

*Hajj &
Qurbaani*



Hajj – The Right of Allah

وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا ۗ وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ عَلِيمٌ

As a right of Allah Ta'ala, it is obligatory on people to perform hajj of the Ka'bah – on everyone who can afford the journey. If one disbelieves, then Allah Ta'ala is independent of all the worlds.

(Surah Aal 'Imraan v97)

In the above verse of the Quraan Majeed, Allah Ta'ala speaks of the fardh of hajj and tells us that it is His right over us that we perform hajj if we have the means to do so.

Having the means refers to a person being physically capable as well as possessing the financial means for his travel costs to go and return, accommodation and other related expenditure. If one has dependents at home, the needs and expenses of the dependents must also be seen to. **Furthermore, a woman will require a mahram to travel with her for hajj. If she does not have a mahram, it will not be permissible for her to travel alone for hajj.**

In our context, once hajj becomes fardh on a person, he cannot merely board a plane and fly off to fulfil this great 'ibaadah. Rather, he has to follow the procedure of applying through SAHUC, awaiting accreditation etc. Hence, as soon as we possess the means to perform hajj, we should set the money aside and forward our application. **We should not delay as it**

often takes a few years before a person receives accreditation and is able to go for hajj.

In the above verse, Allah Ta‘ala warns us that if a person shows an indifferent attitude towards the ‘ibaadah of hajj by not performing hajj or delaying unnecessarily, then Allah Ta‘ala has no need for him – *or anyone else for that matter*. Hence, by neglecting to perform hajj or delaying, we are harming no one but ourselves.

Additionally, we should not think that we are doing Allah Ta‘ala a favour by performing hajj. Rather, we are performing hajj for our own benefit through absolving ourselves of the obligations and earning the tremendous rewards promised for the one who performs hajj. *We should thus try our best to perform our hajj as soon as we can.*

May Allah Ta‘ala favour us all with the honour of presenting ourselves at His door.

‘Hajj Mabroor’

Sayyiduna Jaabir (radhiyallahu ‘anhu) reports that Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) said, “The reward of a ‘mabroor’ (accepted) hajj is nothing other than Jannah.” Hearing this, a Sahaabi (radhiyallahu ‘anhu) asked, “What constitutes an accepted hajj?” Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) replied, “*Feeding people and speaking to them in a gentle and good manner.*” In another narration, Rasulullah (sallallahu

‘alaihi wasallam) mentioned, “Feeding people and spreading salaam (i.e. making salaam to people).” (*Shu‘abul Imaan #3824 & 3825 and At-Targheeb wat Tarheeb vol. 2, pg. 165*)

In this hadeeth, Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) explained that among the actions which make a person’s hajj gain acceptance are the actions of feeding people, speaking kindly to them and making salaam to one and all (obviously, this does not apply to non-mahrams as one will not greet them). Similarly, in order for a person’s hajj to be ‘mabroor’, it needs to be void of show and ostentation, and sins and shamelessness.

Fortunate indeed are those individuals who have already proceeded or will soon depart for hajj, and may Allah Ta‘ala bless them all with ‘Hajj Mabroor’. Nevertheless, if we are not among those performing hajj this year, it does not mean that we cannot at least inculcate the spirit of hajj.

If we cannot pelt the jamaraat (the ‘shaitaans’), engage in du‘aa in ‘Arafah, make tawaaf of the Ka’bah and perform sa‘ee between Safaa and Marwah, then we can at least speak kindly to people, feed them, make salaam to everyone we meet, avoid shamelessness and indecency, and refrain from ostentation and show, as these actions are not restricted to the occasion of hajj. In this manner, although we are not among those performing hajj, we will at least enjoy the spirit of hajj. Furthermore, when these actions contribute to a person’s hajj gaining acceptance, then through us holding firmly to these

actions, it is hoped that Allah Ta‘ala will bless us with His special acceptance as well.

May Allah Ta‘ala bless us all with His special acceptance and take us all for hajj and ‘umrah, aameen.

Hajj from Home

We all have the burning desire in our hearts to present ourselves at the doorstep of the Ka’bah and fulfil the blessed rites of hajj. Some are fortunate enough to perform hajj once in a lifetime, some twice in a lifetime, and there are the select few who are extremely fortunate as they perform hajj annually.

However, Allah Ta‘ala, in His infinite kindness, has made it such that even those who cannot journey to Makkah Mukarramah to perform hajj are able to acquire the reward of hajj. Furthermore, they can do it from the comfort of their own homes!

Below are two such actions through which one can perform ‘Hajj from Home’:

1. Sayyiduna ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr (radhiyallahu ‘anhuma) narrates that Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) said, “The one who recites ‘Subhaanallah’ 100 times in the morning and 100 times in the evening is like one who has performed 100 hajj.” (Sunan Tirmizi #3471)
2. Sayyiduna Anas (radhiyallahu ‘anhu) narrates that a man once came to Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) and said, “I

desire to participate in jihaad, but I am unable to do so.” Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) asked him, “Are any of your parents alive?” When the man replied that his mother was still alive, Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) said, “Show Allah Ta‘ala the manner in which you serve and obey her. **If you do this, you will be (like) one who is performing hajj, ‘umrah and striving in jihaad.**” (Abu Ya’la, *Al-Mu’jamus Sagheer and Al-Mu’jamul Awsat - Majma‘uz Zawaa-id #13420*)

The ‘beauty’ of the above two actions is that they can be done perpetually, throughout the year! One can thus easily earn the reward of hajj out of the month of Zul Hijjah.

Let us strive to bring these two actions alive so that we can be among those who perpetually earn the reward of hajj.

Place it under the Blade

Once again the qurbaani fever is in the air. Those exotic gardens where even a few dry leaves are normally intolerable will have sheep droppings lying all over. Those moms who cannot stand a single stain on their children’s clothes will have their darlings returning to their spotless homes all smelly and dirty. Those cars in which placing a sack of onions often becomes a problem, will have buckets and boxes of freshly cut meat stacked in them.

Ever wondered how all of this happens?

The answer is simple... It is the result of the great spirit of Nabi Ebrahim ('alaihi salaam).

This spirit of his has been encapsulated in this verse of the Quraan Majeed: *“Indeed my prayer, my offering, my life and my death are for Allah, the Rabb of all the worlds.”* (Surah Al-An'aam, v162)

It was this very spirit that prompted him to forsake his disbelieving family and folks in his young age and enabled him to leave his wife and innocent child in a barren land in his old age. This spirit further motivated him to readily accept the command of slaughtering his beloved son, when he needed him most... *in his advanced age.*

All this and much more, he did merely because... *it was the command of his beloved Allah.* No relationship, desire or emotion was important or dear to him if it became an obstacle in carrying out the command of Allah Ta'ala.

Thus, the great lesson of qurbaani which we ought to learn is that every impermissible desire, pleasure or emotion needs to be 'placed under the blade' for the sake of our beloved Allah.

These desires would appear in different shapes and forms. For some it would be the desire to 'fall for the bait' of a charming young man, or the urge to dress in a figure revealing skinny jeans, or to apply the latest designer perfume and make-up to 'raise eyebrows' as she walks down the 'catwalk' of the outside world. For others it may be the urge to silence a nagging mother-in-law, to give a 'nosey' sister-in-law a piece of her

mind, or to listen to the latest ‘number’ or to watch the hottest movie.

All these impermissible desires and emotions need to be ‘placed under the blade’ in order for us to achieve the true spirit of qurbaani (sacrifice). *If we fail in this then we have lost out terribly, although we may have stocked up our freezers with meat to last for an entire year or even more.*

Savour the True ‘Flavour’ of Qurbaani

We are fast approaching that special occasion which graces us only once a year – *the occasion of ‘Eidul Adha or qurbaani.*

As the countdown commences, the planning and preparations begin and the atmosphere is charged with excitement and joy. While the adults are locating the knives, hooks, buckets, aprons, overalls, gumboots, arranging for the carcasses to be sliced and the meat stored, etc., the children are probably running to and fro in a state of excitement. They eagerly pull on their gumboots and walk amidst the animals, ‘inspecting’ and ‘choosing’ their animals. Likewise, they beg their fathers to take them to other homes and farms so that they can see who has the biggest bull or grandest goat.

The occasion of ‘Eidul Adha is a happy occasion on which we are the guests of the most gracious of all hosts - *Allah Ta‘ala.*

Hence, it is only befitting that the children be happy and filled with joy. They should be encouraged to ‘get their hands dirty’ by getting involved and helping in whatever way possible so that they also have a share in the activities of qurbaani. However, the be-all-and-end-all of the children’s ‘Eidul Adha should not merely be to participate in the activities, run outside, play and meet long lost relatives and friends. Rather, the essence and relevance of this qurbaani in the life of a Muslim should be imparted to them so that they may savour the true ‘flavour’ of qurbaani.

The parents should tell the children the incident of Nabi Ebrahim (‘alaihi salaam) and Nabi Ismaa’eel (‘alaihi salaam). When telling them the story, explain to them that Allah Ta’ala did not really want Nabi Ebrahim (‘alaihi salaam) to slaughter Nabi Ismaa’eel (‘alaihi salaam), but He was testing them to see whether they would do what He told them to do. These great Ambiyaa (‘alaihimas salaam) passed the test ‘with flying colours’, and Allah Ta’ala was so pleased that until today, the entire Ummah slaughters animals on this occasion in their remembrance. We should thus highlight the point to our children that throughout our lives, our goal is to make Allah Ta’ala happy and fulfil what He wants from us, just as Nabi Ebrahim (‘alaihi salaam) and Nabi Ismaa’eel (‘alaihi salaam) did. In this way, the children will view ‘Eidul Adha and qurbaani in a different light and will be able to appreciate the occasion.

Together with this, since the occasion of ‘Eidul Adha involves animals, it is important that the children are supervised and

taught to treat the animals correctly. Sometimes, in excitement, the children climb onto the animals, jump on them, chase them and harass them to the extent where the animals are caused great inconvenience, are frightened and are not even allowed to rest. This is obviously impermissible, and we should thus teach the children to respect and care for the animals.

Finally, since qurbaani is one of the symbols of Islam, let us try our best to give our children a true qurbaani. *The honour of qurbaani should be firmly entrenched in their hearts, they should eagerly anticipate qurbaani, enjoy eating the meat which Allah Ta'ala has provided for us, as his guests, and should understand its great importance and significance.*

May Allah Ta'ala bless us all with the true spirit and the rewards of 'Eidul Adha and qurbaani.

Witness it Being Slaughtered

Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) said to his beloved daughter, Sayyidah Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha), on the Day of 'Eid, *“O Faatimah! Stand and witness your sacrificial animal (being slaughtered), for verily you will receive forgiveness for every sin the moment the very first drop of its blood is spilt. Behold! Its flesh and blood will be brought (on the Day of Qiyaamah) and placed on your scale, (multiplied) 70 times (in weight).”* Sayyiduna Abu Sa'eed (radhiyallahu 'anhu) asked, *“O Rasul of Allah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam)! Is this (virtue) for the*

family of Muhammad (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) alone, for they are indeed worthy of virtue which is bestowed to them alone, or is it for all Muslims in general?” Rasulallah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) replied, “**For the family of Muhammad (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) especially and for all Muslims in general (as well).**” (*At-Targheeb wat Tarheeb* vol. 2, pg. 154)

For a woman to witness the slaughter of her qurbaani animal is definitely meritorious, as it was the wish of Rasulallah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) that his own dear daughter witness her animal being slaughtered.

As meritorious as it may be, however, this action will NOT gain us the happiness of Allah Ta‘ala and His Rasul (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) if, in the process, we blatantly trample the laws of Deen. How sad if an action undertaken to secure the pleasure of Allah Ta‘ala, instead earns us the displeasure of Allah Ta‘ala! **It is thus absolutely essential that due attention be paid to aspects such as purdah/hijaab, intermingling of sexes, etc.**

Let it not be that the Day of ‘Eid, a day of happiness, a day meant to take us a step closer to Allah Ta‘ala, actually takes us 10 steps away from Allah Ta‘ala!!!

Oh Dear there’s an Odour!

Imagine that it’s your only brother getting married. Excitement is in the air and all are eagerly anticipating the marriage. The day of the walemah arrives and you sit surrounded by your

beloved family on this most joyous occasion. As the food arrives, however, your heart sinks and your face drops.

“Oh No!” you think in dismay. The caterers, as usual, have made the food literally ‘swim’ in oil. In fact, it seems that they were even more liberal with the oil than usual. The word ‘swimming’ didn’t do justice; the food was drowning in oil. *After four months of intense dieting and strict discipline, you had finally begun shedding those extra kilos of puppy fat that had always haunted you. You did not want four months of effort to be spoiled by a weekend bingeing on biryani.*

But then you think to yourself, *“It’s not an everyday event, let me not be the one to ruin the happiness. My poor brother will feel hurt if I don’t eat anything,”* and in honour of your brother, out of happiness for the occasion, you make sure you eat the food.

The days of qurbaani are days in which the normally meritorious deed of fasting actually becomes haraam. *This is because they are the days in which Allah Ta’ala extends an invitation to every single Believer.* Allah Ta’ala is the most generous of hosts and so serves his guests (us) only the best – the meat of the qurbaani animals.

When we are invited to somebody’s home, we ensure that we eat at least a little from every dish prepared so that the host feels that all the food was eaten and appreciated. On the occasion of the farewell hajj, Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) had no less than *one hundred camels* sacrificed for qurbaani. He wished to honour the invitation of Allah Ta’ala and

also gain the tremendous blessings contained in the meat of the animals – *but how could he eat from a hundred camels?*

Not wanting to be deprived of the blessings and showing his appreciation to Allah Ta'ala, he ordered that a piece of meat of every one of the hundred camels be placed in a pot and cooked. He thereafter ate from and sipped the gravy in the pot. (*Saheeh Muslim #2950*) In this way, he secured in just a few morsels, the blessings of one hundred camels and also showed Allah Ta'ala how eager he was to eat of the meal Allah Ta'ala Himself had chosen for the occasion. (*Sharhun Nawawi - Saheeh Muslim vol. 1, pg. 399*)

Can we ever imagine attending the function of a prominent member of society and taking our own food along to the table? ... If he questions us, could we ever tell him that his food “has a smell” and so we prefer our own food? Absolutely never!

Allah Ta'ala deserves more honour than any member of society. Let us eat at least some of the qurbaani meat and understand that it is what Allah Ta'ala himself is feeding us on the Days of 'Eid.

How sad it is when we ‘take our own food’ to the invitation of Allah Ta'ala and don't eat any of the qurbaani meat! Actions speak louder than words. What are our actions telling Allah Ta'ala?

Breakfast Menu

Eggs – *poached, sunny-side-up, boiled, scramble, or omelette?*

Bread – *white, brown, baguette, bagel, croissant?*

Cereal – *All Bran, Cornflakes, Special K, Nutrifik, Weet Bix, Frosties?*

Fruit – *banana, apple, papaya, orange, melon, strawberries, kiwi?*

Juice – *orange, mango, apple, berry?*

Breakfast menus vary from household to household, but regardless of our tastes and preferences, **there is one day of the year when each and every household should eat the same breakfast – the day of ‘Eidul Adhaa**. On this day, the very first food that we eat (breakfast) should be the meat of the qurbaani animal.

Sayyiduna Buraidah (radhiallahu ‘anhu) reports that on the occasion of ‘Eidul Fitr, Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) would not leave for the ‘Eid Salaah until he consumed something. However, on the occasion of ‘Eidul Adhaa, Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) would **not** consume anything until he returned from the ‘Eid Salaah. **Thereafter, the (first) thing that he consumed was the meat of the sacrificial animal.** (*Musnad Ahmad #22984*) In one narration it is reported that **the first thing which Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) consumed was the liver of the sacrificial animal.** (*As-Sunanul Kubraa - Baihaqi #6161*)

It is extremely important and emphasized that we all eat the meat of the qurbaani animal. However, we should not wait for

lunch or supper to enjoy the qurbaani meat. Rather, it was the sunnah of Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) to ensure that the very first thing which he consumed on the Day of ‘Eid was the meat or liver of the qurbaani animal.

We should all strive to bring this blessed sunnah alive by delaying our breakfast on the Day of ‘Eid, waiting for the meat or liver to be prepared and served as breakfast.

May Allah Ta‘ala bless us all with the true love of the sunnah.

The Greater Qurbaani

The immense rewards of qurbaani are mindboggling. One’s sins are forgiven before the first drop of blood of the animal falls onto the ground. A person’s reward will be equivalent to the number of strands of hair or fibre of wool on the animal he is slaughtering. Likewise, many other great rewards have been promised for this very great ‘ibaadah. *Hence, can you imagine a reward greater than this?*

Indeed, Allah Ta‘ala loves something even more than sacrificing animals and blesses the one who undertakes it with greater rewards. Sayyiduna ‘Abdullah bin ‘Abbaas (radhiyallahu ‘anhuma) reported that once on the Day of ‘Eidul Adha Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) said, “There is no action more virtuous than the spilling of blood (qurbaani) on this day, except the joining of family ties (that have been severed).” (*Al-Mu’jamul Kabeer - At Targheeb wat Tarheeb vol. 2, pg. 154*)

While performing qurbaani is certainly a great sacrifice, joining and maintaining family ties is a greater sacrifice. **The sacrifice of qurbaani only entails the sacrificing of wealth while joining and maintaining family ties often entails the very great sacrifice and ‘qurbaani’ of one’s ego and self-esteem.** At times it also requires the sacrifice of some wealth.

An indifferent family member may snub one and spurn the gesture of re-joining and patching up. However if one undertakes the great ‘sacrifice’ in humbling oneself to join kinship, it will definitely surpass the sacrificing of animals in reward and in securing the pleasure of Allah Ta’ala. Allah Ta’ala loves that the paragon of His creation (insaan) and the followers of His beloved Nabi (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) should live harmoniously and cordially with one another. **Hence any initiative undertaken to foster a harmonious relationship is greatly appreciated and rewarded by Allah Ta’ala.**

There are numerous benefits and rewards that one receives for maintaining a healthy relationship and reuniting torn hearts. It is therefore the duty of every individual to undertake the ‘sacrifice’ necessary to maintain kinship. It is better to trample one’s ego or tolerate some loss of wealth to join and maintain family ties (earning great rewards and benefits in the process) rather than suffer the severe consequences of severing family ties.

Therefore, this ‘Eidul Adha, let us engage in the ‘ibaadah of qurbaani as well as the ‘ibaadah of the act that is greater than

qurbaani. May Allah Ta'ala guide us all to the path of love and harmony, aameen.