is Eid Al Adha 2025?**

Eid ul Adha 2025 or Bakra Eid 2025 is expected to be celebrated on **Friday, 6th of June, 2025**. This is the tentative date as the actual date is contingent on the sighting of the moon of Dhul Hijjah, 1446, the 12th and last month of the **Islamic Calendar**.

## **What is Eid al Adha?**

**Eid ul Adha** is a festival celebrated among Muslims all over the world in remembrance of the sacrifice that **Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.)** made out of his strong faith in Allah.

Ibrahim (AS) showed a willingness to sacrifice his son **Prophet Ismail (A.S.)** but his son was replaced with a lamb by Allah. Allah was so pleased with Ibrahim's (A.S.) submission to Him that He made this demonstration of sacrifice and faith a permanent part of a Muslim's life. This event is mentioned in Quran - **Surah As-Saffat (37:102)**.

Hence, every year on the 10th of Dhul Hijjah, Muslims all over the world celebrate **Eid ul Azha**. On this day, Muslims slaughter a lamb, sheep, goat or camel to honor the sacrifice of Ibrahim (AS).

Both **Eid ul Fitr** and **Eid Al-Adha** have great significance in Islam as the same is evident from the following Hadith of Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.):

**"Allah has given you better than those feasts (festivals of non-believers): the 'Eid-ul-Adha' and 'Eid-ul-Fitr.'"**

(An-Nasai: 1556)

Fasting on Eid al-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr is strictly forbidden as the same is obvious from the following Hadith of our beloved Prophet (S.A.W.):

**"No fasting is permissible on the two days of Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha."**

(Sahih Bukhari: 1995)

## **First 10 days of Dhul Hijjah**

**Dhul Hijjah** is one of the four sacred months of the Islamic Calendar and the **first 10 days of this month** are the days that are selected by Allah as the best days of the year.

(Surah At Taubah 9:36)

(Sahih Bukhari: 3197)

(Surah Al-Fajr 89:1-2)

1- There are many Hadiths and Quranic Ayahs which show great emphasis on **doing good deeds** during these blessed days. Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.) said:

**"No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these (first ten days of Dhul Hijjah)."**

(Sahih Bukhari: 969)

2- **Rituals of Hajj** are started during **the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah** (from 8th to 13th).

3- **Fasting on the day of Arafah** (9th Dhul Hijjah) is a confirmed Sunnah of our beloved prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) but only for those who are not performing Hajj. **Fasting on this day** is rewarded with the forgiveness of Allah for the sins of the previous and following year. (**Ibn Majah: 1731**)

4- **Eid al Adha** is celebrated during these 10 days (10th Dhul Hijjah) and animals are sacrificed on these days (10th to 13th).

5- **Days of Tashriq** start on the 9th of Dhul Hijjah (9th to 13th) and these are days of eating and drinking. During the days of Tashriq, it is necessary for every Muslim (male or female, whether praying in the congregation or alone) to say the Takbir (Takbirs of Tashriq) immediately after each obligatory (fard) prayer from the Fajr Prayer on the 9th of Dhul Hijjah to the Asr Prayer on the 13th of Dhul Hijjah. Thus, these Takbirs last 5 days with 23 prayers in total.

Learn more about '[Virtues of the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah](#)'

## **Celebration of Eid al Adha**

Muslims around the world celebrate Eid al Adha for two to four days (depending on the country). However, there are some Sunnah that every Muslim should follow while celebrating this great festival.

## **Sunnahs of Eid al Adha and Eid Prayer**

- 1- **Wake up early in the morning**
- 2- **Clean your teeth** with Miswak or a brush
- 3- **Take a bath**
- 4- You should **wear your best clothes** on this day
- 5- **Apply perfume**
- 6- **Refrain from eating before the Eid prayer**
- 7- **Recite the Takbir** of Tashriq in a loud voice while going for **Eid prayer**:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar, Allahu akbar laa ilaaha ill-Allaah, wa Allaahu akbar, Allaah akbar, wa Lillaah il-hamd

(Allah is Most Great, Allaah is most Great, Allah is most Great there is no god but Allaah, Allaah is Most great, Allaah is most great, and to Allaah be praise)

(Irwa Al Ghalil: 3 / 125)

- 8- **Listen to Sermon (Khutba)** after offering Eid prayer. (An-Nasai: 1517)

**9- Use different ways while going to the mosque and returning after offering Eid Prayer. (Sahih Bukhari: 986)**

## **Eid Prayer**

The scholars differed concerning the ruling on Eid prayers. However, all Muslims should attend the prayers of both Eids as most scholars, on the basis of strong evidence, is of opinion that it is Wajib (obligation). Apart from prayer, the Eid sermon (after Eid Prayer) has also been made an integral part of this gathering and the prayer.

**1-** The time for Eid Prayer begins from the time the sun is three meters above the horizon until the sun reaches its meridian. However, it is better to offer the prayer in the early hours after sunrise. **(Abu Dawud: 1135)**

**2-** Eid Prayer is performed without any 'Iqamah' or 'Athan'. **[Sahih Muslim: 885 (b)]**

**3-** Eid prayer consists of two Rak'at (Two Unit Prayer) during which Tabkeer (Allah-u-Akbar) is announced seven times. **(Abu Dawud: 1149)**

**4- The rest** of the Eid prayer is the same as other prayers offered daily.

**5-** After completing the prayer, it is Sunnah (some scholars say that it is Wajib) to listen to the Sermon (Khutbah) after Eid Prayer. So one should stay for Imam's sermon to end after completing the Eid Prayer.

After listening to the sermon, Muslims congratulate each other with greetings such as 'Eid Mubarak', 'Happy Eid, and عيد مبارك, etc. However, the most common **Eid Greeting** Muslims like to wish their friends and fellow Muslims with 'Eid Mubarak'.

## **Sacrifice of Animal**

The sacrifice of an animal or Qurbani on the day of Eid al Adha is a confirmed Sunnah of not only Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) but also of our beloved Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.). However, some scholars are of the opinion that it is 'Wajib' (obligatory).

Sacrificing cattle in the way of Allah is a great act of worship. It brings the person offering the sacrifice close to Allah.

**Abu Hurairah (R.A.)** reported that Prophet (S.A.W.) said:

**“Whoever can afford it [sacrifice], but does not offer a sacrifice, let him not come near our prayer place.”**

**(Ibn Majah: 3123)**

The Hadith clearly mentions the importance of sacrificing in the way of Allah. It also includes a warning for those Muslims who have the means to offer a sacrifice on Eid ul Adha but don't do so due to some worldly reason or lame excuse.

## **Rules of Sacrifice**

Anyone who intends to slaughter an animal on Eid ul Adha has to follow certain rules which are given below:

- 1- Sacrifice** of an animal for Eid al Adha **can only be done during the specified dates** i-e After Eid Prayer (10th of Dhul Hijjah) and before sunset of 13th Dhul Hijjah. Whoever does not follow these dates must know that their sacrifice will not be valid if it is not offered between the 10th - 13th of Dhul Hijjah. (**Sahih Bukhari: 5545** and **Sahih Muslim: 1141**)
- 2- The animal** to be sacrificed has to be one of the cattle **approved by the Shariah**, which are; Camels, Cattle, Sheep, and Goat. (**Surah Hajj 22:34** and **Surah Al-Anaam 6:143**)
- 3- A sheep or goat is used as a single offering** and is sufficient for one household whereas **a camel or a cow can be shared by seven people**. [**Sahih Muslim: 1318(a)** and **1961(a)**]
- 4- The animal** to be sacrificed **has to be an adult** and should have reached the age stipulated in Shariah.
  - Goat, either male or female, of at least one year of age.
  - Sheep, either male or female, of at least six months of age.
  - Cow, ox, and buffalo of at least two years of age.

- Camel, male or female, of at least five years of age.

**5- The animal must be a healthy one** and should be free from obvious defects. **(Saheeh Al-Jami: 886)**

**6-** The person offering should only have one **intention** i-e sacrificing in the name of Allah. The animal to be sacrificed must be in the person's full possession (it is not stolen or taken by force or in joint procession or held in pledge).

**7-** The person who intends to offer sacrifice **should not remove any hair, nail or skin** from the sunset on the last day of Dhul Qadah until the sacrifice is done on the day of Eid. **(Ibn Majah: 3150)**

**8-** The person should **slaughter the animal with his own hands** in order to fulfill the Sunnah. However, if one is not able to do so then he can appoint someone else to do the same on his behalf but one should witness his slaughter/sacrifice. **(Sahih Bukhari: 5554)**

**9-** The person should mention the name of Allah and recite Takbeer **(Bismillah, Allahu Akbar)** at the time of slaughtering the animal. **(Sahih Bukhari: 5558)**

**10-** Many scholars are of the opinion that the **meat of the sacrificed animal** should be **divided into three parts**. One-third for the person (and his family) who is offering the sacrifice, one third should be distributed among the relatives/neighbors as a gift and one third should be given in charity to poor people.

**11-** All parts of the sacrificed animal can be used for personal benefit but **none can be sold or given as payment** (even to the butcher as his wage) otherwise, the sacrifice will become invalid. **(Sahih Al-Jami: 6118)**

## Conclusion

Enjoy this festival by thanking Allah for His blessings and for providing you the opportunity to fulfill this great Sunnah of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S).

But don't forget your under-privileged fellow Muslim brother and sisters who don't have the means to celebrate this blessed festival.

**Also, remember us and all Muslim Ummah in your Duas on this special occasion of Eid.**

Learn about the "[Step by Step Umrah Guide](#)"

Learn about the "[Step by Step Hajj Guide](#)"

## The Observance of Eid ul Adha

**Let's explore the highlights of Eid ul Adha.**

*Lifestyle Rida Ghaffar*

*Monday August 27, 2018*

Eid ul Adha is the second largest religious festival for Muslims worldwide. This occasion is also referred to as the "Festival of Sacrifice". It is fervently celebrated and marks the remembrance of Hazrat Ibrahim's (AS) willingness to sacrifice Hazrat Ismail (AS) as an act of obedience to the command that had been made by Allah (SWT). As Eid ul Adha falls on the 10th of [Dhul Hijjah](#), this year the tentative dates are accounted as the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.

*That they may witness benefits for themselves and mention the name of Allah on known days over what He has provided for them of [sacrificial] animals. So eat of them and feed the miserable and poor. (22:28)*

Eid is just around the corner and the shopping sprees for its preparations have begun by fellow Muslims across the globe. From the purchase of sacrificial animals such as goats, cows, lambs and camels to new outfits for this happy occasion. Apart from the embarkment of several Eid preparations, the extensive Ibadaah by Muslims is not behind at all. Muslims all over the world drape this cape of protection around themselves by immersing themselves into constant dhikr around this time.

*And do not eat of that upon which the name of Allah has not been mentioned, for indeed, it is grave disobedience. And indeed do the devils inspire their allies [among men] to dispute with you. And if you were to obey them, indeed, you would be associators [of others with Him]. (6:121)*

The day of Eid begins with the Eid prayer, offered on the morning of 10th Dhul Hijjah after the sun rises completely; before the time for the Thuhr

prayer starts. This prayer consists of two rakats and is performed with complete devotion worldwide.

[After offering the Eid prayer](#), Muslims are meant to sacrifice the animals and divide out the meat amongst people. As far as the meat distribution of the slaughtered animals is concerned; the meat division is split into three parts; poor, relatives and friends, and family respectively.

In regards to the sacrifices offered, the term Dhabihah is used to reflect the act of [slaughtering](#) the animals in the Halal way; pronouncing Tasmiyah (The name of Allah (SWT)) and Takbir; "Bismillah Allahu Akbar". The knife to be used in the slaughter must be razor sharp; straight and smooth. Moreover, the blood should be drained completely before the removal of the animal's head. In Islam, flowing blood is considered to be impure and highly prohibited for food consumption. The reason behind this is that blood is a good medium for germs, bacteria, toxins, etc. Therefore, Dhabihah is to be done such that the meat is purified and suitable for consumption. Furthermore, the blood should ideally be drained in the corner area of the garden, so that the blood is absorbed by the land rather than being drained directly into gutters.

Narrated Anas bin Malik: The Prophet said, *"Whoever slaughtered the sacrifice before the prayer, he just slaughtered it for himself, and whoever slaughtered it after the prayer, he slaughtered it at the right time and followed the tradition of the Muslims."*

We hope that this Eid will bring immense joy for each Muslim individual and confer ease as they carry out their respective sacrifices. We wholeheartedly wish our fellow Muslim brothers and sisters a very happy Eid! [For more information on Eid ul Adha, click here.](#)

## Break barriers this Eid!

**Get to know how you can contribute and be a part of something big.**

*Rida Ghaffar*

*Tuesday August 28, 2018*

Millions of Muslims around the world perform the ritual of sacrifice on the occasion of [Eid ul Adha](#). At this time of the year, numerous less privileged individuals eagerly wait for meat distribution of sacrificed animals. This is the time when they feel they have fed themselves and provided their families a proper meal. The sacrifice is considered as an essential part of the whole Muslim community and its well-being on a spiritual level.

The act of dabiha refers to the [slaughtering](#) of sacrificial animals; such as camels, lambs, goats and cows, in a Halal way according to Islam. This act is performed in almost every other Muslim household on the joyful festival of Eid. However, many individuals are deprived of the basic privileges and are unable to buy the animals, let alone sacrifice them. Such people do not have the reach of entertaining themselves with the sacrifice, yet Allah (SWT) has not hindered them from being a part of the occasion of Eid and celebrate it with their family. As we all know, fresh meat is a rarity when considered at a global level, for millions of people; especially those on the run from conflicts and disasters. But can these people be assisted? Yes, there are various ways and that is where the privileged step in and lend a hand to those in need.

[Eid ul Adha](#) is right on top of our heads and this is exactly the time to take action for the needy. There are a great number of organizations working on such initiatives to bring a smile on the faces of the unprivileged.

We should help our fellow Muslims cherish this beautiful religious festival by donating our share, which we know is for nothing but a good cause. We encourage all individuals to step up and contribute, becoming a part of something big and better.

The Quran states: *“Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you. Thus have We subjected them to you that you may glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and give good tidings to the doers of good.” (22:37).*

## 4 ways you can make the most out of Eid this year

**Learn how you can make this Eid the best one yet.**

*Lifestyle Mohammad Ahmed Shiwani*

*Tuesday July 03, 2018*

[Eid](#) is the foremost day of celebration for Muslims across the globe. It is the day that Muslims congregate to celebrate the special day together and thank Allah (SWT) for all that He bestows upon His creations. [Eid-ul-Fitr](#) has been prescribed upon Muslims for them to realize the different ways through which Allah (SWT) continuously blesses His creations. Here are the four ways through which we can make the most of the blessed day.

## **1. Engage in Sunnah Activities**

Allah (SWT) greatly appreciates those that follow the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), for He has immense love for His most premier of creations. The easy route to attain His pleasure, therefore, is to follow the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) on the day of [Eid](#) and please the Almighty (SWT) by expressing love for His Habib. Sunnah activities on Eid include eating something sweet before Eid prayer, wearing clean clothes and using perfume. While there are other beautiful Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the aforementioned are the easiest. Can it become easier to attain the pleasure of Allah (SWT)?

## **2. Amend broken relations**

Eid is a day of congregation and of expressing love and gratitude to your relatives and loved ones. Allah (SWT) is All-Forgiving and loves those who forgive, and so we must take Eid as the opportunity to amend broken relations, forgive and forget, ask for forgiveness, and spread love and compassion, just like we have been prescribed to do so in the Quran and by our beloved Prophet (PBUH).

## **3. Thank Allah (SWT)**

Eid is a manifestation of the compassion, love, mercy, and blessings of Allah (SWT) and so we must thank Him for all that He has given to his creations. Allah (SWT) continues to show us different signs of His love for us, and so we must use the day prescribed to celebrate, to thank Allah (SWT) for continuously blessing us even though we continue to invite His displeasure.

## **4. Help the less fortunate**

In continuation with expressing gratitude, we must also acknowledge how fortunate we are as compared to those that Allah (SWT) has given harder challenges to. We must also acknowledge that we are responsible for them, and that the Muslim Ummah is a single unit that must take care of its brothers and sisters. In that, an ideal way to express gratitude to Allah (SWT) is by acknowledging that we are thankful for His blessings and doing so by giving to the less fortunate. May this Eid be the most fulfilling and gratifying one. [Eid Mubarak!](#)

# Hajj Intro For People Of Other Faith

## INFORMATION

*These notes have been prepared by the Council on Islamic Education, a national, non-profit educational resource organization, dedicated to providing information on Islam and Muslims to Non Muslims.*

Islam has two major religious celebrations. The first occurs after the completion of Ramadan, the Islamic month during which Muslims (believers in Islam) fast daily from dawn to sunset as part of an effort towards self-purification and betterment. This holiday is known as Eid ul-Fitr (Festival of Breaking the Fast).

The second major Islamic celebration takes place during the time of the [Hajj](#), or annual pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca). This week-long event occurs two months and ten days after Ramadan ends, during the Islamic month of DhulHijjah, and its culmination is a holiday known as Eid ul-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice). The Hajj consists of several ceremonies, meant to symbolize the essential concepts of the Islamic faith, and to commemorate the trials of prophet Abraham and his family. Over two million Muslims perform the pilgrimage annually, and the rest of the over one billion Muslims world-wide celebrate the Eid holiday in conjunction with the Hajj.

In order to teach about the important holidays of Islam, teachers can photocopy the "Information for Students" pages of this packet and distribute them to their students. After providing 15-20 minutes to read the pages, teachers can use the provided questions to guide discussion and elicit responses from the students. Some suggested activities for students are also included in this packet.

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## ABRAHAM

Abraham is a figure revered by Muslims, Jews, and Christians alike as a righteous person who lived over four thousand years ago. His story can be found in the Bible as well as the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book). Abraham is considered to be the patriarch of monotheism, or "belief in the One God," who sought a personal relationship with his Creator. He left his

native city of Ur in Mesopotamia after voicing opposition to his people's polytheistic practices, and eventually settled in Egypt with his family. Later, he escorted one of his wives, Hajar, and their infant son Ishmail, to a desolate valley in Arabia and left them there, trusting in God's promise to care for them.

Hajar, concerned about feeding her young baby, began searching the surroundings for food and water. According to the Qur'an, in response to Hajar's prayers, a spring miraculously gushed forth at Ishma'il's feet to quench their thirst. Hajar climbed nearby hills searching for food and looking for caravans on the horizon. Eventually, some passing traders stopped in the valley, and asked Hajar's permission to water their camels. In time, the traders decided to settle in the little valley, and eventually the settlement grew into the city of Makkah. Abraham returned from time to time to visit, and when Ishma'il was about thirteen years old, he and Ishma'il constructed the Ka'bah, an empty cube-shaped building, as a place dedicated for the worship of the One God. Eventually, Makkah became an important trading post by the time of Prophet Muhammad, twenty-five hundred years later.

## THE HAJJ

In commemoration of the trials of Abraham and his family in Makkah, which included Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in response to God's command, Muslims make a pilgrimage to the sacred city at least once in their lifetime. The Hajj is one of the "five pillars" of Islam, and thus an essential part of Muslims' faith and practice.

Muslims from all over the world, including the United States, travel to Makkah (in modern-day Saudi Arabia). Before arriving in the holy city, Muslims enter a state of consecration (dedication) known as ihram, by removing their worldly clothes and donning the humble attire of pilgrims—two seamless white sheets for men, and simple white dresses and scarves for women. The white garments are symbolic of human equality and unity before God, since all the pilgrims are dressed similarly. Money and status no longer are a factor for the pilgrims - the equality of each person in the eyes of God becomes paramount.

Upon arriving in Makkah, pilgrims perform the initial tawaf, which is a circular, counter-clockwise procession around the Ka'bah. All the while, they state "Labbayka Allahumma Labbayk," which means "Here I am at

your service, O God, Here I am!" The tawaf is meant to awaken each Muslim's consciousness that God is the center of their reality and the source of all meaning in life, and that each person's higher self-identity derives from being part of the community of Muslim believers, known as the ummah. Pilgrims also perform the sa'i, which is hurrying seven times between the small hills named Safa and Marwah, reenacting the Biblical and Qurtanic story of Hajar's desperate search for lifegiving water and food.

Next, on the first official day of Hajj (8th of Dhul-Hijjah), the two million pilgrims travel a few miles to the plain of Mina and camp there. From Mina, pilgrims travel the following morning to the plain of Arafat where they spend the entire day in earnest supplication and devotion. That evening, the pilgrims move and camp at Muzdalifa, which is a site between Mina and Arafat. Muslims stay overnight and offer various prayers there.

Then the pilgrims return to Mina on the 10th, and throw seven pebbles at a stone pillar that represents the devil. This symbolizes Abraham's throwing stones at Satan when he tried to dissuade Abraham from sacrificing his son. Then the pilgrims sacrifice a sheep, reenacting the story of Abraham, who, in place of his son, sacrificed a sheep that God had provided as a substitute. The meat from the slaughtered sheep is distributed for consumption to family, friends, and poor and needy people in the community. After the sacrifice, the pilgrims return to Makkah to end the formal rites of Hajj by performing a final tawaf and sa'i.

Muslims believe the rites of the Hajj were designed by God and taught through prophet Muhammad. Muslims believe that since the time of Adam, there have been thousands of prophets, including such well-known figures as Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and David, and that Muhammad was the final prophet of God.

The Hajj is designed to develop God consciousness and a sense of spiritual upliftment. It is also believed to be an opportunity to seek forgiveness of sins accumulated throughout life. Prophet Muhammad had said that a person who performs Hajj properly "will return as a newly born baby [free of all sins]." The pilgrimage also enables Muslims from all around the world, of different colors, languages, races, and ethnicities, to come together in a spirit of universal brotherhood and sisterhood to worship the One God together.

## EID-UL-ADHA

Although only the pilgrims in Makkah can participate in the Hajj fully, all the other Muslims in the world join with them by celebrating the Eid ul Adha [eed ul ud-ha], or Festival of Sacrifice. On the 10th of Dhul-Hijjah, Muslims around the world wear their nicest clothing and attend a special prayer gathering in the morning. This is followed by a short sermon, after which everyone stands up to hug and greet one another. The traditional Eid greeting is "Eid Mubarak," which means "Holiday Blessings." Next, people visit each other's homes and partake in festive meals with special dishes, beverages, and desserts. Children receive gifts and sweets on this joyous occasion.

In addition, like the pilgrims in Makkah, those Muslims who can afford to do so offer domestic animals, usually sheep, as a symbol of Abraham's sacrifice. The meat is distributed for consumption to family, friends, and to the poor and needy.

The Eid ul-Adha is a major religious event in the lives of Muslims. Usually, communities celebrate this occasion over a period of several days.

# 8 Facts about Hajj and Kaaba

**Learn some of the facts about Hajj generally unknown to many Muslims even today.**

*Rida Ghaffar  
Friday August 31, 2018*

[Haji](#) is the pilgrimage in Islam that must be performed by Muslims; capable health wise as well as financially. This is essential for a Muslim Individual at least once in a life time. It is a ritual that believers embark upon for the given set of days; to rise above the routines of daily life in order to connect and get closer to Allah (SWT). The pilgrims endure the trials of the journey by following the footsteps of [Prophet Muhammad \(SAW\)](#) and as a mark of remembrance regarding the willing sacrifices made by Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and his family.

Mostly, the Hajj ritual is performed as part of an obligatory practice that pilgrims learn about; from books, seminars, friends and the immediate family. Now let's also talk about the Kaabah; the Kaabah is the epicenter of Mecca. The cube shaped building is situated at the heart of the most well-known real estate. Thousands circle the sacred Kaabah at the center of the Haram sanctuary 24 hours a day.

Following are some of the facts you may not know about Hajj and Kabah:

1. According to Ibn Kathir and various oral traditions of Arabia, the Kaaba was first built by Prophet Adam (AS), destroyed during the great flood in Prophet Nuh's (AS) time. Finally, it was rebuilt by Prophet Ibrahim (AS).
2. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) performed [only one Hajj during his lifetime](#). Therefore, the link of performing Hajj at least once.
3. Abdul-Muttalib, the paternal grandfather of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W), rediscovered the well of Zamzam after it was filled up by the Jurhumites (people of an old Arab tribe) who inhabited Makkah before the dominant tribe; Quraish.
4. Madinah is not one of the core Hajj locations.
5. Both, men and women, dress in the colour white which is known as [ihram](#), during Hajj. This is a symbol of the state of purity they are

entering. Changing their clothes is part of the process known as 'assuming Ihram', a sacred state that pilgrims adopt at the beginning of the Hajj.

6. Hateem (Hijr-Isma'il) is considered to be a part of Kaaba. Thus, while doing Tawaf, Muslims don't enter the area between the Hateem and Ka'bah.

[Hazrat Aisha \(RA\)](#) reports that when she asked the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) whether the Hateem was part of the Ka'bah, he replied that it was. When she further asked why it was then not included in the walls of the Khana Kaba, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) replied,

*"Because your people (the Quraysh) did not have sufficient funds."  
[Bukhari]*

Hazrat Aisha (RA) also narrated:

*"I wanted to enter the House to perform Salat in it, so the Messenger of Allah took me by the hand and put me in the Hijr, and he said: 'Perform Salat in the Hijri if you want to enter the House. For indeed it is part of the House, but your people considered it insignificant when they built the Kaaba, so they put it outside the House.'" [Sahih]*

7. Men expose their right shoulder during Tawaaf in order to reenact the display of confidence and power. This act of leaving the right shoulder uncovered is called 'iThtiba'. Moreover, the formidable walk by men during the first three rounds of tawaaf is called 'ramal'.

The historical meaning of these acts was a display of power and intimidating the opponents. When Makkan Muslims migrated to Madinah, the climate of Madinah affected them; they became a bit weak. When they went to Makkah again after seven years for Umrah, they explained the situation to Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Thereupon, he told his Companions to seem powerful to polytheists and to walk formidably when they passed in front of them; and the Companions walked like that.

8. It was the ninth Hijri when Hajj was made obligatory on Muslims.

Well, it's always good to know some facts about our Holy rituals and places to increase our knowledge at an individual level. We hope this information was beneficial and enhanced your knowledge.

# Kabbah history

Did the Ka'bak exist before Islam? Who first built the Ka'bah? Is it the same building that it has always been since ancient times?

Allah has appointed the Ka'bah to be the dedicated place for the pilgrimage (Hajj), which is one of the five pillars of Islam.

Allah says: "Pilgrimage there to is a duty people owe to Allah, those who can afford the journey" [*Sûrah al-Baqarah*: 97].

We know that the Ka'bah was the first House built on Earth for the worship of Allah, since we read in the Qur'ân: "The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakka: full of blessing and of guidance for all the worlds" [*Sûrah al-Baqarah*: 96]

Bakka is an older name for Mecca.

However, the first builder of Ka'bah and its date of construction is a matter of considerable disagreement. Ibn Jarîr al-Tabarî narrates a wide variety of statements on the matter made by some of the Companions and others. He then says:

The correct thing is to say only that Allah had told Abraham and his son Ishmael to raise the foundations of the House. These foundations might possibly have been sent down with Adam who carried them to their place in Mecca. They might possibly have been made of corundum or from a pearl sent down to Earth. Adam might possibly have built it first, but if he had, it had fallen into ruin long before Abraham and Ishmael raised its foundations.

Finally, Ibn Jarîr concludes:

There is no way to give preference to any of these opinions, because such things cannot be confirmed without an authentic statement from the Prophet (peace be upon him), and that is something which does not exist on the matter.

We know for a fact that Abraham and Ishmael built the Ka'bah, regardless of who might have built it before them.

Allah says: "And remember Abraham and Ishmael raised the foundations of the House." [*Sûrah al-Baqarah*: 127]

Another piece of evidence that Abraham built the House is the authentic hadîth in *Sahîh al-Bûkhârî* that Ibrâhîm told Isma`îl : “Allah has ordered me to build a house there” and he pointed to an rise. [*Fath al-Bâri* (6/397)]

After that it was rebuilt by the Amalekites, Jûrhûm, and Qusayy b. Kilâb.

It was again rebuilt by Quraysh during the Prophet Muhammad’s lifetime after being damaged by a flood. This took place long before the Prophet (peace be upon him) began to receive revelation.

The tribe of Quraysh at that time was short of money, so they did not rebuild it according to the original foundations that had been laid by Abraham (peace be upon him). They left out the portion referred to as the Hijr and make it outside the physical structure of the Ka`bah. They made only one door for the Ka`bah.

`A’ishah relates that the Prophet said: “O `A’ishah! Were your people not close to the Pre-Islamic times of ignorance, I would have had the Ka`bah demolished and would have included in it the portion which had been left, and would have made it at a level with the ground and would have made two doors in it, one towards the east and the other towards the west, and then by doing this it would have been built on the foundations laid by Abraham.” [*Sahîh al-Bukhârî* and *Sahîh Muslim*]

Since then, it has been rebuilt by `Abd Allah b. al-Zubayr (who restored it to its original foundations after the people of Syria attacked it), then by al-Hajjaj (who returned it to the foundations that it had after Quraysh rebuilt it), then by the Ottoman Sultan Murâd Khân the Fourth.

Repairing and refurbishing works continues all the time, the latest being only a few years ago.

## **The Symbolism & Related Rites of the Ka`bah\***

Islam is a religion of relatively few symbols because it is an open, rational and practical faith. Where symbols do occur, their nature conforms with and confirms the nature of the faith.

The central and foremost symbol of Islam is the Ka`bah and the rituals associated with it. In the Qur'an, God calls the Ka`bah *Al-Bayt al-Haram* (the Sacred House) and *Bayt Allah* (House of God). This Sanctuary of God is a tangible point in space and time to assemble and "visit". It represents how the Muslim's world and life revolve around an exclusive and pure devotion to the One True God. The pilgrim who visits the Ka`bah must be motivated by a consuming faith and pure devotion, for there is little worldly enjoyment there in the midst of the burning desert.

The Ka`bah is the simple cube stone building in Makkah. Within a few hundred meters of it are other sites associated with the sanctification of *Umm Al-Quraa* (the Mother of Cities, i.e., Makkah). These sites are two little hills named Marwa and Safa and the Well of Zamzam. The water of this well originally sprang from under the feet of the infant Ishmael (Isma`il) and has flowed ever since then for the pilgrims. Indeed, this water made settlement in Makkah possible. These sites are integral to the rites of Hajj and are enclosed in the Noble Sanctuary.

The foundations of the Ka`bah were laid by Abraham (Ibrahim) and his son Ishmael (Isma`il — peace be upon them), and it was consecrated to the worship of the One True God. However, over the millennia, human folly added to the Ka`bah so that by the half millennium preceding Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), the worship conducted there had degenerated into paganism and idolatry. The Ka`bah was surrounded by more than three hundred idols. The Abrahamic origins of the faith and its heritage of pure monotheism were all but buried. Yet it retained its aura of sacredness, and one "heretic" sect refused the customs of the people to nurture a memory and conviction of the One True God. Another residue of the Abrahamic tradition was a cult of peace and asylum related to the Sanctuary.

By the time Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) was born, Makkah was submerged in polytheism and idolatry. Only vestiges of the remained in a symbol and a Thus, the mission of the Muhammad (peace and upon him) was the fulfillment of the Message of Guidance, beginning. It came to restore original purity.

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**The message of Islam was not new - what was new was the form of this message, its dimensions and scale**

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pure faith tradition. Prophet blessings be of Revelation, not its the faith to its

Hence the message of Islam What was new was the form message, its dimensions and message would henceforth be

was not new. of this scale. The preserved in a

Book (the [Qur'an](#)) that would be immune to the ravages of time and the folly of man but that would be accessible to all who sought the Guidance. The repository of the faith was in the Community at large. No group could claim the privilege of special knowledge or a mission not open to others. No group or individual could come between the human being and Creator. Clergies and theocracies would be obsolete. These are the chief implications of the new form of this Last Guidance. They underline the liberating essence of its core concept and foundation: *Tawheed*.

This liberating essence constitutes the revolutionary component and the regenerative momentum of the faith. These elements continue to retain their force and relevance because of the uncontaminated purity of its sources and its core tenets. Here are some aspects of the enduring symbolism of the Ka`bah:

1. The Ka`bah is symbolic of an essence: the idea of the prime and the core. It has remained at the center of a continuous tradition of human worship and devotion. It symbolizes the integrating and unifying power of monotheism in human life.
2. The idea of the prime and the core reinforces and confirms the basic concepts of Islam as the religion of pure monotheism, and hence as the one true religion for all men

and for all time. Abraham is upheld in the Qur'an not for his ancestry of the Arabs, but for being the model and the archetype of the Muslim. In its association with the Abrahamic tradition and its commemoration of it, the Ka`bah symbolizes the unity of all true religion, celebrates the brotherhood of all prophets, and the essential unity of their message.

3. The Ka`bah is not just associated with the beginnings of the pure faith and of religion. It symbolizes the message that was addressed to the People of the Book — the Jews and Christians — in order to resolve the points of dispute among them.
4. The mission of the last messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), was to inaugurate an era in which Divine Guidance was openly universal, wider and more comprehensive in scope, with its injunctions spelled out in detail. The responsibility for man's fate and moral well-being would come to rest squarely on his own free choice and on a willing initiative to respond to his Creator.
5. The Ka`bah also symbolizes the common orientation and common goal of mankind: its response to the One True God. Every mosque has a *mihrab* (niche) that points in the direction of the Ka`bah. Wherever a Muslim stands to pray, bow and prostrate, he faces in the direction of the Ka`bah, thus reminding him of the source of identity and common purpose and goal that binds him to his community in faith.
6. The Ka`bah is symbolic both of permanence and constancy and of renewal and renewability. Upon entering the precincts of the Holy Sanctuary, every Muslim makes a pledge as he approaches the Ka`bah. He faces its door and, before beginning *tawaf* (circumambulation), he renews his commitment by professing the Shahadah, the Testimony of Faith ("I bear witness that there is no god but Allah; I bear

witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah"). Standing in solemn humility at this station, the Muslim identifies with a whole series of similar stations and situations in which the oath of allegiance was taken, whether during the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) or at any time since Abraham and Ishmael (peace be upon them) pledged to God and laid the foundations of the Ka`bah. For this reason, the door of the Ka`bah is known as *Bab Al-Multazim*, the door of the one who takes the oath or makes the pledge.

7. *Bab Al-Multazim* is just one detail of the entire state of ihram, the state of sanctification and abstinence of the pilgrim. The pilgrim settles all his worldly debts, and then removes his worldly attire. He bathes and dresses in the fresh attire of the pilgrim and rededicates himself to the Way of his Creator.

The preservation of the Ka`bah as a living symbol down the generations to this day and age and its continuity as a haven of devotion, a shelter of refuge, and a site of grace is, in itself, a sign that invites serious reflection by all those who truly care to think.

\*Summarized from *Introducing Islam from Within* by Mona Abul-Fadl (Leicester, UK: The Islamic Foundation, 1991). Used with permission

## VOCABULARY LIST

### LUNAR CALENDAR

Ramadan - the 9th month of the Islamic lunar calendar, during which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset.

Eid ul-Fitr - Festival at the end of Ramadan, in celebration of ending the month of fasting.

Dhul-Hijjah - the 12th month of the Islamic lunar calendar, during which the Hajj takes place, from the 8th through 13th.

Eid ul-Adha - Festival that takes place during the Hajj, on the 10th of Dhul Hijjah, in commemoration of the sacrifices of Abraham and his family.

### **PEOPLE:**

Abraham - a prophet and righteous person revered by Muslims, Jews, and Christians alike as the patriarch (father figure) of monotheism.

Hajar - one of Abraham's wives, who, along with her infant son Ishma'il, was settled in Arabia by Abraham.

Ishma'il - the elder son of Abraham, who helped Abraham build the Ka'bah when he was thirteen years old.

### **PLACES:**

Arafat - a place where pilgrims travel to as part of the Hajj. There pilgrims offer prayers throughout the day.

Makkah (Mecca) - the sacred city of Muslims, in modernday Saudi Arabia, where the Ka'bah is located.

Mina - a place where pilgrims camp, located on the outskirts of Makkah.

Muzdalifa - a place where pilgrims stay overnight and pray during the Hajj. Safa and Marwah - two hills near the Ka'bah.

### **THE HAJJ:**

Hajj - the annual pilgrimage (spiritual journey) to Makkah, performed by two million Muslims every year.

Ihram - a state of consecration (dedication) in which Muslims remove their worldly clothing and don the simple, white attire of pilgrims. This symbolizes a state of purity and human equality. Ka'bah - an empty cube-shaped structure built as a house of worship by Abraham and Ishma'il, for the worship of the One God.

"Labbayka Allakumma Labbayk" - a statement which pilgrims call out while performing the Hajj, which means "Here I am at your service, O God, Here I am!"

Sa'i - one of the rites of the Hajj, in which pilgrims hurry between two hills, Safa and Marwah, reenacting Hajar's desperate search for food and water.

Tawaf - one of the rites of the Hajj, in which pilgrims move in a circular, counter-clockwise procession around the Ka'bah.

Ummah - the entire Muslim community around the world, which comprises over one billion people of every race, color, and ethnicity.

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

"Eid Mubarak" - a greeting used by Muslims during the Eid holidays. It means "Holiday Blessings!"

Monotheism - belief in One God.

Polytheism - belief in many gods.

Qur'an (Koran) - the holy book of Muslims

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

After reading the information provided, the following discussion questions can be used for a written or oral activity. (Appropriate answers are indicated in parentheses)

1. What are the two major religious celebrations in Islam, and what important events do they correlate with? (Eid ul-Fitr correlates with Ramadan, Eid ul-Adha correlates with the Hajj)

2. Explain the concept of a lunar calendar. Because the lunar calendar is shorter than the Gregorian calendar, even though the Islamic date for Eid

ul-Adha remains the same every year (10th of Dhul Hijjah), the holiday falls 11 days earlier every year in the Gregorian calendar. In 1996, the Eid tentatively falls on April 28. What days will it fall on in 1997 and 1998, according to the sighting of the new moon? (April 18 and April 7)

3.What is the Hajj, and how many Muslims participate every year? (annual pilgrimage to Makkah; two million)

4.Overall, what do the ceremonies of the Hajj symbolize? (They symbolize the essential concepts of the Islamic faith, such as monotheism, and commemorate the trials of Prophet Abraham and his family.)

5.How do Muslims, Jews, and Christians view Abraham? (He is a figure revered by these three religious groups because he is considered to be the patriarch of monotheism, who sought a relationship with the One God.) 6.How did the city of Makkah come to be? (Hajar,once left in a desolate valley in Arabia, began searching for water. In response to her prayers, a spring gushed forth. Eventually, some traders stopped in the valley to water their camels, and over time decided to settle there. This settlement became the city of Makkah.)

7.What is the significance of the Ka'bah, and who was it built by? (The Ka'bah was built by Abraham and his elder son Ishma'il as the first house of worship dedicated to the worship of the One God.)

8.How often must a Muslim perform the Hajj? (at least once in their lifetime)

9.In what way do the pilgrims change their physical appearance before embarking on the Hajj? (Muslims enter a state of consecration, ihram, by removing one's worldly clothes and donning the attire of the 5 pilgrims - two seamless white sheets for men and simple white dresses and scarves for women.)

10. What is the significance of the white garments of the pilgrim? (They are symbolic of human equality and unity before God.)

11. What are other ceremonies that pilgrims must perform during the time of the Hajj? (tawaf, sa'i, and travelling to other locations close to Makkah.)

12.Explain the importance of the Hajj. (Muslims believe it was designed by God (Allah) and taught through Prophet Muhammad to make each

pilgrim aware that he or she has a unique and personal responsibility to seek truth and to pursue justice by promoting good and opposing evil in human affairs.)

13. What did Prophet Muhammad say about the Muslims who perform the Hajj properly? (A pilgrim who performs the Hajj properly will "return as a newly born baby [free of all sins]."

14. What does the pilgrimage enable Muslims from all over the world to do? (It enables them to come together in a spirit of universal brotherhood and sisterhood to worship the One God together.)

15. What is one of the lessons learned by a Muslim on the Hajj? (The equality of all people, regardless of wealth or status, is an essential and important part of Islam.)

16. When does Eid ul-Adha take place? (10th of the Islamic lunar month Dhul-Hijjah)

17. How do Muslims celebrate the Eid holiday? What is the significance of the celebration? (Muslims celebrate by dressing in their nicest clothes, gathering for a special Eid prayer, then greeting one another with "Eid Mubarak". Later, they visit one another's homes to share meals, and give gifts. The significance of Eid lies in remembering Abraham and his family's sacrifices.)

### **SUGGESTED STUDENT ACTIVITIES:**

1. Interview a Muslim who has been to Hajj. Ask them if and how their life has changed as a result. (Teachers may also want to invite a representative from the local Islamic Center or masjid (mosque) to speak about the spirit of Hajj and Eid ul-Adha.)

2. Describe what it would be like if everyone in your school, including teachers, dressed in the white pilgrim's garment for one week.

3. Create a mini-Hajj in your classroom. Culminate it with an Eid party with lots of treats. Allocate some of your treats for the poor and needy.

# Short History of Hajj

10/24/2010 - Religious - Article Ref: IC0301-1834

By: Invitation to Islam

IslamiCity\* -

All the pre-Islamic practices, which were based on ignorance, were abolished and Hajj was once more made a model of piety, fear of Allah, purity, simplicity and austerity.

Hajj literally means 'to set out for a place'. Islamically however it refers to the annual pilgrimage that Muslims make to Makkah with the intention of performing certain religious rites in accordance with the method prescribed by the Prophet Muhammad .

Hajj and its rites were first ordained by Allah in the time of the Prophet Ibrahim [Abraham] and he was the one who was entrusted by Allah to build the Kaba - the House of Allah - along with his son Ismail [Ishmael] at Makkah. Allah described the Kaba and its building as follows:

"And remember when We showed Ibrahim the site of the [Sacred] House [saying]: Associate not anything [in worship with Me and purify My House for those who circumambulate it [i.e. perform tawaaf] and those who stand up for prayer and those who bow down and make prostration [in prayer etc.]."

[*Surah Al-Hajj* [22:26](#)]

After building the Kaba, Prophet Ibrahim would come to Makkah to perform Hajj every year, and after his death, this practice was continued by his son. However, gradually with the passage of time, both the form and the goal of the Hajj rites were changed. As idolatry spread throughout Arabia, the Kaba lost its purity and idols were placed inside it. Its walls became covered with poems and paintings, including one of Jesus and his mother Maryam and eventually over 360 idols came to be placed around the Kaba.

During the Hajj period itself, the atmosphere around the sacred precincts of the Kaba was like a circus. Men and women would go round the Kaba naked, arguing that they should present themselves before Allah in the same condition they were born. Their prayer became devoid of all sincere remembrance of Allah and was instead reduced to a series of hand clapping, whistling and the blowing of horns. Even the [talbiah](#) [[1](#)] was distorted by them with the following additions: '*No one is Your partner*

*except one who is permitted by you. You are his Master and the Master of what he possesses'.*

Sacrifices were also made in the name of God. However, the blood of the sacrificed animals was poured onto the walls of the Kaba and the flesh was hung from pillars around the Kaba, in the belief that Allah demanded the flesh and blood of these animals.

Singing, drinking, adultery and other acts of immorality was rife amongst the pilgrims and the poetry competitions, which were held, were a major part of the whole Hajj event. In these competitions, poets would praise the bravery and splendor of their own tribesmen and tell exaggerated tales of the cowardice and miserliness of other tribes. Competitions in generosity were also staged where the chief of each tribe would set up huge cauldrons and feed the pilgrims, only so that they could become well-known for their extreme generosity.

Thus the people had totally abandoned the teachings of their forefather and leader Prophet Ibrahim. The House that he had made pure for the worship of Allah alone, had been totally desecrated by the pagans and the rites which he had established were completely distorted by them. This sad state of affairs continued for nearly two and a half thousand years. But then after this long period, the time came for the supplication of Prophet Ibrahim to be answered:

"Our Lord! Send amongst them a Messenger of their own, who shall recite unto them your aayaat (verses) and instruct them in the book and the Wisdom and sanctify them. Verily you are the 'Azeezul-Hakeem [the All-Mighty, the All-Wise]."

[*Surah Al-Baqarah* [2:129](#)]

Sure enough, a man by the name of Muhammad ibn 'Abdullaah was born in the very city that Prophet Ibrahim had made this supplication centuries earlier. For twenty-three years, Prophet Muhammad spread the message of Tawheed [true monotheism] - the same message that Prophet Ibrahim and all the other Prophets came with - and established the law of Allah upon the land. He expended every effort into making the word of Allah supreme and his victory over falsehood culminated in the smashing of the idols inside the Kaba which once again became the universal center for the worshippers of the one True God.

Not only did the Prophet rid the Kaba of all its impurities, but he also reinstated all the rites of Hajj which were established by Allah's Permission, in the time of Prophet Ibrahim. Specific injunctions in the Quran were revealed in order to eliminate all the false rites which had become rampant in the pre-Islamic period. All indecent and shameful acts were strictly banned in Allah's statement:

"There is to be no lewdness nor wrangles during Hajj."

[*Surah al-Baqarah* [2:197](#)]

Competitions among poets in the exaltations of their forefathers and their tribesmen's achievements were all stopped. Instead, Allah told them:

"And when you have completed your rites [of Hajj] then remember Allah as you remember your forefathers; nay with a more vigorous remembrance."

[*Surah al-Baqarah* [2:200](#)]

Competitions in generosity were also prohibited. Of course, the feeding of the poor pilgrims was still encouraged as this was done during the time of Prophet Ibrahim but Allah commanded that the slaughtering of the animals which was done for this purpose should be done seeking the pleasure of Allah rather than fame and the praise of the people. He said:

"So mention the name of Allah over these animals when they are drawn up in lines. Then, when they are drawn on their sides [after the slaughter], eat thereof and feed the beggar who does not ask, and the beggar who asks."

[*Surah al-Hajj* [22:36](#)]

As for the deplorable practice of spattering blood of the sacrificed animals on the walls of the Kaba and hanging their flesh on alters, then Allah clearly informed them that:

"It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is Taqwaa (piety) from you that reaches Him."

[*Surah al-Hajj* [22:37](#)]

The Prophet also put a stop to the practice of circling the Kaba in a state of nudity and the argument that the pagans put forward to justify this ritual was sharply rebutted in Allah's question:

"Say: Who has forbidden the adornment [i.e. clothes] given by Allah which He has produced for His Slaves?"

[*Surah al-A'raaf* [7:32](#)]

Another custom which was prohibited through the Quran was that of setting off for Hajj without taking any provisions for the journey. In the pre-Islamic period, some people who claimed to be mutawakkiloon (those having complete trust in Allah) would travel to perform Hajj begging for food through the whole journey. They considered this form of behavior a sign of piety and an indication of how much faith they had in Allah. However Allah told mankind that to have sufficient provisions for the journey was one of the preconditions for making Hajj. He said:

"And take a provision [with you] for the journey, but the best provision is at-Taqwaa (piety)."

[*Surah al-Baqarah* [2:197](#)]

In this way, all the pre-Islamic practices, which were based on ignorance, were abolished and Hajj was once more made a model of piety, fear of Allah, purity, simplicity and austerity. Now, when the pilgrims reach the Kaba, they no longer find the carnivals and the frolic and frivolity that had once occupied the minds of the pilgrims there before. Now, there is the remembrance of Allah at every step and every action and every sacrifice was devoted to Him alone. It was this kind of Hajj that was worthy of the reward of paradise, as the Prophet said: *"The reward for an accepted Hajj is nothing less than paradise."*

May Allah grant us all the ability to visit His House and perform the Hajj in the manner of the Prophet Muhammad . Aameen.

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## Footnotes

1 Labbaik Allahumma labbaik... (Here I am present, O' God, I am present...) This is the chant which the pilgrims say when they are traveling for pilgrimage.

Source: Invitation to Islam, Issue 1, May 1997

# When is Hajj 2025?

**Hajj is almost here.**

*Rida Ghaffar Wednesday August 15, 2018 Current Affairs*

As we all know, Hajj is one of the [five pillars of Islam](#) and plays a pertinent role in a Muslim's lifetime. It is an obligation that must be fulfilled by those capable of performing it; in terms of health and the monetary aspect. It is essential for those who are privileged to perform it at least once throughout their life.

The ritual of Hajj begins on the Eighth of Dhul-Hijjah and gets completed on the thirteenth day of [Dhul-Hijjah](#). There are numerous rituals incorporated during the performance of Hajj which are ideally meant to be covered in the specified five days. The [Hajj of 2018](#) is just around the corner and the fellow Muslim community is on its toes for preparations as it is to commence on the 20th of August, continuing for five days till the 25th of August 2018. It is not surprising that the number of people going for the holy pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia increases year by year. Over more than two million Muslims perform this ritual by the will of Allah (SWT).

Hajj, being a central pillar of Islam, is an indication of the submission of Muslims as well as their solidarity to Allah (SWT). It acts as a unifying factor as Muslims all over the world perform this ritual together, sharing the umbrella of Islam. No regard is given to the race, ethnicity, caste and the cultural background people belong to; being Muslim is the only identity withheld by everyone present. Hajj is a means of representation for the fellow Muslims to realize their equality in the eyes of Allah (SWT) as they perform the ritual; bringing them close to Him. Moreover, it brings the whole Muslim community closer as they assist each other in various aspects throughout their pilgrimage journey.

Hajj is a means to eagerly seek forgiveness from Allah (SWT) and is highly significant as it is also performed in the remembrance of the sacrifices Hazrat Ibrahim made in the name of Islam.

*[Then depart from the place from where \[all\] the people depart and ask forgiveness of Allah. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful. \(Surah Baqarah: 200\)](#)*

Delaying Hajj is considered to be a great sin given that an individual qualifies for all the requirements of the pilgrimage. Therefore, a deliberate delay is highly discouraged. We, as Muslims, need to ensure we are fulfilling our obligations, according to Islam. Thus, those capable must prepare themselves to perform the Hajj of 2018 and take use of the chance to become closely connected with Allah (SWT).

*And complete the Hajj and Umrah for Allah. But if you are prevented, then [offer] what can be obtained with ease of sacrificial animals. And do not shave your heads until the sacrificial animal has reached its place of slaughter. And whoever among you is ill or has an ailment of the head [making shaving necessary must offer] a ransom of fasting [three days] or charity or sacrifice. And when you are secure, then whoever performs 'umrah [during the Hajj months] followed by Hajj [offers] what can be obtained with ease of sacrificial animals. And whoever cannot find [or afford such an animal] - then a fast of three days during Hajj and of seven when you have returned [home]. Those are ten complete [days]. This is for those whose family is not in the area of al-Masjid al-Haram. And fear Allah and know that Allah is severe in penalty. (Surah Baqara: 196)*

May Allah bring ease for those intending to go to Hajj this year and may they fulfil this obligation in the best manner possible. Ameen!