

Īd al-Fitr

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What is Īd al-Fiṭr?

- Īd al-Fiṭr (also spelled as Eid Al-Fitr) is the Muslim festival at the end of fasting month of Ramadhan رمضان
- It is celebrated on the 1st of Shawwāl شوال which is the 10th month of Islamic calendar
- It is celebrated to mark the successful completion of Ramadhan and to give thanks for its blessings. Fitr means breaking of the fast
- Traditionally the Eid was celebrated when the new moon was sighted at the end of Ramadhan but now in most Western countries Jama'at sets the date based on astronomical calculation of when the crescent will be visible in each country
- For detailed explanation of these calculations read this [document](http://alislam.org/eid/moon.html) (alislam.org/eid/moon.html)
- Eid festival lasts for three days. Fasting is not allowed on the first day of Eid Al-Fitr

Eid Prayers

- Eid prayers are Sunnah Moqadaah سنت موقدة (i.e. that sunnah which was never missed by the Prophet) In Prophet ﷺ time all men, women and children used to attend the prayers. So much so, the menstruating women used to attend as well (but not offering the prayers) (Bukhari & Muslim Kitab-ul-Eidain)
- Eid prayers are typically offered outside in open ground known as EidGah عیدگاہ (because usually the mosques cannot accommodate all the people) but can be offered inside the mosque as well
- Eid prayers are offered early in the morning usually before noon although they can be held anytime before sunset
- No Adhan اذان or Takbir تکبیر is called before Eid Prayers
- Eid prayers consist of two Rak'ah رکعت. The main difference is the number of Takbiraat تکبیرات that are offered in each Rak'ah

Eid Prayers

- In the first Rak'ah after Takbir-e-Tahreema تكبير تحریم (the Takbir to start the prayer), one should recite the Thanaa (سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ) ثناء and then before At-ta'awwuz (أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ) التعوذ the imam repeats the Takbir seven more times. After each Takbir one should raise the hands to his ears and then drop them to his side. After the seventh Takbir, one should fold his hands as usual and continue with At-ta'awwuz and surah Fatiha
- In the second Rak'ah after the Takbir to stand up from the Sajdah, one should fold the hands as usual. Then the Takbiraat are repeated five more times, dropping the hands each time, until you fold the hands after fifth Takbir
- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ usually used to recite either Surah A'la (87) and Surah Ghaashiya (88) respectively in each Rak'ah or Surah Qaf (50) and Surah Qamar (54) (Muslim Kitab-ul-Eidain)
- After the prayers the imam gives a sermon followed by Khutba Thaniya
- Holy Prophet ﷺ did not used to offer any Nafl prayer before or after the eid prayers

Sadqatul Fitr

- Sadqatul Fitr (also known as Fitrana) is the charity that is mandatory to be given before Eid prayers
- Prophet ﷺ emphasized that it is to be offered for every man and women and child (Bukhari Kitabul Zakat). It should be given even for a day old baby
- In the time of the Prophet ﷺ it was fixed to be one Sa' of barley, dates, raisins or cheese. One Sa' equals approximately three kilograms
- In modern times the Jama'at fixes the rate based on prevailing price of barley or wheat (approximately) in each country
- For USA, this year (2015) the rate is \$5 per person
- This can be paid to local Secretary Finance

Takbir

- In Surah Al-Baqarah, Allah instructs the believers regarding fasting

وَلْتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

- Translation: and that you may complete the number, and that you may exalt Allah for His having guided you and that you may be grateful (2:186)
- In light of this one should recite the following Takbir throughout the day

الله أكبر الله أكبر
لا إله إلا الله
والله أكبر الله أكبر
ولله الحمد

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

Traditions of Eid

- The following items are sunnah of Holy Prophet ﷺ on this occasion
 - To wear one's best clothes (new if possible)
 - To take a bath and apply perfume
 - Eat a breakfast and odd number of dates before leaving for prayer
 - To go to the EidGah using one way and return from another
- One should greet the fellow Muslims after the sermon is over. You should embrace them three times (starting from right side) and wish them Eid Mubarak عيد مبارك (Blessed Eid) or Eid Saeed عيد سعيد (Happy Eid). Prophet ﷺ used to greet people by saying تقبل الله منا ومنكم meaning "May Allah accept from us and from you (our deeds)" (Musnad Ahmad)

A Day of Fun & Joy

- One should visit the friends and relatives and exchange gifts. Kids in particular are often given some gifts or money known as Eidi
- Our Khulafa have also reminded us that on this blessed occasion, one should not forget the poor members of community and visit them in their houses and give them gifts
- Once Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) came to the house of Prophet on Eid and two girls were singing some songs in the courtyard of Hazrat Ayesha (ra). He stopped them but Prophet ﷺ intervened and said “For every nation there is a festival and this is our festival” so let them sing (Bukhari & Muslim)
- Hazrat Ayesha narrates that the Abyssinians played a sport with their shields and spears in the mosque on Eid day and she saw the display while standing behind the Prophet ﷺ such that her cheek was touching his cheek (Bukhari & Muslim)

Fasting in Shawwāl

- Fasting is prohibited on the first day of Eid
- For the following six days of Shawwāl, keeping voluntary fast is highly recommended
- Holy Prophet ﷺ is reported to have said that the one who fasts for the six days in Shawwāl after keeping the fasts of Ramadhan, it is as if he has fasted for the whole year (Muslim Kitabus Siyyam)