



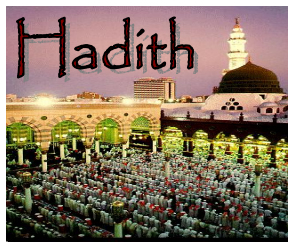
'Most of all it is my purpose to plant once more in the hearts of people the pure and shining unity of God.' -Promised Messiah (as)



## The Holy Quran

And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided; and remember the favour of Allah which He bestowed upon you when you were enemies and He united your hearts in love, so that by His grace you became as brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah explain to you His commandments that you may be guided.

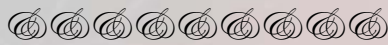
**(Chapter 3:Verse 104)**



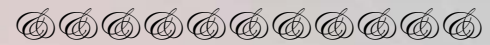
## Hadith

Whoever stands up (in worship) in the nights preceding the two Eids expecting rewards from his Lord, his heart will not die when the other hearts will die.

**(Ibn Majah)**



## Eid-ul-Fitr Prayer



Like any other deeds in Islam, the prayer must be preceded with the 'Niyah' i.e. true intention. The intention should be present in the heart before starting the prayer. Like any other prayer, the first rak'ah (one prayer unit) must be started with Takbeer ul-ihraam ; this is followed by the opening supplication. Additional Takbeers: The opening supplication is followed by seven Takbeers in the first rak'ah. Likewise, the Takbeer when rising to the second rak'ah is followed by five more Takbeers. 'Aa'ishah (ra) said: "Allah's Messenger (saws) would say Takbeer in both Fitr and Adha: seven in the first and five in the second - other than the two Takbeers of rukuu (bowing)" (Abu Dawoud)

The Sunnah is to say the Takbeers before the recitation, as in the hadith of `Amr Bin Shu`ayb, from his father, from his grandfather (Ibn `Umar (ra)), who said: "In the `Eid prayer, Allah's Messenger (saws) said seven Takbeers in the first rak'ah, recited (Qur'aan), said the Takbeer and bowed, prostrated himself; then he stood, said five Takbeers, recited, said Takbeer, bowed, and prostrated."

**Raising the hands with the additional Takbeer:** There are no authentic reports describing whether or not the Prophet (saws) raised his hands with these additional Takbeers. For this reason, Al-Albaanee states: "The reports from `Umar and his son do not make this a sunnah. Especially when we know that these reports are not authentic. As for the one from `Umar, it is recorded by al-Bayhaqee with a weak chain. As for his son's, I have not been able to locate it now."

However, based on various general hadith's that report the raising of the hands with Takbeer in the regular prayers, some scholars allow raising the hands with these additional Takbeers. "Ibn `Umar, who is known to adhere closely to the Sunnah, used to raise his hands with every one of the Takbeers."

**Raising the voice with the additional Takbeer:** There are no authentic reports indicating that the people would raise their voice with Takbeer when praying behind the Imaam. The Sunnah is to say all thikr secretly, except in specific cases where the contrary was confirmed. This is enforced further in situations where raising the voice would disturb other people's prayer. Therefore, it is not permissible for anyone other than the Imaam to raise the voice with Takbeer in the prayer.

There is no Zikr (remembrance of Allah) confirmed from the Prophet (saws) between the `Eid Takbeers. However, it is reported that Ibn Mas`ood (ra) said: "Between every two Takbeers is a praise of Allah and a salaah upon the Prophet (saws)." **Ibn ul-Qayyim (ra) said:** "The Prophet (saws) used to remain silent between every two Takbeers, and nothing is reported from him regarding Zikr between them."

The Takbeer is a sunnah (recommended act). Leaving it, whether intentionally or forgetfully, does not invalidate the prayer. There is no difference of opinion on this among the scholars; however, there is no doubt that anyone who neglects it intentionally would be violating the sunnah of the Prophet (saws). The Remainder of the Eid Prayer: is performed in the same manner as any other prayer, without any difference.

**Missing the `Eid Prayer:** If one misses the `Eid prayer in Jamaa`ah, he must pray two Rak'aat. Imaam al-Bukhari (ra) headed a section as, "Section: One Who Misses the `Eid Prayer Should Pray Two Rak'aat." And he added that `Ataa' (ra) said: "When one misses the `Eid prayer, he prays two Rak'aat."

**In conclusion:** The Eid prayer is waajib (obligatory) for every male Muslim. The Prophet (sallallahu `alaihi wa sallam) performed it consistently and commanded all the people to go out for it. He even specifically commanded all of the women to attend.

# Why I Am a Muslim?

Ibrahim, a Pennsylvania teenager, explains how difficulties with church teaching about Jesus as God led him from Catholicism to Islam

A time comes in everyone's life, or at least I hope it comes, when they realize that they have to not only believe what they believe in, whatever it may be, but get out there and proclaim it to the world. Luckily, that time came early for me. I am 17, and Islam is the belief that I'm proclaiming.

I was raised Catholic. Not internally as much as externally. I went to Catholic Sunday school, called CCD, but the Catholic view of God never played a major roll in my childhood. It was a Sunday thing. Anyhow, I started to enjoy Mass around 7th grade. It made me feel good to do the right thing. I was always a rather moral person, but I never really studied the fundamentals of Catholicism. I just knew that I felt good worshipping my creator. I really liked Catholicism, but I always saw it as us (the Catholics) with Jesus worshipping God, not us worshipping God and Jesus as one. I saw Jesus (peace be upon him) as my example on how to be a good follower of and submitter to God's will, but not as God himself.

Before I was confirmed in 8th grade, in the fall of 1999, I learned a lot about what Catholicism was. The Catholicism of the Church had a lot on viewing Jesus as God in it. Nothing like my "undivided God being worshipped by me with Jesus as an example" train of thought. It was like they just opened up a can of cold, illogical confusion and tried to feed it to me. It didn't feel right. I continued with Catholic church, and kept on worshipping. But I talked to many in the church about my feelings that Jesus wasn't God but more of a Prophet, an example. They told me that I had to accept him as God and as a sacrifice, and so on. I just wasn't buying it. I tried to buy it but I guess God withhold the sale for my own benefit. There was a better car out there for me. I continued at the church.

Sometime in mid-December of 1999, for no reason that I can recall I started reading up on Islam in encyclopedias. I remember making a list of bolded words in the entry for "Islam" in an old 1964 Grolier World Book that I found in my closet, and studying them. For some reason I was amazed by this faith and that it was all about God and that it was everything that I believed all my life - right here. Previously, I had accepted that there was no faith like I felt inside of me. But I was amazed that I had found this faith. I found out that "my" faith had a name, and millions of other adherents!

Without ever reading a Qur'an or talking to another Muslim, I said Kalima (declaring your belief in no god but one God, Allah) on 31 December 1999. As the months passed, I learned more. I went through many periods of confusion, happiness, doubt and amazement. Islam took me on an enlightening tour of me, everyone else, and God. The transition was slow. I was still attending Mass five months into my change of faith. Each time I went, I felt more and more distant from the congregation, but closer and closer to Prophet Jesus and God.

During Ramadan 2001, the second time I fasted (the first year, I converted during Ramadan and did not fast), I went to the library during lunch period. It was better than sitting at a table with my friends, because I got work done in the library. I swear my grades went up. Anyways, I started talking to the only other Muslim at my school, John. We talked about Islam a little more each day. He's an awesome brother and he took me to the mosque on the last Friday of Ramadan. Going was one of the best things I ever made in my life. God really answered my prayers this time. I thought I would be nervous, but I wasn't at all. It was the most natural thing I ever did in my life. I felt home. I realized something before leaving. As I sat there on the floor, praying to God, I realized that the room was full of others but it was OK. See, at home when someone asks me what I am doing, I never say I am praying. I never admit it to anyone. It is too awkward. But there, at the masjid, I was praying to God in front of a score of other Muslims and I felt perfectly fine. Better than fine! I felt secure and safe. It was the most liberating thing since I accepted God into my heart that cold New Year's Eve almost two years ago.

I never told my parents right out. In fact, I don't plan to. The most significant clue that I gave came around 1:00 AM on 16 December 2001, when I finally told my dad I was going to the mosque in the morning with a friend when he asked me why I was setting my alarm. He told me how he can't wait for me to move out of the house, how displeased he is with me and how stupid the choices I make are to him. I never told them straight out because I figured it was best to test the waters by revealing clues bit by bit; I didn't want to send a shockwave through the family. I can only imagine what my dad would do if he knew I was actually a practicing Muslim. He seems to hate my guts just for studying the faith, which he thinks is all I am doing. I understand that my dad is a depressed man, so I don't really hold this all against him. I mean, it is his fault for thinking himself so smart that he doesn't need God. That thought is what got him so depressed. But I don't think he realized how hard one's heart can be when you deny your human need for a relationship with your Creator. So I don't hold it all against him. He didn't know what he was getting into. My mom doesn't know that I am a Muslim, but at least she hasn't shown her anger over me going to the mosque. She is upset over it but never told me that I displease her, at least. As God commands, I'll continue to try my best to be nice to my parents as long as they don't attempt to take away my Islam. The best thing that I can do for them is to be a good example so that maybe one day, inshallah, they can see that there is a better way of living than living in the dark world of God-denial.

I've never been to the Mid-East, but I am studying Islam every day. I read books from every point of view. Sufi, Shia, Sunni, books on the Qur'an alone... The Muslims view sects as haram, so no matter what you believe you are always a Muslim and nothing extra. You may have completely different views than another Muslim, but as long as you both believe that there is no god but God, you are both Muslims and that's that. I read a lot on-line, and discuss a lot with other Muslims on-line and on the phone. I've met some really great people on-line who have taught me a lot about life, Islam and God.

Right now, I am 100% a Muslim and that will never change, InshaAllah. I thank God that I've gone through so many periods of doubt. When I look back I see that it was not God leaving me but God telling me that it was time that I asked myself how much I loved God, and what I was willing to go through to understand my faith. A week of crying, depression, prayer, reading to the extreme, and ignoring most other things in life sounds harsh...but the reward - knowing so much more about yourself, God, and the relationship between you (Islam) - is worth more than any material things. Through my interrogation of Islam I gained God's most precious gift - Islam, or surrender to the peace. I've heard Christians say that with Christianity you "know God on a personal level." In Islam, your relationship with God is so much deeper than that. God is with me every moment, guiding me, teaching me, loving me, protecting me, liberating me, enlightening me, comforting me... Alhamdulillah for Islam!

Islam has done a lot for me. More than I could have ever guessed. And every day, it just gets better. I went from living my life on a trial-and-error basis to embracing guidance, and now knowing what the best choices are for me to make. From seeking who I am and spending a life in confusion, I am being guided. I can't find the words to say what it's like, but I'll try again: God reveals to me what life is. I don't have to guess anymore. That is what I went through, what God did for me - what I am. So here is my proclamation to the world. Islam is more than you think it is, in fact more liberal than most would wish it to be. But do not only listen. Study all views for yourself...and come to your own conclusion. God says "let there be no compulsion in religion" because faith in God is a choice made by the heart, and it can't be forced.

*Ibrahim*

# Br. Abdul Zibin Muhammad

Brother Abdul Zibin Muhammad is one of the newest fruits of Ahmadiyyat. He signed bait in September, 2007 with the grace of Allah. Br. Muhammad is 40 years old, and lives in Kentucky with his wife and children (one daughter, 3 step children). Although born and raised as a Baptist, Br. Muhammad always had a special attraction towards Islam. He says he was always drawn to Islam as a teenager, but did not know how to get started. He wanted to join the right community, but found himself confused about where to go.

He was thirsty for knowledge, *truth*, and wanted to know how to get closer to God. Since he was naturally inclined towards Islam (despite being born a Baptist), Br. Muhammad first explored the Nation of Islam in Chicago. However, after interacting with them, the people there told him that they could not help him!

It was then about a year ago that Br. Muhammad met a Kenyan Ahmadi, brother Marwa in New Jersey, who introduced him to Ahmadiyyat – the true Islam. The Kenyan brother put Br. Muhammad in touch with Br. Bilal Rana, who is also Muhtamim Tabligh. The two started communicating on a regular basis (since br. Muhammad is often on the road, most of the conversation were over cell phone). Soon brothers Micah Tair and Qasim Rashid of Chicago also started chatting with br. Muhammad and developed personal friendships.

It is the love, kindness, and “sense of community” of Muslims that attracted br. Muhammad the most. This mutual bond of love and respect is best summarized by his own words when he says that what attracted him the most was that “Muslims did not disrespect him as a man”. Indeed this is the real purpose of Islam, and Prophet Muhammad’s (sa) message: to break the artificial barriers of race, class and nation, and to work towards promoting peace, justice and righteousness.

Since he entered Ahmadiyyat, brother Muhammad’s close relatives have been asking him question regarding Islam, particularly in relation to the negative views in the media. However, with the grace of Allah br. Muhammad has been showing them the true face of Islam, and as a result they now respect his decision. Brother Muhammad describes himself as a “family man” and likes spending time with his family, and cooking/cleaning around the house. He is particularly fond of cooking seafood!

Brother Muhammad’s quest for knowledge, truth, and God finally led him to accept Ahmadiyyat this year. He thus became yet another proof of the promise of Allah in the Holy Quran:

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا

And as for those who **strive** to meet US - We will, surely, guide them in Our ways.



## Etiquettes of Eid

Some of the prescribed practices or special spiritual etiquettes of "Eid- ul-Fitr" are given below:-

1. It is compulsory for all the faithfuls to take a bath and wear new dress if they can.
2. It is Sunnah to eat dates or some sweet dish before leaving for Eid prayers. The Holy Prophet always used to go for Eid congregation after eating some dates. (Reported by Anas bin Maalik & collected in Saheeh al-Bukhari (Eng. Trans. Vol. 2 P-40 No. 73) & Ahmad.
3. Going early to the place of prayer.
4. It is Sunnah to recite "Takbiraat" loudly while going to Eid congregation for offering Eid prayers. It is reported that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself used to recite these "Takbiraat" with a loud voice on this day.

**Takbeer:** *Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, la ilaha illallahu wallhu akbar Allahu Akbar, wa lilla-hil hamd.*

**Translation:** *Allah is the Greatest; Allah is the Greatest. There is none worthy of worship except Allah; Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest and all Praise belongs to Him.*

5. Pay Fitrana before Eid prayers to ensure that the less fortunate among us are also enabled to share the festivities. Fitrana is to be paid for every young or old. Its rates are fixed according to the prevailing rates of wheat and dates in various Muslim countries.
6. It is Sunnah to adopt different routes to and from the Eidgah, preferably going on foot. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself used to go the Eidgah on foot and declared that it was more rewarding to seek the Divine blessings. Jabir reported that the Prophet (PBUH) used to come back from the Eid prayer on a path other than the one used in going to it. (Bukhari).
7. Sending Eid-greetings to friends and relatives are customary on this occasion throughout the Muslim world. Exchange of special Eid cards is to show affection for the near and dear ones.



Br. Abdul Zibin (right) with Br. Qasim Rasheed of Chicago, IL



## Announcement from the Editor

Assalamo Alaikom Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuhu,

Dear Brother,

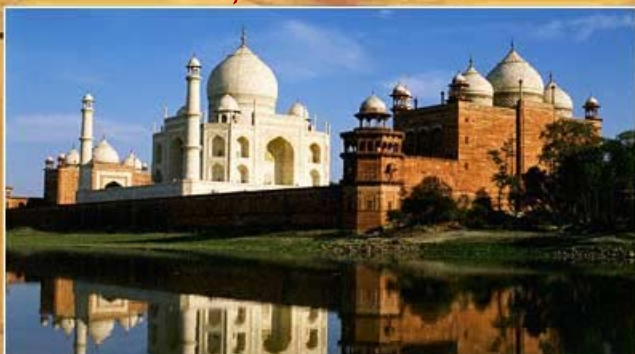
Eid Mubarik and May Allah accept your fast and reward you with His ultimate blessings, Ameen.

This Eid, the newsletter is sending Eid greetings to many of the correctional institutions around the country. Please stay connected by writing to us about your news and experiences. I would like to thank you for sending your letters last month. Every letter is another reason for the newsletter to keep on moving. I have processed the requests of many of you and I'm still working on the rest. Like, I mentioned before, if you

need any books or literature, please feel free to contact us and we will send you the literature, InshaAllah. In addition, please contact us with any questions you may have about Islam. Please write to the newsletter address below for your submission. Jazakallah (thank you) for being part of the Garden of Peace family and May Allah bless you and guide you further in your journey, Ameen. Humbly,

Ahmad Antar

### Mosques Around the World



The Mosque at Taj Mahal



**Someone told me that Muslims can't have a relationship with non-Muslim, is it true?  
All my family are Non-Muslims and I don't want to cut ties with my family.**

Assalamo Alaikum my Dear Brother,  
That is not true, we are encouraged in Islam to keep ties with our family and to be good to our parents. Allah states in the Qur'an: "And We have enjoined on man kindness to his parents; but if they contend with thee to make thee associate that with ME of which thou hast no knowledge, then obey them not. Unto ME is your return, and I shall inform you of what you did", Chapter 29: Verse 8. Also Allah revealed another verse in the Qur'an,

"And if they contend with thee to make thee set up equals with Me concerning which thou hast no knowledge, obey them not, but be a kind companion to them in worldly affairs, and in spiritual matters follow the way of him who turns to Me. Then unto Me will be your return and I shall inform you of what you used to do." Chapter 31: Verse 16

It is very important in Islam to be good to one's parents and to remember that their disbelief does not justify disobedience by the son or daughter and that doing them good does not contradict with your innocence of them as non believers, on the contrary as it is stated in Chapter 31,verse 16 above, Allah has commanded us to treat the non believing parents kindly even if they strive to make their child a polytheist because of their rights as parents hoping that they will embrace Islam.

Garden of Peace Team

Please submit your question to [joinislam@gmail.com](mailto:joinislam@gmail.com) or mail it to Garden of Peace, 11205 Hambright Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078. All questions will be answered.

## Conditions of Initiation (Bai'at) to Islam

By: Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian  
The Promised Messiah and Mahdi (peace be upon him)

- I. That he/she shall abstain from Shirk (association of any partner with God) right up to the day of his/her death.
- II. That he/she shall keep away from falsehood, fornication, adultery, trespasses of the eye, debauchery, dissipation, cruelty, dishonesty, mischief and rebellion; and will not permit himself/herself to be carried away by passions, however strong they might be.
- III. That he/she shall regularly offer the five daily prayers in accordance with the commandments of God and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him); and shall try his/her best to be regular in offering the Tahajud (pre-dawn supererogatory prayers) and invoking Darood (blessings) on the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him); that he/she shall make it his/her daily routine to ask forgiveness for his/her sins, to remember the bounties of God and to praise and glorify Him.
- IV. That under the impulse of any passions, he/she shall cause no harm whatsoever to the creatures of Allah in general, and Muslims in particular, neither by his/her tongue nor by his/her hands nor by any other means.
- V. That he/she shall remain faithful to God in all circumstances of life, in sorrow and happiness, adversity and prosperity, in felicity and trial; and shall in all conditions remain resigned to the decree of Allah and keep himself/herself ready to face all kinds of indignities and sufferings in His way and shall never turn away from it at the onslaught of any misfortune; on the

- contrary, he/she shall march forward.
- VI. That he/she shall refrain from following un-islamic customs and lustful inclinations, and shall completely submit himself/herself to the authority of the Holy Quran; and shall make the Word of God and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) the guiding principle in every walk of his/her life.
- VII. That he/she shall entirely give up pride and vanity and shall pass all his/her life in humbleness, cheerfulness, forbearance and meekness.
- VIII. That he/she shall hold faith, the honor of faith, and the cause of Islam dearer to him/her than his/her life, wealth, honor, children and all other dear ones.
- IX. That he/she shall keep himself/herself occupied in the service of God's creatures for His sake only; and shall endeavor to benefit mankind to the best of his/her God-given abilities and powers.
- X. That he/she shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of God, pledging obedience to me in everything good, for the sake of Allah, and remain faithful to it till the day of his/her death; that he/she shall exert such a high devotion in the observance of this bond as is not to be found in any other worldly relationship and connections demanding devoted dutifulness.



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Garden of Peace is a monthly newsletter for the Nau-Mauba'en (new converts) published by Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmediyya, USA. All new converts are welcome to submit their own articles, experiences and opinions to the newsletter team. Please send your request to: By Mail: 11205 Hambright Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078. By Email: [joinislam@gmail.com](mailto:joinislam@gmail.com) - Garden of Peace Team: Ahmad Anwar, Bilal Rama, Arif Mian, Abuddin Ahmed.

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