

Sunnahs & Etiquette of Udhiyah and `Eid

First: Etiquette and Rulings of Udhiyah

Udhiyah refers to the animal that is slaughtered during the days of `Eid Al-Adha, from the 10th to the 13th of Dhul-Hijjah, intending to draw closer to Allah thereby.

According to the majority of scholars, Udhiyah is a stressed upon Sunnah; whoever does it is rewarded and whoever abandons it is not punished.

Almighty Allah says, "So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone]." (Al-Kawthar 102:2)

Anas Ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "The Prophet (peace be upon him) sacrificed two white rams speckled with black. He slaughtered them with his own hand, said Takbir and put his foot on their necks." (Agreed upon)

The Time of Slaughtering:

It starts after the `Eid prayer on the 10th day of Dhul-Hijjah and ends by the sunset of the 13th day. It is permissible to slaughter during day or night.

The Due Age of the Sacrifice:

Camels must be at least 5 years, cows must be at least 2 years, goats must be at least 1 year, and sheep must be at least 6 months

Defective Udhiyah

Al-Bara' ibn `Azib said, "The Prophet (peace be upon him) stood up and delivered a sermon saying, 'There are four that will not be accepted as sacrifices: The one-eyed animal that is obviously blind in one eye; the sick animal that is obviously sick; the lame animal with an obvious limp; and the animal that is so emaciated that it is as if there is no marrow in its bones.' (Ahmad and others)

General Etiquette:

- One Udhiyah is sufficient for a man and his household.
- The best sacrifice is the fleshy, high-priced one.
- Offering sacrifice is better than paying its price in charity.
- A cow or a camel is sufficient as Udhiya for seven persons (with their families).
- It is desirable for the one offering sacrifice to eat, gift, pay in charity and save from his sacrifice.
- When slaughtering, one should relax the animal, use a sharp knife and slaughter quickly.
- One should direct the animal to the Qiblah and mention the name of Allah when slaughtering it.
- An animal should not be let to see the other animal while slaughtering it.
- The one offering Udhiyah should slaughter it himself.
- A butcher should not be given his fees from the sacrifice.
- It is not allowable to sell a part of the sacrifice. As for its skin, it is permissible to make use of or pay it in charity.

Note:

Umm Salamah reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "If the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah begin and one of you wants to offer a sacrifice, let him refrain from (cutting) his hair or nails." (Muslim)

Second: Sunnahs and Etiquette of `Eid

Among the acts of Sunnah on the day of `Eid are the following:

- Taking a bath before going out for prayer.
- It is recommendable not to eat until one comes back from the `Eid prayer, then eats from the Ud-hiyah.
- Takbir on the days of `Eid is one of the best good deeds. It should be done in general during the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah. However, it should be recited after the prayer from the Fajr (Dawn) of the day of `Arafah to the `Asr (Afternoon) prayer of the 10th day of Dhul-Hijjah.
- Congratulation is one of the good etiquette of `Eid, such as saying (Taqabbala Allahu minna wa minkum) "May Allah accept our and your deeds!"
- It is recommendable for men to wear the best clothes when going out for `Eid prayer. As for women, they should avoid adorning themselves or applying perfume because they are prohibited to do so before non-mahram men.
- It is desirable to go to prayer from one way and returning from another.
- Praying `Eid outdoors is a Sunnah from the Prophet (peace be upon him).
- Listening to the sermon of `Eid is recommendable.

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