

Haji and Eid Al Adha

Haji is a celebration and an occasion to remember the family of Ibrahim (AS) and their complete trust in Allah (SWT).

Ibrahim (AS) was 80 years old when he had his first son, Ismaeel (AS). Allah (SWT) ordered him to take his wife Hager (RA) and his son Ismaeel (AS) and to leave them in the middle of the desert. He obeyed without any questioning.

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O our Lord! surely I have settled a part of my offspring in a valley without cultivation, by Your Sacred House; in order, O our Lord that they may establish prayer; so fill some hearts among people with love towards them, and feed them with Fruits: so that they may give thanks. **(14:37)**

Hager (RA) and her son Ismaeel (AS) were very thirsty. She started to run to the top of hill called Safa, down the hill and to the top of another hill Marwa. She did that 7 times. After that a spring (Zam Zam) opened next to the foot of Ismaeel (AS)

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Surely the Safa and the Marwa are among the symbols of Allah; so whoever makes a pilgrimage to the House or pays a visit (to it), there is no blame on him if he goes round them both; **(2:158)**

- Have conviction that Allah (SWT) will answer you, do the best you can, make do'oa, have patience and don't complain

- The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Allah the Exalted says: `I am as my slave expects me to be". So if you believe that Allah (SWT) will answer your request, he will. If you believe that Allah (SWT) will not answer your request, he will not.

When Ismaeel (AS) was 9 -10 years old, Ibrahim (AS) had a dream that he is slaughtering Him. All Prophets' dreams are messages from Allah (SWT).

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Then when his son reached (the age of) (serious) work with him; he said: O my son! I have seen in a dream that I should sacrifice you; so look what you think!" He said: "O my father! Do that which you are commanded, Inshâ' Allâh, you shall find me of the patient ones (37:102)

- The devil tried to convince Ibrahim (AS) 3 times not to obey Allah (SWT) and everytime Ibrahim (AS) picked up 7 small rocks and hit the Shaytan with them.

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Then, when they had both surrendered (to Allah), and he laid him down upon his face (37:103)

And We called out to him: "O Abraham! (37:104)
You have fulfilled the dream!" thus do We reward the doers of good.
(37:105)

Hajj is one of the 5 pillars of Islam.

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And proclaim to mankind the Hajj (pilgrimage). They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (22:27)

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And Hajj (pilgrimage) to the House (Ka'bah) is a duty that mankind owes to Allâh, those who can afford the journey (3:97)

- The Prophet (PBUH) said: "O people! Hajj (pilgrimage to the House of Allah) has been made incumbent upon you, so perform Hajj."

Do not wait to do Hajj, if you can afford it then it is obligatory on you> The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Take advantage of five before five: Your young age before becoming old, your health before becoming sick, your wealth before becoming poor, your free time before becoming busy, your life before dying".

We are in the first 10 days of the Islamic month, Zul Hijjah. Those days are very special days in the sight of Allah (SWT)

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I swear by the dawn, and the ten nights (89:1&2)

- The Prophet (PBUH) said: "There are no days during which the righteous action is so pleasing to Allah than these days (i.e., the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah)." He was asked: "O Messenger of Allah, not even Jihad in the Cause of Allah?" He (PBUH) replied, "Not even Jihad in the Cause of Allah, except in case one goes forth with his life and his property and does not return with either of it."

- And He also said: "There is no day on which Allah sets free more slaves from Hell than He does on the Day of `Arafah."

Fasting the day of Arafah is a confirmed Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH) and we should all try to fast that day.

- The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) was asked about the observance of Saum (fasting) on the day of `Arafah. He said, "It is a compensation for the sins of the preceding year and the current year."

- Forgiveness Stations

Eid:

When the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) migrated from Makkah to Madinah, the people of Madinah used to have two festivals. On those two days they had carnivals, festivity and good food. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) asked the Ansaar (the Muslims of Madinah) about it. They replied that before Islam they used to have carnivals on those two joyous days. The Prophet (PBUH) told them: 'Instead of those two days, Allah has appointed two other days which are better, the days of Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha.'

The Prophet's words "Every nation has its festival, and this is your festival"

What are we suppose to do on this day?

- "The first thing we should do on this day of ours is to pray and then return and slaughter (our sacrifices).

Eid is a time when the entire Muslim community is joyful and thanks Allah for His blessings but we do not forget the less fortunate Muslims who may be suffering (Udhia/kurbani, Sadaka)

Ibn al-Qayyim said: "The Prophet (SAW) would wear his best clothes when proceeding to the two 'Eids and the day of jum 'ah

Some people remember sad things, in some culture they go and visit the cemeteries on the day of Eid. This is not the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH). Every time has its proper behavior, Eid is a time of happiness and celebration.

Get in touch with your family particularly parents, people you did not talk to or angry with them. Do it for Allah's (SWT) sake.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Enter happiness into the hearts of your families in this day."

Narrated 'Aisha (RA): Once I saw Allah's Apostle at the door of my house while some Ethiopians were playing in the mosque (displaying their skill with spears). Allah's Apostle was screening me with his robe so as to enable me to see their display. Later, Umar came in, picked up a stone and hit them with it. On that the Prophet said, "O 'Umar! Allow them (to play)."

Abu Bakr (RA) came to Aisha (RA), while there were two girls with her, beating drums, and the Prophet was (lying) covering himself with his garment. Abu Bakr reproached/criticized the two girls, but the Prophet uncovered his face and said, "O Abu Bakr! Leave them, for these are the days of Id (festival)."

Especially for our children, we have to make them feel that this is our Eid, our festival. They watch other kids during Christmas get toys and celebrate. We have to make sure that do not feel that they are less than other kids. The difference is that our festival is for a different purpose and at a different time.