



HOW TO CELEBRATE

EID

NASREEN NAZAR

WHAT IS EID?

Eid is a celebration that adds color to our normal every day routine. It brings smiles on sad faces, adds laughter to our conversation, and gives solace, peace and tranquility to troubled hearts.

Eid is a day to celebrate love, share happiness and laughter. Celebrating joyous occasions is a Sunnah of our Rasool Allah (Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam), and part of our Deen. The blessed face of our Beloved Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) would brighten up ever so much on joyous occasions.

HOW TO CELEBRATE IT?

In celebrating Eid we must honour our Islamic etiquettes and not transgress the boundaries set by Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). We should not get carried away in our celebrations so much so as to engage in some acts that may cause the displeasure of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala).

We are seemingly moving away from our Islamic traditions of celebrating and spreading happiness. Many of us tend to feel our Eid is boring as we are becoming more and more influenced by the ways of other communities and how they rejoice during their feasts.

We must remember that Islam not only encourages the celebrations on the days of Eid, but in fact encourages all lawful means of sharing and spreading happiness. We must remember not to lose our identity while we are in our state of jubilation.

A Muslim must remain a true Muslim at all times, even when he is most jubilant.

During the time of Jahiliyyah, the people of Madinah used to celebrate two days of sports. When the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) migrated to Madina, he said,

قَدَّابَدَ لَكُمْ اللهُ تَعَالَى بِهَمَّا خَيْرًا مِنْهُمَا يَوْمَ
الْفِطْرِ وَيَوْمَ الْأَضْحَى - (بخاری)

“Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) has replaced your two festivals with two better days of celebration, Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha”
(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

PURPOSE OF CELEBRATING EID

The purpose of celebration is not to follow the traditions of other cultures, but beyond that; it demonstrates superior characteristics of a true believer and of total submission and worship to his Lord Almighty. Our celebration is the embodiment of two pinnacles of our Deen.

Eid ul Fitr celebrates the completion of a month long period of fasting, as well as other acts of worship associated with Ramadan. It is a time to praise and thank Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) for giving us the opportunity and health to fulfil this obligation.

Eid ul Adha is a celebration to commemorate the sacrifices of Prophet Ibrahim ('Alayhi-Salaam) one of the most honoured, obedient and beloved servants of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala).

ETIQUETTES OF EID:

On the nights of Eid, Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) showers his special mercy and blessings. In the Hadith, the nights are mentioned as "Lailatul Jaeza". [night of gifts] [Ibn Majah]

Do not waste the night of the new moon. We should not be lazy, nor should we be attending celebrations of 'Chaand Raat', but turn to Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) and submit to our Lord in obedience.

The etiquettes of Eid are as follows:

1. For Eid prayer, a person shall clean themselves by taking a shower. [Baihaqi, Mu'ta Imam Malik]

2. Use fragrance (perfume/itar) [Mustadrik Hakim]
Ladies should use a light fragrance.

3. One should wear beautiful clothes for Eid [Mustadrik Hakim], women should take care to hide their beauty when they leave their homes.

4. Before leaving for Eid prayer, one should eat an odd number of dates. [Sahih Al-Bukhari, Musnad Ahmad]. If there are no dates one should eat something before Eid prayer.

5. On Eid ul Adha we should sacrifice an animal after Eid prayer. [Sahih Al-Bukhari, Muslim]

6. After Eid ul Adha prayer eat from the sacrificial meat. [Tirmidhi, IbnMajah, Musnad Ahmed] If sacrificial animal is not there, then eat something else .
7. It is important to give Sadaqat-ul-Fitr before Eid -ul-fitr prayers. [Bukhari/Muslim] This is obligatory on every Muslim slave/free men and women of all ages.
8. On your way to Eid prayer and while you are at the place of prayer, recite Takbiraat. [Baihaqi]
9. During the days of tashreeq in Eid ul Adha, recite the Takbeeraat beginning from Fajr Salah of 9th Dhul Hijjah (Arafah day) until Asr Salah of 13th Dhul Hijjah [Baihaqi, Musannif Ibn Abu Shaybah].
10. Men are encouraged to recite the Takbeeraat out loud and women should recite softly.

The following are the phrases of the Takbeeraat:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، لاَ إِلَهَ إِلاَّ اللَّهُ ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ
أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ - (بيهقي)

Allahu-Akbar, Allahu-Akbar, La-ilaaha-illallahu-Wallaahu-Akbar, Allahu-Akbar, Walillahil-Hamd [Baihaqi]

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كَبِيرًا، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كَبِيرًا ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَ
آجَلُّ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَ لِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ -
(مصنف ابن شيبة، سنن دار قطنى)

Allahu-Akbar Kabeera, Allahu-Akbar Kabeera, Allahu-Akbar Wa
Ajallo Allahu-Akbar Walillahil-Hamd
[Musannaf Ibn Abu Shaybah, Ad-Daraqutni]

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كَبِيرًا - (بيهقى)

Allahu-Akbar Allahu-Akbar Allahu-Akbar Kabeera [Baihaqi]

11. It is preferable to go and return for Eid prayers on foot.
(Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah)

12. It is preferable to go for Eid prayer using one route and
returning using another route. (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

13. Every believing man, woman and child should participate in
the Eid prayer. [Sahih Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, Ibn
Majah, Tirmidhi, Musnad Ahmad]

14. If Eid falls on a Friday, it is preferable to pray both Eid and
Jum'uah prayers. If anyone prays dhuhur instead of Jum'uah
prayer, then it is permissible to do so. [Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah].

15. Islam prohibits Muslims to fast on Eid day, as it is a day of happiness, rejoicing, lawful eating and drinking. [Bukhari]

16. Muslims are taught to exchange Eid greetings by the following words-

“Taqabbal-Allahu Minna wa Minka” [Musnad Ahmed]

تَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ مِنَّا وَ مِنْكَ - (مسند احمد)

“May Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala) accept ours and your Ibaadat”

17. On the occasion of Eid, it is permissible to attend picnics, outings, and fun games. This can include recitations of poetic phrases as long as they are not breaking the Shariah Laws. [Sahih Al-Bukhari]

18. A Muslim who keeps six days of fast after Eidul-Fitr in the month of Shawwal will be rewarded by Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala) with an entire one year of fasting. [Muslim]

The first ten days of Dhul Hijjah are considered very special and a time for increased reflection (Bukhari), seeking Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala) mercy, blessings, forgiveness, doing good and various other forms of Ibadaat. The Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) has said,

a) "There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) than these 10 days. These days are special in the eyes of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala), during these days we should try to establish similar feelings that can relate with the feelings of the Hujjaj by engaging in extra Nawafil (Salah and Sawm), charity, recitation of Quran, honouring the rights of others over us, repentance and as many good deeds as we can."

b) "Who ever fasts on the day of Arafah (9th Dhul Hijjah) will be granted forgiveness for sins of the past year and the coming year". [Muslim] This voluntary fast does not apply to the Hujjaj.

The day of Arafah is a special day for supplications, remembrance of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) and asking forgiveness from sins.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SALAT UL EID

This is Sunnah Muakkadah, which Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) started in the first or second Hijra and later taught the companions for its punctuality.

HOW TO OFFER EID PRAYER?

1. Salat ul Eid consists of 2 rakats with 12 extra Takbeerat.
2. There is no Adhaan or Iqamah. [Muslim]

3. The Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) used to recite the following Surahs during the Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha Salah

- a. Surah Al-Qaaf
 - b. Surah Al-Qamar
 - c. Surah Al-A'ala
 - d. Surah Al-Ghashiya
- (Muslim)

4. In the first rakat after Takbeer-e-Tahrima, recite Thanā. Then before Surah Al-Fatiha, pronounce the seven Takbeer with pauses. After each Takbeer perform Rafa'-yadain, (raising of both hands up to the ear) and then fold your hands. [Abu Dawud] After Surah Al-Fatiha any part of the Quran may be recited, but it is recommended to recite those Surahs which Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) recited. This completes the first rakat.

5. In second rakat, pronounce five extra takbeer. [Abu Dawud] After each of these extra takbeer, Rafa-yadain must be observed (raising of both the hands up to the ear) and folding of the hands each time. Once this is completed read Surah Fatiha and any part of the Quran, however it is recommended to recite one of the Surahs that the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) used to recite, listed above. Then complete the rest of your prayer.

6. End with Salaam.



