

# Al Hilal



## The Importance of Friday & Eid Celebrations



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A Magazine for Children

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## QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A Magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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*The Importance Of  
Friday & Eid Celebebrations*

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## The Importance Of Friday & Eid Celebrations

### Editor's Note:

The notation (sa) is an abbreviation of the prayer *sallallāhu 'alaihi wa sallam* (peace and blessings of God be upon him), which we say for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). Though the prayer has not been written in full it should nevertheless be understood as being repeated in full in each case.

Similarly, the notation (as) is an abbreviation of the prayer *'alaihi-salam* (peace be upon him) and is used at the mention of the Promised Messiah (as) and all other prophets of God.

The notation (ra) is an abbreviation of the prayer *radiyallahu 'anhu/'anha/'anhum* (may Allah be pleased with him/her/them) and is used for the companions of the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as).

The notation (aba) is an abbreviation of the prayer *ayyadahullahu ta'ala bi-nasrihil-'aziz* (may Allah be his Helper) and is used at the mention of the current Khalifa (aba).

Dear Reader, As-Salāmu 'Alaikum!

I am very pleased to introduce this issue of our children's magazine in which they share their persuasive views on **The Importance of Friday and Eid Celebrations!**

In Islam all these days require a level of personal sacrifice, which in turn bring deep and profound personal joy. Friday is especially important being a weekly commitment. For Muslims, Friday has been designated as our day of worship and we are called upon to "*...hasten to the remembrance of Allah and leave off all business...*" (62:10).

Friday holds such importance that it exceeds all other days in importance! Those who regularly attend Friday Prayers at their central Mosque being mindful of all the requirements of this special day, certainly open the doors of Allah's immense Blessings upon themselves. A true and sincere Muslim makes Friday Prayers a life long priority.

Please join me in being persuaded by our children's enthusiasm!

Was-Salam  
Saliha Malik  
Chief Editor, Al-Hilal



## Holy Qur'an

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ  
الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ <sup>ط</sup>  
ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٠﴾

O ye who believe! when the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off *all* business. That is better for you, if you only knew.

(Holy Qur'an Ch. 62, V. 10)

فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ  
وَابْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ  
كَثِيرًا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١١﴾

And when the Prayer is finished, then disperse in the land and seek of Allah's grace, and remember Allah much, that you may prosper.

(Holy Qur'an Ch. 62. V.11)



# Hadith

إِنَّ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ سَيِّدُ الْأَيَّامِ، وَأَعْظَمُهَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ، وَهُوَ أَعْظَمُ  
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْأَضْحَى وَيَوْمِ الْفِطْرِ، فِيهِ خَمْسٌ خَلَالَ،  
خَلَقَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ آدَمَ، وَأَنْهَضَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ آدَمَ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ، وَفِيهِ تَوَفَّى  
اللَّهُ آدَمَ، وَفِيهِ سَاعَةٌ لَا يَسْأَلُ اللَّهُ فِيهَا الْعَبْدُ شَيْئًا إِلَّا أُعْطَاهُ،  
مَا لَمْ يَسْأَلْ حَرَامًا، وَفِيهِ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ،

“Friday is the chief of all days and is the greatest in Allah’s sight. It is the Day that is greater than the Day of Adha and the Day of Fitr in Allah’s sight. It has five significances; it is the day Hazrat Adam was born, it is the day he was sent down to earth, it is the day he passed away, it is the day during which a moment comes when anything that is asked for, save what is forbidden, will be granted and it is the day when the Day of Judgment will come to pass.” (Sunan Ibn Majah (1084), Musnad Ahmad (15548))

# Hadith

إِذَا كَانَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ وَقَفَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ عَلَى بَابِ الْمَسْجِدِ يَكْتُبُونَ الْأَوَّلَ فَالْأَوَّلَ مِمَّنْ الْمُهَجَّرِ كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي يُهْدِي بَدَنَةً، ثُمَّ كَالَّذِي يُهْدِي بَقْرَةً، ثُمَّ كَبْشًا، ثُمَّ دَجَاجَةً، ثُمَّ بَيْضَةً، فَإِذَا خَرَجَ الْإِمَامُ طَوَّأُ صُحُفَهُمْ، وَيَسْتَمْعُونَ الذِّكْرَ.

“On Friday angels stand by the door of the mosque, and they note down the example of one who comes in first as one who sacrifices a camel, the next as one who sacrifices a cow, the next as one who sacrifices a lamb, the next as one who sacrifices a chicken and the next as one who sacrifices an egg. When the Imam comes to the *mimber* the angels close the register and begin listening to the discourse.” (Bukhari and Muslim)

فِيهِ سَاعَةٌ لَا يُوَافِقُهَا عَبْدٌ مُسْلِمٌ، وَهُوَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي، يَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى شَيْئًا إِلَّا أَعْطَاهُ إِيَّاهُ

“There comes such an hour on Friday, which, if a Muslim encounters while standing in prayer, then whatever supplication he makes, it is accepted or whatever goodness he asks for, it is granted to him by Allah the Exalted.” (Sahih al-Bukhari)

مَنْ تَرَكَ ثَلَاثَ جُمُعٍ تَهَاوُنًا بِهَا طَبَعَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قَلْبِهِ

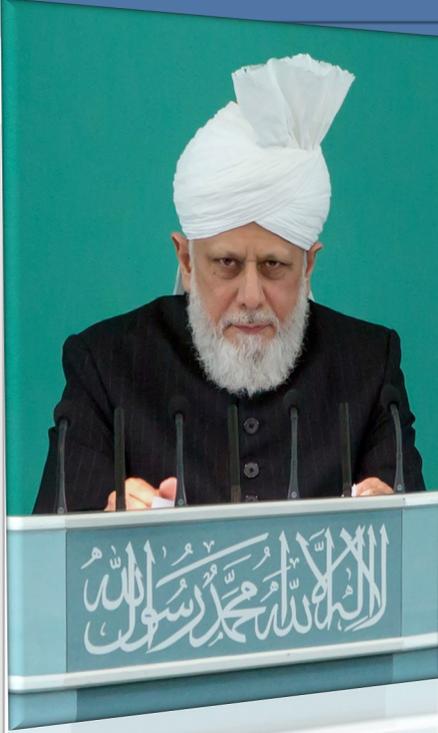
“He who misses three consecutive Friday prayers out of negligence, God Almighty shall place a seal on their hearts.”

(Sunan an-Nisa'i 1369)



## The Significance of Jumu'ah Prayers

May 31 2019



Regarding the importance of Friday Prayers, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) explained, "In the sight of God Almighty, attending the Friday prayers is of vital importance. God Almighty has clearly stated that when one is called for the Friday prayer, one ought to pay heed immediately and attend the Friday prayer, regardless of how busy one may be.

Even if it is the peak business hour, when neglecting the business affairs and trade can result in a loss of millions for a businessman, one should not care about it and should attend the Friday prayers, without thinking about the potential loss that can occur. This is because going to the central mosque to attend the Friday prayers and listening to the Friday sermon of the imam is hundreds of thousands of times better for you than your trades, businesses and other worldly affairs.

However, only such an individual can realize this, who truly understands its importance. Allah the Almighty states that one who truly understands its worth would certainly consider these trades and businesses of secondary importance.



Allah the Almighty also states that you are free to pursue your worldly pursuits after the Friday prayers. Allah the Almighty will also bless your worldly affairs. You should remain focused on the remembrance of Allah the Exalted, as a result of which you will be granted with greater success than before; religiously, spiritually as well as worldly.

People pray for worldly objects and when their prayers are not accepted, they become disappointed with God Almighty. Worldly pursuits are limited to a certain sphere. However, God Almighty is limitless and has no end. When we seek God Almighty, every single person can be granted His nearness, on the condition that they develop fervency and act on His commands.



God Almighty has stated that we ought to obey Him and understand the value of His lofty status and grandeur. One ought to recognize a diamond when they see it and not consider it to be a glass pebble. When this is the case, one

can find God Almighty and whosoever finds God Almighty, every blessing of this world comes under their feet. Thus, it is the duty of man to obey every injunction of God Almighty.

We ought to have full conviction and belief in God Almighty and should never betray Him. Only then will we be counted amongst those people who are guided, as mentioned by God Almighty. When God Almighty becomes the friend of an individual, then all their needs are taken care of, and this is a promise of God Almighty.

Thus, it is our responsibility as those who have accepted the Promised Messiah (as) to raise the standards of our worship. Continue to elevate the status of your prayers and maintain the attendance at Friday prayers, obey the commandments of God Almighty and strive to become counted amongst those people who always pray to God Almighty alone. Meaning that one ought to pray constantly for them to find God Almighty. May our prayers and worship enable us to reach the level of meeting our God. May God Almighty enable us to achieve these standards.”



# CHASING JUMU'AH'S LIGHT

Nooruddeen Isa Malik / Age 8 / Virginia North

Friday is here, it's Jumu'ah day,  
We come to pray in a special way.  
Mama puts on a pretty scarf,  
Baba is dressed, looking so sharp.



We wake up early, the sky is blue,  
I say my prayers too!  
The mosque is close, we're on our way,  
To thank Allah for another day.



Jumu'ah is special, it feels so right,  
The prayers are long, the sun is bright.  
Murabbi silsila talks, I listen,  
I want to be good, so my heart can glisten.

My little sisters normally laugh and play,  
But they know it's Jumu'ah, so they quietly pray.  
Mama says it's a day to be kind,  
To help others and clear our mind.



After the prayers, we sit and eat,  
Our family together, it's so sweet.  
Jumu'ah makes me feel so strong,  
With Allah's love, I know I belong.



So every Friday, I'm happy and bright  
Because Jumu'ah fills my heart with light.



# LEAVE OFF ALL BUSINESS!

Hazeem Ahmad / Age 11 / Virginia South

Every religion has a holy day for its followers. Allah has granted us Friday as our sacred day. Allah has told us this in the Holy Qur'an:

*“O ye who believe, when the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah and leave off all business. That is better for you, if only you knew.”* [Ch. 62: V. 10]



Allah stressed the importance of Friday prayer in this verse. Jumu'ah prayer is so important that it is absolutely necessary to stop all business and go to the mosque to attend Jumu'ah.

The Holy Prophet (sa) had such a love and a desire to offer Jumu'ah and to partake of Allah's blessings on that day that he said, **“The best day upon which the sun has risen is Friday and attending Jumu'ah serves as expiation and forgiveness for our sins”** (*Sahih Muslim, Hadith 872a*).



The Holy Prophet (sa) also said, **“He who makes his ablutions carefully and comes to the Friday Service and listens to the sermon in silence is forgiven his sins since the previous Friday and three days more. He who occupies himself with pebbles during the sermon behaves ill”** (*Muslim*).

Our current Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) frequently reminds us about the importance of Friday Prayer. Huzoor (aba) said, **“God tests us to measure our connection with**

the Promised Messiah (as) and to see to what extent we are true in our bai‘at [our pledge] to him. For this, our attendance at Friday Prayers has been set as the benchmark to measure the sincerity of our bai‘at.” (Friday Sermon, 18 September 2009)



God Almighty has required us to offer Jumu‘ah prayers every Friday. As a true believer of Allah, it is absolutely necessary to drop everything for the Friday Prayer. So, let us offer the Friday Prayer! Let us answer the call of the muezzin to “**Come to Prayer,**” and “**Come to Success**” and let us strive to come close to Allah.



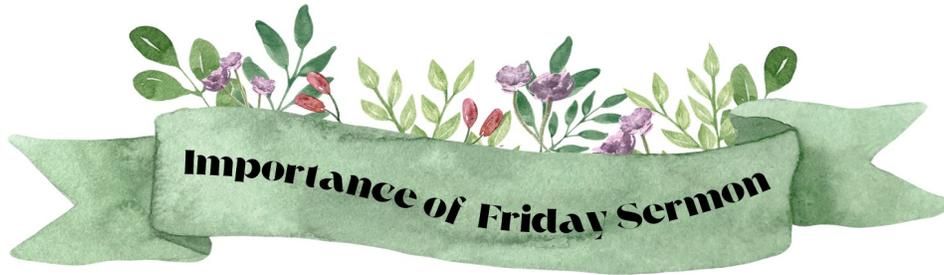
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If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

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**Amna Bushra / Age 9 / Hartford**

Islam teaches us in many different places about the importance of Jumu'ah. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah states:

*“O ye who believe! when the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if you only knew.”* [Ch. 62: V.10]

Additionally, the following hadith also shows the importance of Friday prayers. The Holy Prophet Mohammad (sa) said, **“On the day of Jumu'ah the angels stand at the door of the mosque to record those who come first. The one who comes early is like one who sacrifices a camel, the one who comes next is the one who sacrifices a cow, and then a ram, and then a chicken, and then an egg”** (Bukhari).

We should offer Friday prayers every week and if not then at least once in a month. I attend Jumu'ah about once a month. I get picked up early from school and go to the salat center. Sometimes my friends are there, but we stay silent and listen to the Friday sermon. Do you know why? We offer two rakat of salat on Jumu'ah instead of four because two of those prayers are the Friday sermon. In conclusion it is very important to listen to the sermon quietly because that is part of the salat.



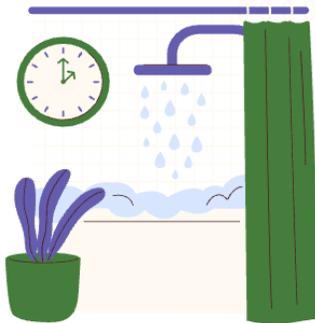
# Friday - A Day of Blessings

Sajeela Ahmad / Age 14 / Virginia South

The Promised Messiah (as) stated, **“Friday is a day of Eid, and this Eid (Jumu‘ah) is more prestigious than the other Eid celebrations. However, many people are unaware of the truth of this Eid, which Allah the Exalted has commanded to celebrate every week”** (*Khutba Jumu‘ah, May 31st, 2019*). Every week, while we are sitting in school, a grand day of happiness and remembrance of Allah is presented to us. Friday, or Jumu‘ah, is the day in Islam when one



enjoys the blessings of going to the mosque, meeting fellow brothers and sisters, and continuing to tread on the true path of Allah and seek His blessings.



The day of Friday is important for its prayers. Going to the mosque for Jumu‘ah prayer is such a blessing which provides a person with great chances for forgiveness and acceptance of prayer. The Holy Prophet (sa) said, **“A person who bathes on Friday, and purifies himself according to his capacity, puts on oil, leaves home wearing scent and does not separate two people (that is, does not forcibly make space for himself at the mosque) and offers the Salat that is obligatory and listens to the sermon of the Imam silently, all his sins between that Friday and the next Friday will be forgiven.”** This is a vital chance we all would want; to have our sins forgiven. This chance is presented to us every Friday.



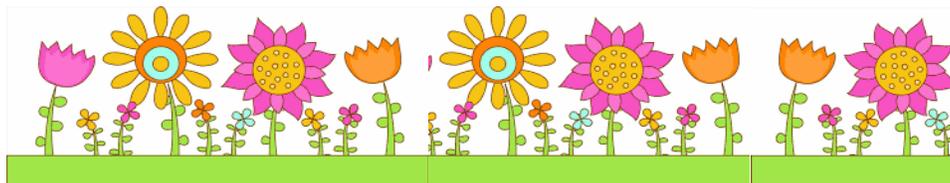
In the Holy Qur'an we read:

*“O ye who believe! when the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if you only knew.”* [Ch. 62: V. 10]

The Holy Prophet (sa) said the reward of good works is increased manifold on Friday. Leaving your school and other activities to do good works in the cause of Allah on Friday will bring many blessings and you will never lose out because of it.

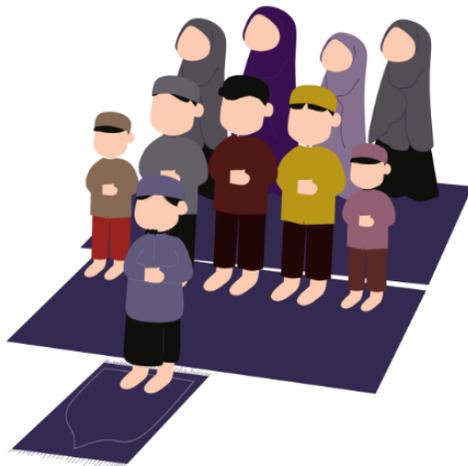
Huzoor (aba) says in a Friday Sermon on September 18, 2009, **“God states no matter how much shortage of time you have, it has no significance compared to Friday Prayers. It is necessary to make an effort for Friday Prayers, regardless. Today, we Ahmadis should be those true believers who are to safeguard Friday, then alone can we be the recipients of God’s pleasure.”**

I hope we all have the chance to go to the mosque for Jumu'ah (even if it means we have to miss school) and follow the teachings of Islam and Ahmadiyyat, *Ameen*.



# Jumu'ah Prayers

Mayeda Awan / Age 12 / Willingboro



Jumu'ah (Friday) prayers hold a significant role in Islam, serving as a weekly congregational prayer that carries many spiritual, social, and religious benefits. Unlike the regular Zuhr prayer, Jumu'ah includes a sermon, or khutba, and a communal gathering, making it a unique and essential act of worship for Muslims.

One of the primary reasons Jumu'ah prayers are so important is because it is a divine commandment. Allah instructs in the Holy Quran:

***“O ye who believe! When the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if you only knew. And when the Prayer is finished, then disperse in the land and seek of Allah's grace, and remember Allah much, that you may prosper.”*** [Ch. 62: V. 10 -11]

These two verses highlight the obligation to attend Jumu'ah prayers and to prioritize it over worldly pursuits.

The Holy Prophet (sa) also emphasized its importance, stating, **“The best day on which the sun has risen is**





**Friday. Adam was created on this day, and he was admitted to Paradise on this day, and he was expelled from it on this day. And the Hour (Day of Judgment) will not be established except on a Friday.”** (*Mishkat al-Masabi, Hadith 1356*) This hadith explains the significance of Friday as a blessed day in Islam, making Jumu‘ah prayers even more important.

Beyond individual spiritual benefits, Jumu‘ah fosters a sense of unity and community among Muslims. It brings people together and reinforces the idea of equality before Allah. Moreover, the khutba serves as an opportunity for religious learning, self-improvement, and community guidance, reminding Muslims of their social and moral responsibilities.

In conclusion, Jumu‘ah is more than a religious obligation, it’s a valuable Islamic practice that strengthens faith, promotes unity, and provides spiritual renewal. Attending it regularly allows Muslims to seek divine mercy, gain religious knowledge, and reaffirm their commitment to a religious life. May Allah enable us all to attend Jumu‘ah prayers at the mosque every week, *Ameen!*



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Aiza Khan / Age 8 / Houston

Friday is a very special day for Muslims. Friday is when we come to the mosque, offer prayers, listen to the Friday Sermon and then offer prayer in congregation. Friday is like a day of Eid, an Eid every week! Since we go to school, we should get picked up early, to get to the mosque on time. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said: **“Whoever knowingly leaves three Friday prayers, a seal is set on their heart by God”** (*Sunan an-Nasa'i*). That shows how important Jumu'ah is and how important it is to attend Jumu'ah.

Every Friday I wake up in the morning for school. My mom has already put on the Friday sermon when I come downstairs. I love Huzoor's beautiful voice. Sometimes on Friday, mama picks me up early from school for Jumu'ah. I get into a shalwar kameez [traditional Pakistani clothing] and we go to the mosque. I find Murabbi Sahib's sermon very interesting. I meet my friends and chat and play with them. After that we take the journey home. To me Jumu'ah is fun and interesting. I look forward to my next Jumu'ah.



# Friday is the Best Day!

Ali Ahmad Khan / Age 13 / North Jersey



Friday is the best day. On this day, all school activities end, and we get two days off. I also like Fridays because we have some fun activities

with our family on Friday night and sometimes we go out with our families to enjoy dinner.



Friday is a very special day for Muslims. Our Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, “Allah



**Almighty has made Friday a day of Eid for you. You should bathe and get yourself ready on this day”** (*At-Tabarani*). The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said that Allah Almighty has many rewards for those who come to pray on Friday.

Indeed, Friday is the chief of all days and the most honorable day in the sight of Allah the Almighty. The Holy Prophet (sa) said about Fridays: **“Allah created Adam on that day. Allah sent him down to the earth on that day. Allah caused him to die on that day. There is an hour in it when whatever a servant asks of Allah, Allah will grant it, provided he does not ask for something forbidden. The Day of Judgment will be established on that day.”** (*Sahih Muslim, Hadith 854 & Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 935*)

# The Importance of Friday

Fozia Raza / Age 16 / Albany

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

***“O ye who believe! When the call is made for prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if you only knew.”*** [Ch. 62: V. 10]

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (ra) has narrated that the Holy Prophet (sa) said, **“The best day that the sun has risen is Friday. Adam (as) was created on this day, he entered Paradise on this day, and he was expelled from it on this day. And the Hour will not be established except on Friday.”** (*Sahih Muslim*)



Friday is a very important day for me. My mom usually picks me up from school and I come home, take a shower and change my clothes. Then we go for Jumu'ah prayer. My mom tells me to recite durood sharif as many times as I can, especially on Fridays, because angels tell the Holy Prophet (sa) that this person is reciting durood. We listen to Huzoor's (aba) khutba every Friday and we write letters to Huzoor (aba) on Fridays.



# Important Lessons

Zanubia Raqeeb / Age 8 / Minnesota

Friday prayer, or Jumu'ah, is a special and important prayer in Islam. It happens every Friday, just after the middle of the day.



Muslims go to the mosque for this prayer, and it's extra special because everyone prays together in congregation. Before the prayer, a khutba or sermon is delivered. In the sermon, the Imam teaches important lessons about being kind, following God's guidance, and making good choices in life.

Muslims believe Friday is a blessed and happy day.

Coming together for Jumu'ah helps everyone feel connected, like one big family. It also gives people time to think about Allah, say thank you for His blessings, and pray for help and forgiveness.

For many Muslims, this prayer is an important part of their week, like a little reset button to feel closer to their faith and their community. It's a beautiful reminder of how faith brings people together.

# Allah's Guidance on Jumu'ah

Sufia Tahir / Age 15 / Buffalo

The Friday prayer, known as Salat-ul-Jumu'ah, is said in congregation. It is given in place of the Zuhr prayer. Muslims are expected to bathe, put on their cleanest clothes, wear perfume, and gather in the mosque for Friday prayer every Friday. The benefits of Jumu'ah prayer are praised in the Holy Qur'an and Hadith. A Muslim can receive many blessings from Allah if he spends Friday in prayer and remembrance of God Almighty. Friday prayer is a time when all the Muslims in a community or city get together. For members of the Muslim community, Friday prayers might be offered in multiple locations throughout a big city. It provides people with a chance to come together and talk about their personal and collective issues. Muslims become more united, cooperative, and unified when they gather together once a week.

Friday prayer consists of two Adhans [call to prayer]. When the midday sun starts to set, the first Adhan is recited, and the second is recited just before the Imam addresses the assembly to begin his sermon. There are two sections to the sermon. Following Ta'awudh and Surah Al-Fatihah, the Imam counsels the assembly to follow Allah's commands and to fulfill their obligations as



devout Muslims in the first section. Any other significant issue may also be covered in the sermon. You can use any language to deliver this portion of the sermon. Muslims must keep silent and pay close attention to the sermon.

The second portion is the Arabic sermon. Following this the Imam leads the congregation in two Rak'at of Jumu'ah prayer. The one who gave the sermon should ideally lead the prayer. During the Jumu'ah Prayer, the Imam should loudly recite Surah Al-Fatihah and several other verses from the Holy Qur'an. According to the renowned book of traditions known as Sunan Abu Dawud (*Kitabus-Salat, Bab As-Salat ba'dal Jumu'ah*), one should offer four Rak'at of Sunnat Prayer before the Friday congregational Prayer and four Raka'at of Sunnat Prayer after the congregational Jumu'ah Prayer. However, two Rak'at of Sunnat Prayer following the congregational and Fard Jumu'ah Prayer are also permitted in lieu of four. Even when traveling, two Rak'at of Sunnat Prayer that must be performed before the Fard are required.

When someone arrives at the mosque during the sermon, they shouldn't jump over the shoulders of those seated there to get to the front. Since the sermon has already started, he is free to offer two Raka'at of Sunnat straight away.



After the Imam has finished conducting the prayer, anyone who arrives late for Friday prayer and joins the assembly for the last Qa'dah should finish his prayer on his own. However, he should say the Zuhr Prayer in its place if he entirely misses the group prayer. (Cited work: *alislam.org*)

# The Story of One Friday Prayer.

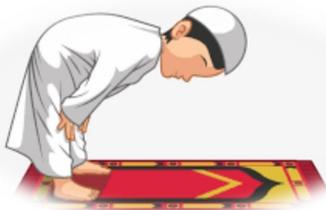
Tahir Hussain / Age 7 / Hartford

This year, Valentine's Day happened to be on a Friday. But instead of celebrating Valentine's Day at school, I decided to go for Friday prayers. My mom picked me and my sister up early from school, so that we could say Friday prayers at our salat center. At salat center, after offering prayers we played with the toys.



I am happy I did not celebrate Valentine's Day because Jumu'ah is an important day for Muslims. As Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

***"O ye who believe! when the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if you only knew."*** [Ch. 62, V. 10]



I pray that Allah enables me to always offer Friday prayers, *Ameen.*

# A Most Blessed Day!

Asifa Malik / Age 14 / Austin

It's Friday, and Jumu'ah is here! Allah has instructed Muslims to attend Jumu'ah at the mosque to attain spiritual benefits. Muslims are instructed to take a bath, dress in their best clean clothes, and wear perfume. The Holy Qur'an and Ahadith mention the abundant blessings of Jumu'ah prayer. When a Muslim spends Friday in the remembrance of God Almighty, supplicating before his Lord, he is abundantly rewarded by Allah Almighty. In the Holy Qur'an Allah states:



*“O ye who believe! when the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if you only knew.”* [Ch. 62: V. 10]

In this verse, Allah tells us the importance of Jumu'ah and how we should prioritize attending it by withdrawing from doing anything else. When I attend Jumu'ah with my family, I also always make sure I am clean and ready to bow down in front of Allah the Almighty. Additionally, the Holy Prophet (sa) said:

*“The best day on which the sun has risen is Friday; Adam was created on Friday, he was made to enter Paradise on Friday, he was expelled from it on Friday. And the last hour will take place on no day other than Friday,”* and *“Profusely invoke Durood on me on this day for this is the day your invocation of Durood will be presented to me”* (Muslim and Abi Dawud).

So we should spend time on Friday reciting Durood Prayer. Overall, through these examples, we can understand the importance of attending the Friday prayers. May Allah enable us all to attend Jumu'ah prayer and invoke more Durood Prayers upon the Holy Prophet (sa), *Ameen*.

# A Very Holy Day

Hana Suhail / Age 12 / Virginia North

***“O ye who believe! When the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off all business, that is better for you, if you only knew.”*** [Ch. 62: V. 10]

This verse from the Holy Qur’an is pointing out that Friday is a very holy day, and you should sacrifice everything you are doing at that time and go to Friday prayers. A believer should keep in mind that any affair they are having hardship in can only be eased by God Almighty. So, if we can only get ease through the Grace of Allah, then we should make it our priority to fulfill the rights of Allah first. If this principle is followed, then mosques will be populated by worshippers for Jumu‘ah and other prayers.

The Holy Prophet (sa) stated, **‘People who miss Jumu‘ah three times in a row out of carelessness, God Almighty would place a seal on their hearts.’** This is an extremely distressing thought for a true believer.

There are many benefits of Friday. It is said that a special hour comes during Friday when prayers are accepted. There is also forgiveness of sins on Friday.

This is why Jumu‘ah and Friday prayers are super important!



# FRIDAY IS THE BEST DAY OF THE WEEK!

Fatima Suhail / Age 10 / Virginia North

Friday holds significant importance in Islam. It is because it is the holiest day of the week for Muslims, known as Jumu'ah. Christians go to church on Sunday which is their holiest day of the week. Every Friday at the Mosque, Muslims gather to observe congregational prayers, in the middle of the day, when it would usually be time for Zuhr prayer. This day gives more blessings than a usual day, it is a special time for Muslims to come together for prayer, reflection, and community.



The Holy Prophet (sa) once said, **“On Friday, angels stand by the door of the mosque and they note down the example of one who comes in first as one who sacrifices a camel, the next as one who sacrifices a cow, the next as one who sacrifices a lamb, the next as one who sacrifices a chicken and the next as one who sacrifices an egg. When the Imam comes to the front the angels close their register and begin listening to the sermon.”** So next time you go to Jumu'ah, try to be the first one there!



# The Importance of Jumu'ah Prayer

Sarmed Ahmad / Age 13 / Virginia South

Every Friday all of us are happy to go home and relax after school and have a good weekend. But Friday has more significance than the end of our school week. Jumu'ah and the Jumu'ah prayer are extremely important and have many great blessings.

Allah says in The Holy Qur'an:

*“O ye who believe! When the call is made for Friday prayer, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if only you knew.”* [Ch. 62: V. 10]

This verse says that when it is time for Jumu'ah, you should come immediately and even if you have school, you can take an early dismissal and come for Jumu'ah.

Huzoor (aba) further elaborates on this and has said that when one is called for the Jumu'ah prayer, one must come immediately regardless of how busy you are. Even if it is the peak business hour and if you come you might lose millions for yourself, you should not care and come for the prayer, without thinking about the things that you will lose. This is because coming to the mosque for Jumu'ah prayer is hundreds of thousands of times better than your worldly affairs. This further emphasizes the importance of the Jumu'ah prayer, even if you will lose masses in worldly wealth.

Huzoor (aba) also says that one may think that coming for Jumu'ah prayer will entail financial loss. However, Allah the Almighty states in the Holy Qur'an that whoso obeys Allah will surely be successful. This verse says that the people that are obedient to Allah under normal circumstances will already be successful, how successful will they then be if they attend Jumu'ah also?

Once, while the Promised Messiah (as) was talking about



the importance of the Jumu‘ah prayer, he said, **“Friday is a day of Eid, and this Eid (Jumu‘ah) is more prestigious than the other Eid celebrations. However, many people are unaware of the truth of this Eid, which Allah has given to us and commanded for us to celebrate each week.”** When the time for Eid-ul-Fitr or Eid-ul-Adha comes along, the mosques are usually filled and sometimes even overflowing with people, but for Jumu‘ah prayer, not as many people come even though the Promised Messiah (as) said that it has more blessings than these other two Eids. Huzoor (aba) also said that even though there is no mention of Eid prayer in the Holy Qur’an, the Holy Prophet (sa) made it a *wajib* [obligatory] prayer, more people come for that than Jumu‘ah prayer, which is mentioned everywhere in the Holy Qur’an and there is plenty of hadith too about this.

The Holy Prophet (sa) said that whoever does not come for Jumu‘ah prayers without legitimate reason will be marked as a hypocrite on the Day of Judgment. The Holy Prophet (sa) also issued more warnings for the people who did not come for the Jumu‘ah prayer. Friday itself is a very special day: The Holy Prophet (sa) said, **“Friday is the most excellent of all days, because it was the day Adam was created, the day that Adam was sent down (born), the day he was sent back (death), the day when all prayers other than the forbidden ones will be accepted, and the Day of Judgment will also be on this day.”**

In another hadith the Holy Prophet (sa) said, **“Anyone who takes a bath on Jumu‘ah and cleans himself as much as he can and puts oil (like shampoo) and scents himself, and then proceeds for the prayer and does not force his way between two people already seated, and prays as much he is supposed to pray and remains quiet while the Imam is speaking, all his sins from the last Jumu‘ah and now have been forgiven.”** (*Sahih al-Bukhari*)



May Allah enable all of us to come for Jumu‘ah prayer and understand its importance so we can attain its blessings, *Ameen*.

# Jumu'ah - Day of Eid

Nouh Mumtaz / Age 10 / Oshkosh

Often Eid-ul-Fitr is given more importance than Jumu'ah. However, Jumu'ah is also a type of Eid. Not only is it blessed for the khutba and the salat offered after it, it is also a day in which our beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) recited Durood Sharif alot.

Even though Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, has its own Eid prayers, Jumu'ah prayers are just as significant. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) has told us that when the Eid prayer falls on the same day as Jumu'ah, **“Two Eids have come together on this day of yours”** (Sunan Ibn Majah).

For Ahmadi Muslims, Jumu'ah is special because we have the opportunity to listen to the Friday sermons of Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba), which makes Jumu'ah even more of an Eid for Ahmadis worldwide .

## Friday Prayer

Nabil Ahmad Zemouli / Age 6 / San Diego

I love the mosque. Every Friday my father comes home early at 12:30 P.M. He takes me out of school so we can go together to Friday prayers. We listen to the Friday sermon and pray the Zuhr and Asr prayers, and then I play with my Ahmadi friends, including my friend Issa.



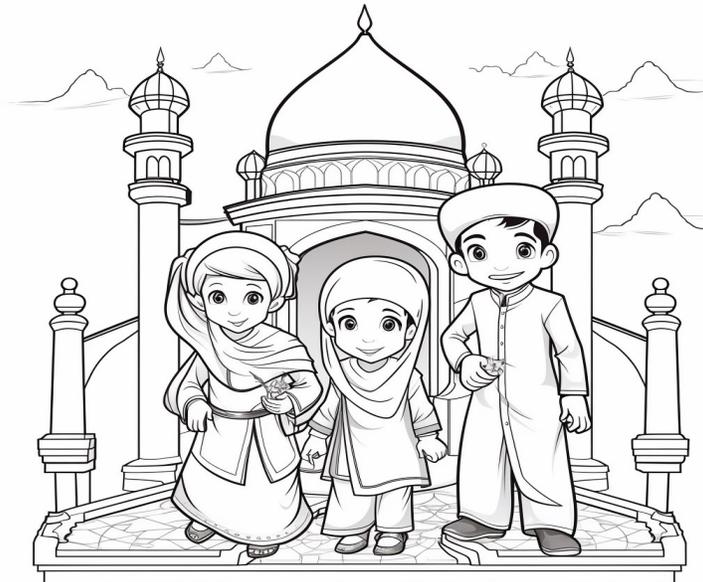
Al-Hilal

# FRIDAY THANKFULNESS

Zainab Eiliyah Malik / Age 4 / Virginia North

Friday's here, it's Jumu'ah day,  
I wear a special dress and go to pray.  
Mama and Baba smile at me,  
My brother's so happy to be school-free!  
We go to the mosque, my teacher is aware,  
I hold Baba's hand, I'm not scared.  
I say my prayers, I try so hard,  
To be a good Ahmadi Muslim on my guard.

After we pray, we eat and play,  
Mama makes yummy food, it's a happy day.  
We say, "Thank you, Allah," for everything,  
For Jumu'ah and love and the joy it brings!



# Importance of Friday and Eid Celebration

Shahida Manzoor / Adult Submission / North Jersey

In Islam, Friday holds a special place of significance as it is the day of Jumu'ah, the weekly congregational prayer. The Jumu'ah prayer is considered one of the most important acts of Muslim worship, taking the place of the regular midday prayer [Zuhr] on Fridays. This prayer is not only a time for spiritual reflection but also serves to strengthen the bonds within the Muslim community.

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, is a time of fasting, reflection, and community for Muslims around the world. During this sacred month, Muslims abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs from dawn until sunset. This practice of fasting, known as Sawm, is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is seen as a means of purifying the soul, developing empathy for the less fortunate, and fostering spiritual growth.





The end of Ramadan is marked by the joyous celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr, also known as the **“Festival of Breaking the Fast.”** This festival begins with a special prayer, Salat-ul-Eid, performed in congregation, often in open spaces or large venues to accommodate the community. Muslims dress

in their finest clothes, partake in festive meals, and exchange gifts. It is also a time for giving, with a particular emphasis on charity [Zakat al-Fitr] to ensure that those in need can partake in the celebrations.

Another significant festival, Eid ul Adha, follows the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, known as Hajj. This **“Festival of Sacrifice”** commemorates the willingness of Prophet Abraham (as) to sacrifice his son in obedience to God's command. Muslims around the world observe this festival by performing the symbolic act of animal sacrifice, sharing the meat with family, friends, and those in need.



These celebrations, steeped in rich traditions and deep spiritual meaning, highlight the importance of faith, community, and charity in Islam, fostering a sense of unity and gratitude among Muslims.

# IMPORTANT DAYS!

Emaan Bajwa / Age 10 / Queens

Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha and Friday are special days for the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. We celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr after fasting for 29-30 days. Allah gives this day for us to celebrate after Ramadan; it's a day to show our gratitude. Everyone gathers at the mosque to pray, and we all have a great Eid. To me, Eid-ul-Fitr is a great celebration after a whole month of fasting and it is our opportunity to be free, have fun, and pray.

We celebrate Eid-ul-Adha and sacrifice an animal to commemorate when Allah told Hazrat Abraham (as) he could sacrifice a goat instead of his son, Hazrat Ishmail (as). To me, Eid-ul-Adha is a time to show Allah we are striving to follow the prophets who were sent by Him to teach us how to earn Allah's love, His mercy and forgiveness.

Friday is a special day because we offer Jumu'ah prayers at midday. In the Friday sermon in September 2018, our beloved Huzoor (aba) said, "Today, we Ahmadis should be those true believers who are to safeguard Friday, then alone can we be the recipients of God's pleasure." This shows that if you offer your Jumu'ah prayers every Friday. Allah will love you even more. To me, Friday is the most important day for our Ahmadiyya community and we should treasure it. All these special days have a place in all our hearts.



# WHY EID AND FRIDAYS ARE THE BEST

Sumra Sohail / Age 12 / Sacramento

Eid and Fridays are very special and important to Muslims. Eid-ul-Fitr is important because it's when we celebrate having kept the fast for a whole month! It is a day to thank Allah for the many blessings He bestowed upon us during the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a very special month for all Muslims because it is the month when the Holy Qur'an was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) by the angel Gabriel! That is why especially during the month of Ramadan, you should always try your best to read the Holy Qur'an.

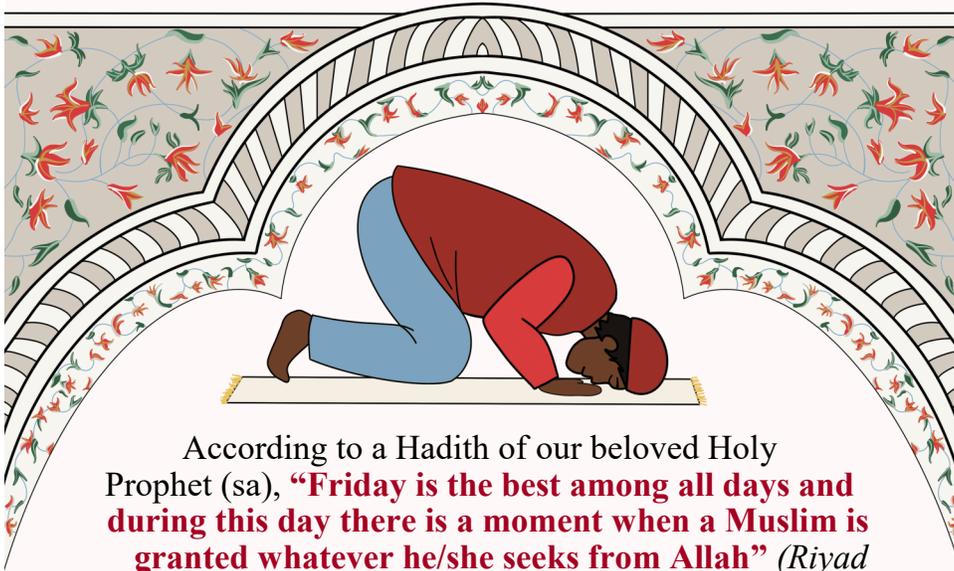


Eid-ul-Adha is also very important to us because it reminds us of the sacrifice Prophet Abraham (as) made for Allah. One day Prophet Abraham (as) had a dream showing that he must sacrifice his oldest son, Prophet Ishmail (as). Prophet Abraham (as) knew he must follow the will of Allah and Prophet Ishmail (as) was also steadfast. Just as he was about to sacrifice his son, Prophet Abraham (as) received a command to stop. Allah commanded Prophet Abraham (as) to sacrifice a ram instead. That's why on Eid-ul-Adha, we sacrifice an animal if we can, to remember Prophet Abraham's (as) willingness to sacrifice in the way of Allah.

Fridays are also very important for Muslims because we attend the special Jumu'ah prayers together to seek blessings from Allah. Friday is also very important because Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) gives the Friday sermon. During the Friday sermon, Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) gives amazing advice on how to be better Muslims, teaches us to understand the Holy Qur'an, clarifies the history of Islam, and so much more. These are some reasons why Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha, and Fridays are very special and important to Muslims.

# Celebrations that brighten our days!

Bareera Khan / Age 10 / Virginia North

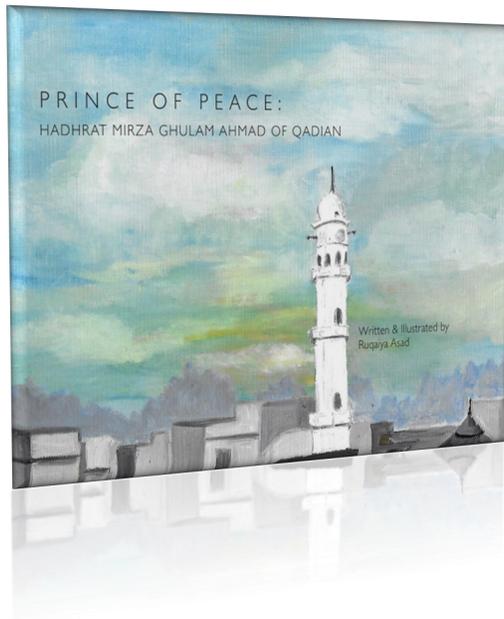


According to a Hadith of our beloved Holy Prophet (sa), **“Friday is the best among all days and during this day there is a moment when a Muslim is granted whatever he/she seeks from Allah”** (*Riyad As-Salihin* 1158). Friday is an important day for all Muslims because it is the day that we should go to the Mosque and pray to Allah and express how grateful we are. Allah has chosen this specific day in the Holy Qur’an because he wants us to sacrifice worldly temptations such as work/school and relax ourselves and go to the mosque. The Holy Prophet (sa) took special care of his cleanliness by taking a shower, wearing fresh new clothes, and perfume to please Allah Almighty, so we should follow in his footsteps.

Eid-ul-Fitr is a festival that marks the end of the Holy month of Ramadan. Muslims wear new clothes and eat delicious meals, children are given Eidi [gifts]. Eid-ul-Fitr is also a holiday where you remember God and give thanks for your blessings. Our faith encourages us to give some sort of charity to those in need, such as clothes, food, or donations. In short, we are blessed to have these meaningful celebrations that brighten our days as well as please Allah Almighty.

## New Children's Book

# The Prince of Peace



The life of the Promised Messiah (as) written for children ages 7 to 14. Original artwork by the author based on authentic photos. Told in a simple style capturing the history and teachings of Ahmadiyya Islam for young readers. An engaging overview that will resonate with parents and children alike.



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# Shoulder to Shoulder

Labiba Latif / Age 14 / Buffalo

Friday is the most important day in the week. It is very beneficial and is the most significant day. On this day all the Muslims in the mosque and pray together in congregation. Before praying, they listen very carefully to a sermon designed to empower them with valuable knowledge about God and the religion of Islam. It is very important that men or women don't neglect Friday prayer due to work, school, study, or other worldly matters. Since Friday is a very important day to all Muslims, it is also necessary that on Friday you should always wear clean clothes, and take a good shower, as well as smell fresh and good.

Eid-ul-Fitr is translated to, **“The Festival of Breaking the Fast.”** It celebrates the accomplishments of an important obligation in Islam. Eid -ul-Fitr marks the end

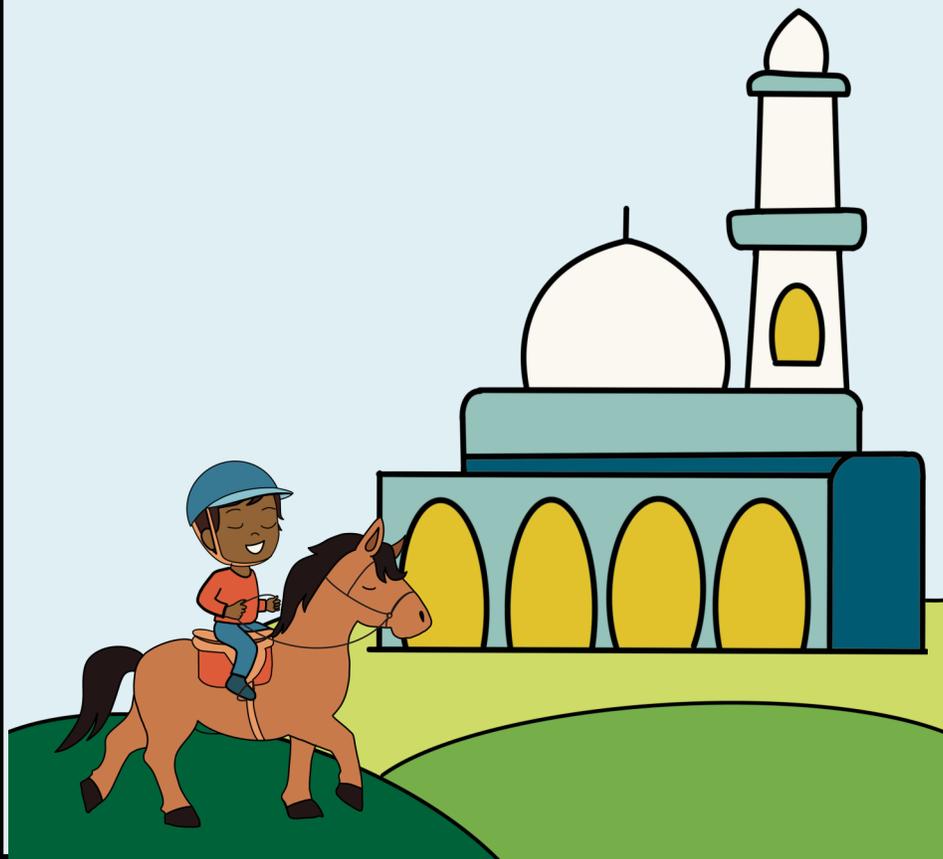
of the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims abstain from food and drink between dawn and sunset.

On the day of Eid-ul-Fitr, Muslims unite in faithfulness and observe a special prayer together, **shoulder to shoulder**, following the important recitation of prayers.



Eid-ul-Fitr is also a very blessed and important day to give charity and remember those who are far less fortunate than we are. After the prayers, there's a delicious meal to share with everyone at the mosque. Never refuse to eat the food given because it is made with love and hard work from others. After enjoying a meal together and also receiving Eid money from elders, enjoy the day with family while also being thankful that you have your loved ones with you.

Our Buffalo Jama'at always has special things planned on Eid Day, which I enjoy. For example, they bring a farm, or a horse for children to try horseback riding outside of the mosque.



# Ramadan Mubarak

Abia Vani / Age 12 / Albany

Ramadan is here, a month so bright,  
Filling our hearts with peace and light.  
A time for prayer, for love, for grace,  
To seek Allah's mercy in every space.

From Suhoor's dawn to Iftar's delight,  
May our fast be easy, our hearts feel light.  
With duas whispered, sins erased,  
May we all be wrapped in Allah's embrace.

To my family, near and far,  
May your Ramadan shine like a guiding star.  
May your days be blessed, your nights serene.  
With faith and joy in between.



# Eid Word Search

Saqeena Zakia Ahmed / Age 9 / Hartford

D	W	C	X	E	I	D	X	O	M	S	A	D	Q	A	D	N
R	E	K	Y	C	C	Q	Z	K	W	A	K	A	K	L	O	H
K	M	C	F	R	I	D	A	Y	N	C	B	K	N	M	Q	O
N	N	M	O	W	D	P	R	S	M	R	M	Y	R	X	B	L
F	K	W	N	R	F	N	D	A	O	I	O	E	A	Z	L	Y
F	R	K	M	M	A	K	B	L	N	F	S	Z	L	O	E	Q
K	R	I	K	L	N	T	T	A	T	I	Q	X	L	P	S	U
I	B	I	C	O	C	C	I	T	Q	C	U	C	A	E	S	R
N	S	B	E	N	Y	L	K	N	U	E	E	H	H	R	I	A
D	D	A	E	N	P	C	O	Y	G	J	U	A	B	F	N	N
N	O	N	L	O	D	R	A	X	A	I	T	R	C	U	G	L
E	M	W	L	A	K	S	A	R	B	N	F	I	N	M	S	O
S	N	I	W	K	M	H	L	Y	D	A	T	T	J	E	V	V
S	S	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	E	S	N	Y	S	W	B	E
H	K	C	A	K	E	N	M	C	K	R	B	L	V	E	K	J
C	N	D	O	M	M	N	H	U	G	S	S	N	U	J	A	F
P	T	O	K	Y	P	A	O	K	N	Q	C	A	N	V	L	H

- |               |                |                 |               |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Allah      | 8. Fancy       | 14. Hugs        | 20. Prayers   |
| 2. Blessings  | 9. Friday      | 15. Kindness    | 21. Respect   |
| 3. Cake       | 10. Friends    | 16. Love        | 22. Sacrifice |
| 4. Cards      | 11. Gifts      | 17. Mosque      | 23. Saqda     |
| 5. Charity    | 12. Henna      | 18. Nail polish | 24. Salam     |
| 6. Eid        | 13. Holy Quran | 19. Perfume     | 25. Salat     |
| 7. Decorating |                |                 | 26. Sermon    |



# Our Special Month

Shafiya Munir / Age 12 / Virginia North



Every year there comes one night.  
That marks the beginning of a new month.

It is the Islamic month called Ramadan.  
Based on the lunar calendar

We know it is here when the new moon is in sight.  
It comes quietly, like a light breeze of wind at night.



In this month we pray and we fast.  
For thirty days, from the first day of the  
month to the last.

Every day we wake up early to eat our  
first meal of the day.  
We break our fasts with water and  
dates.



We give charity and we sacrifice.  
We are grateful for what we have.

We explain the meaning of our special month.  
To the people who do not know.



And at the end of it all.  
At the end of the month

We see the new moon again.  
We know that another holiday has arrived.



We have a celebration, called Eid.  
Where we meet with family and friends.

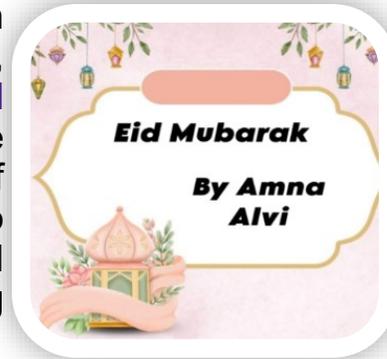
Give gifts and eat yummy food.  
We are grateful and we have lots of fun.

Then, it is all over, but we shouldn't be sad.  
Ramadan will be back again next year.

# WHY DO WE CELEBRATE EID?

Amna Alvi / Age 10 / North Jersey

At the end of Ramadan Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr, also known as “**The Festival of Breaking the Fast.**” We celebrate it at the end of Ramadan to give thanks to Allah for the strength and blessings of the month-long fast.



To celebrate, Muslims gather at mosques for a special Eid prayer service in the morning. Friends greet one another, gifts are given, new clothes are worn, and we see relatives. It's a day for giving charity and helping those in need. This is why we celebrate Eid.

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**Prayers upon  
Entering the Mosque:**

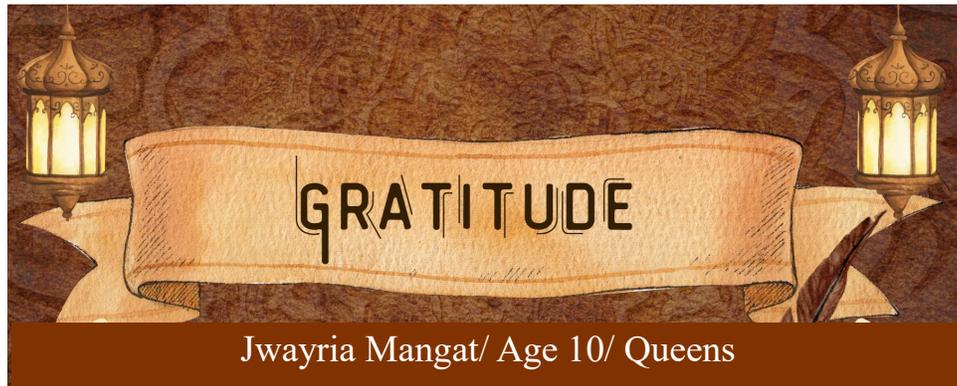
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَالسَّلَامِ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ  
اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي ذُنُوبِي وَافْتَحْ لِي  
أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ

*"In the name of Allah,  
peace be upon the the  
Messenger of Allah. O  
my Lord, forgive me my  
sins and open the doors  
of Thy Mercy upon me."*

**Prayer upon  
Leaving the Mosque:**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَالسَّلَامِ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ  
اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي ذُنُوبِي وَافْتَحْ لِي  
أَبْوَابَ فَضْلِكَ

*"In the name of Allah,  
peace be upon the  
Messenger of Allah. O  
my Lord, forgive me my  
sins and open the doors  
of Thy Blessings upon  
me."*



The Eid sermon emphasizes that the true essence of the celebration goes beyond festive gatherings, food, and clothing. It highlights the values that Eid instills - gratitude, self-discipline, patience, charity, and unity. The Imam explains that Eid is a time of reflection and spiritual renewal following a period of fasting and devotion.

Eid teaches gratitude by reminding us of the blessings we often take for granted and encourages us to share with those less fortunate. It fosters self-discipline and patience through the experience of fasting and restraint. The importance of giving, particularly through charity [Zakat], is stressed as a way to support and uplift others.

Moreover, Eid promotes unity, bringing people together regardless of background, reinforcing the idea that love, peace, and understanding are essential in society. The sermon concludes by



urging individuals to carry the spirit of Ramadan throughout their daily lives, embracing its values beyond just the day of celebration to create a more compassionate and just world.

# Eid-ul-Fitr

**Alishba Hasseb / Age 14 / Albany**

Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated with joy and gratitude after a month of fasting during Ramadan. The day begins with an early morning prayer at the mosque, where Muslims gather to offer special Eid prayers. People wear new or their best clothes and often apply perfume as a symbol of purity and happiness.



Families and friends exchange greetings by saying “*Eid Mubarak*” and embrace each other with a special Eid hug. Giving charity, known as *Zakat-ul-Fitr*, is an important part of the celebration to ensure that everyone, including the less fortunate, can enjoy the festivities.

Throughout the day, people visit relatives and friends, strengthening family bonds. The celebration continues with laughter, joy, and sometimes community events.



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**Al-Hilal**



Eid is here! It's the best time of the year.  
We wake up early on this blessed day.  
Thanking Allah throughout the day,  
as we go to the mosque to pray.  
Giving gifts, with faces alight,  
sharing laughter true and bright.  
Our hands, full of Henna we put on at night.  
A special feast at home we share.  
Laughter and Love fill the air.  
We see our friends and family from far and near.  
Remembering Allah, Who is so Great and Dear.



Eid ul Fitr, is not just any day; it's a day we enjoy together and thank Allah for food and for being a Muslim. It's a day we celebrate after a month of fasting; a day we remember all the amazing blessings Allah has bestowed upon us.

It's a day we all love and look forward to as we participate in the month of Ramadan, a day to visit family, a day to go to the mosque and pray.



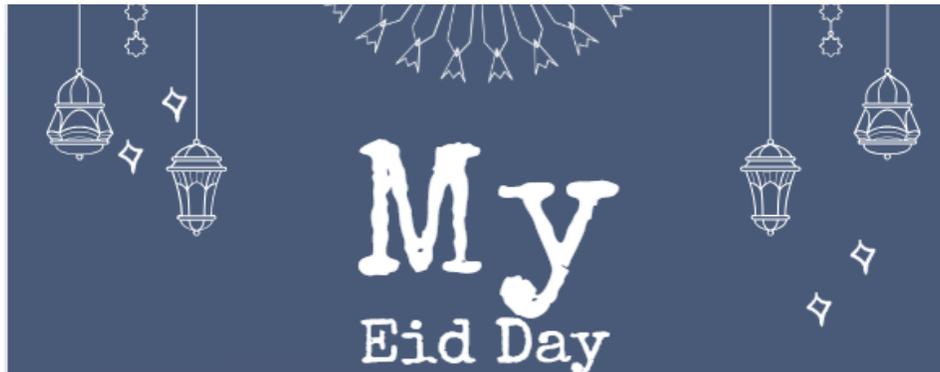
**Inayah Pal / Age 9 / Virginia North**

Muslims all across the world celebrate two special occasions. One of them is Eid-ul-Fitr. Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan. Ramadan is the month of fasting from dawn till sunset for thirty days.

The person who started the celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr is the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa).

Eid-ul-Fitr is also a way of showing gratitude to Allah for giving us the strength to be able to fast during Ramadan. On the day of Eid-ul-Fitr it is forbidden to fast. The English meaning of Eid-ul-Fitr is, **'The Festival of Breaking the Fast'**! On the day of Eid-ul-Fitr people pray, they like to dress up and decorate their houses to make it look festive.





Saamia Ahmed / Age 9 / Hartford

Eid is a holiday that we Muslims celebrate,  
I would give it a million star rate

It comes after Ramadan, a month of fasting  
We have prayed day and night, for blessings everlasting

It's where you share love and thoughts,  
Eid is a gift that must not be forgot

The new moon shines bright, our hearts fill with happiness  
and light  
It falls on different days each year, we wait and wait for it to  
be here

I wake up nice and early, so excited to look my best  
We make delicious food, and get the house ready for our  
guests

Sparkly and shiny, neat and clean,  
Our house is waiting for our guests to be seen

I go to the Mosque, greet people and pray,  
This is the best part of my day

Eid is a holiday that we celebrate with family and friends,  
I wish this day would never come to an end

# EID-UL-FITR

Fareeha Iqbal / Age 12 / Virginia North

Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan is when Muslims fast, do good deeds and increase in the worship of Allah. Eid-ul-Fitr is a celebration of all that is achieved during Ramadan. The importance of celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr is in being grateful for all the blessings of Allah upon us. Muslims gather at a mosque and pray to Allah and thank Him for everything He provided them with. Muslims enjoy celebrating Eid by giving gifts, preparing and eating delicious food, and spending quality time with family and friends.

For me, on Eid day I like going to the mosque for Eid prayer and then I like to spend the rest of the day with my family.





Ziram Rizwan / Age 10 / North Jersey

Do you know the difference between Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha? To start with, the meaning of Eid-ul-Fitr is “**The Festival of Breaking the Fast**” and the meaning of Eid-ul-Adha is “**The Festival of Sacrifice.**” We celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr to give thanks to Allah for the blessings of the fast during the month of Ramadan. This holiday is a reward from Allah. We must celebrate it.

We celebrate Eid-ul-Adha to remember the trust that Prophet Abraham (sa) had in Allah when he saw a dream that he should sacrifice his oldest son. Additionally, another difference is that Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated after the month of Ramadan, while Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated two months later and comes at the conclusion of the Pilgrimage to Mecca.



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# Eid Celebrations

Fatiha Imran / Age 13 / Albany

There are two different Eid days: Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha. Eid can have many fun events such as gift giving, socializing with family, eating special food, and most importantly, praying together.



Eid-ul-Fitr comes after the month of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Adha comes after the Pilgrimage. Ramadan is a very important time and consists of a month of fasting which is one of the five pillars of Islam. Ramadan is important to Muslims because the Holy Qur'an was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) during this month. Fasting is a way to purify the body and soul and allows us to focus on Allah rather than other things.

Ibn 'Abbas (ra) narrated, **“The Messenger of Allah (sa) enjoined Zakat-ul-Fitr on the one who fasts to purify him from any indecent act or speech and for the purpose of providing food for the needy. It is accepted as Zakat for the person who pays it before the Eid prayer, and it is Sadaqah for the person who pays it after the Eid prayer.”** (Sunan Ibn Majah) Zakat is another pillar of Islam.

Eid-ul-Adha commemorates the willingness of Prophet Abraham (as) to sacrifice his oldest son as an act of obedience to Allah and is celebrated by Muslims worldwide as a time to reflect on the values of sacrifice, unity, and generosity by sharing the sacrificial meat with the less fortunate. It also marks the culmination of Hajj, pilgrimage to Mecca, which is another pillar of Islam.





**Nasirat from Belgium - May 16, 2025**

**Q. It is said that the first prayer upon seeing the Ka'bah is accepted. Beloved Huzoor, what prayer should we ask upon seeing the Ka'bah?**

**Huzoor:** That is a matter of your heart. Whatever matter comes to your heart at that moment make that prayer right away. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih 1<sup>th</sup> once wrote "What should I pray for? So I prayed "O Allah accept whatever Prayers I supplicate." That is a very comprehensive Prayer.



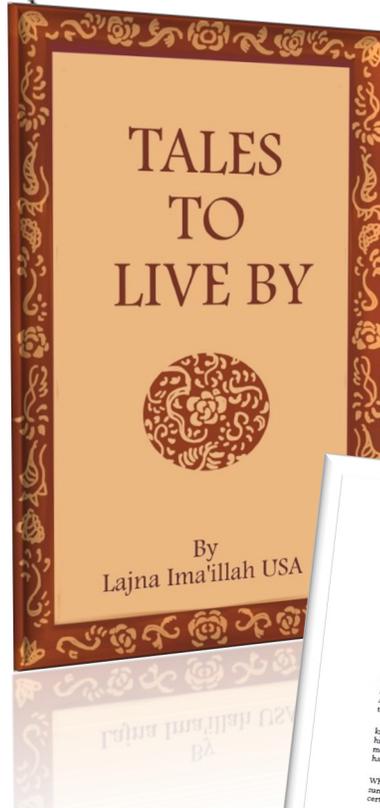
Prayer is something that comes from the heart... A real prayer is one that emerges when your heart is stirred, and emotions arise. Your mind focusses on it, your eyes fill with tears, and your emotions are expressed, then Allah Almighty listens to such a prayer. That's why you should pray from the heart. And each person prays according to their own feelings.

Our prayers are always that may Allah the Almighty grant people wisdom and understanding and may they turn towards Him and become believers in Allah and that Islam spreads throughout the world. This is our teaching. If this is in your heart the first prayer that will naturally come to mind will be this: "O Allah, grant victory to Islam." Then there are other prayers that come from the heart. Khalifat-ul-Masih 1<sup>th</sup> prayed and what were his prayers? It was that the Oneness of Allah Almighty be established and for Islam to be established in the world. So he made one all-encompassing prayer: "O Allah, accept all my prayers."

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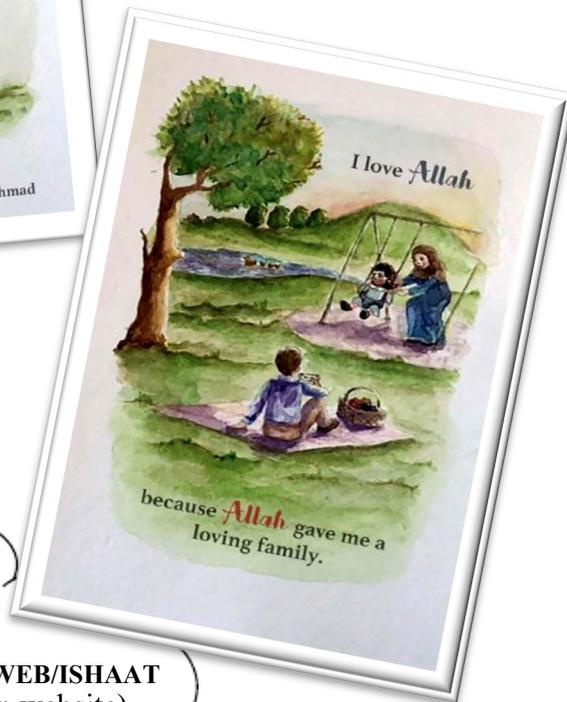


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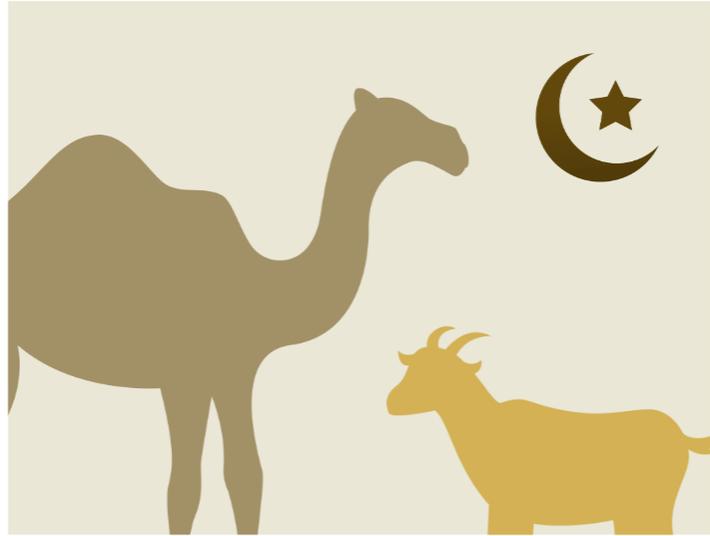
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## THE HISTORY OF **EID-UL-FITR & EID-UL-ADHA**

**Nabeeha Raqeeb / Age 13 / Minnesota**

We all love Eid, whether it's Eid-ul-Fitr or Eid-ul-Adha, but what is their history? And how did they come into existence? Before diving into the history of Eid-ul-Fitr, it's important to understand how we determine when they actually take place. To know when it's Eid-ul-Fitr, we look for the new moon in the night sky. If spotted, we know Ramadan is over and Eid starts the next day. If not, we fast for one more day. Some Muslims find out by listening to announcements from their mosques or checking online, while others follow the moon sightings in places like Saudi Arabia. Some even look for the moon themselves, like me. There are also lunar calendars and calculations to help predict the date of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Eid-ul-Fitr, or **“The Festival of Breaking the Fast,”** dates back to the time of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (sa) in the 7th century. The first Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated after the Prophet (sa) and his companions completed their migration from Mecca to Medina. It was a moment of immense gratitude to Allah for granting them the strength and patience to fast during the holy month of Ramadan. This celebration was established by the Prophet



Muhammad (sa) to foster a sense of unity and compassion within the Muslim community. We give *Zakat-ul-Fitr* to ensure that even the less fortunate can join in the festivities of Eid-ul-Fitr. Over the centuries, this tradition has been lovingly passed down, evolving into a joyous occasion where we come together to pray, share meals, and give thanks to Allah for His countless blessings.

Eid-ul-Adha, also known as **“The Festival of Sacrifice,”** is one of the most significant Islamic holidays, commemorating the willingness of Prophet Abraham (as) to sacrifice his son, Ismail (as), in obedience to Allah's command. According to Islamic tradition, just as Abraham (as) was about to carry out the sacrifice, Allah intervened and provided a ram to be sacrificed instead. This event symbolizes the importance of faith, obedience, and devotion in Islam. It is a profound demonstration of how true devotion to Allah is rewarded with mercy and blessings. The origins of Eid-ul-Adha can be traced back to this momentous event, which is also linked to the annual Pilgrimage to Mecca. Muslims around the world celebrate Eid-ul-Adha by Qurbani, which means to sacrifice an animal (usually a goat, sheep, cow, or camel) and distribute the meat among family, friends, and those in need. This act of sacrifice serves as a reminder of Abraham's (as) unwavering faith and encourages Muslims to practice selflessness and charity. Today, Eid-ul-Adha is a time of prayer, reflection, and community, bringing Muslims together to honor their faith and heritage.

In summary, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha hold profound significance in Islam, each rooted in rich historical and spiritual contexts. Eid-ul-Fitr, celebrated at the end of Ramadan, represents gratitude, unity, and compassion, while Eid-ul-Adha honors the unwavering faith and obedience of Prophet Abraham (as). Both festivals serve as powerful reminders of the core values of Islam, including charity, selflessness, and devotion to Allah. As Muslims around the world come together to observe these joyous occasions, we not only commemorate important historical events but also reinforce our commitment to our faith and community. These celebrations, steeped in tradition and reverence, continue to inspire and unite Muslims globally, fostering a deep sense of belonging and spiritual fulfillment.



**Hassan Ahmad Khan / Age 12 / North Jersey**

When I think about Eid it makes me feel so happy because Eid means joy. This is a festival of joy that Muslims celebrate. Eid is the time when people spread their joys and share their love. I also like Eid day because we wake up early in the morning and we take a bath and offer Fajr prayer. Then we get ready, wear new clothes and shoes and go to the mosque to pray. After praying we all hug each other and say 'Eid Mubarak.'

Eid-ul-Fitr is a Muslim holiday. I love to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr because this holiday is a celebration that rewards fasting for twenty-nine or thirty days. On Eid-ul-Fitr all Muslims come together to worship Allah the Almighty and thank Him for His blessings. After prayers, we all eat together. On Eid day our hearts are filled with joy. One special part of Eid is receiving Eidi [gifts] from my family and other people of our community.



# ♥ The Story of Eid-ul-Adha ♥

Farheen Noor Syed / Age 8 / Willingboro

About 4,000 years ago, in “Ur” (modern-day Iraq), there lived a prophet of Allah named Abraham (as). But Abraham (as) had no children. Eventually, Allah blessed Abraham (as) with a son named Ishmail (as). Allah put Abraham (as) through a difficult test and told him to leave his wife, Hajra (as), and their newborn son Ishmail (as) in the barren desert with no food and water. However, because of their devotion to Allah, He looked after them.

A short while later, when Ishmail (as) was about 13 years old, Abraham (as) had a dream in which Allah ordered him to sacrifice Ishmail (as), his only son. Abraham (as) told his son about the dream. After hearing the dream, Ishmail (as) told his

father to follow the command of Allah. As Abraham

(as) was about to sacrifice Ishmail (as), Allah told him to stop. To show his

gratitude, Abraham (as) sacrificed a ram, an animal similar to a sheep, instead.



# *The Way of Sacrifice*

## *Eid-ul-Adha*

**Tanzeela Ahmed / Age 13 / Virginia North**

Eid-ul-Adha, also known as **‘The Festival of Sacrifice’**, is one of the most important Islamic celebrations. It is observed on the 10th day of *Dhul-Hijjah*, the last month of the Islamic calendar. This special occasion marks the great act of devotion by Prophet Abraham (as), who was willing to sacrifice his son Ismail (as) as an act of obedience to Allah. However, Allah, in His mercy, replaced Ismail with a ram, showing that faith and intention matter more than the sacrifice itself. Today, Muslims around the world commemorate this event by offering sacrifices, sharing with others, and strengthening their faith.

The story of Eid-ul-Adha comes from the life of Prophet Abraham (as), a man known for his strong faith and obedience to Allah. One night, Abraham had a dream in which Allah commanded him to sacrifice his only beloved son, Ismail. Even though it was an incredibly difficult test, Abraham was ready to follow Allah’s command without hesitation. When he told Ismail about the dream, Ismail also accepted Allah’s will, showing his own deep faith.

On the day of the sacrifice, just as Abraham (as) was about to carry out Allah’s command, a miracle happened. Allah replaced Ismail with a ram, sending a message that He does not want suffering but rather a demonstration of faith and devotion. This powerful story teaches Muslims the importance of trust, obedience, and complete submission to Allah’s will.

Eid-ul-Adha begins with a special prayer, performed in congregation at mosques or open fields. This prayer is an essential part of the festival, reminding Muslims of their connection to Allah and the values of sacrifice and gratitude. After the prayer, the main ritual of Qurbani [sacrifice] takes place. Families who can afford to do so sacrifice an animal, usually a goat, sheep, cow, or camel, following strict Islamic guidelines. The meat from the sacrifice is then divided into three equal parts: One part for the family to enjoy, one part for relatives and friends as a gesture of love and

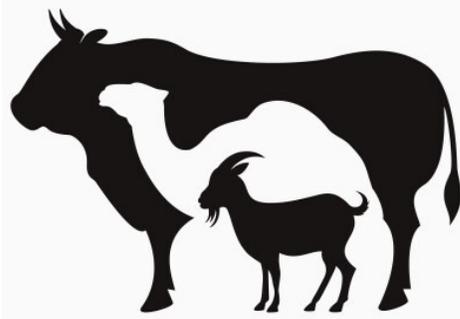


unity, one part for the poor and needy, ensuring that everyone can take part in the joy of Eid.

Another key aspect of Eid-ul-Adha is charity and generosity. Many people donate money, food, and clothing to those in need, fulfilling one of Islam's core values: helping others. Families also gather for feasts, cooking delicious traditional dishes such as biryani, kebabs, curries, and special sweets. It is a time of joy, reflection, and togetherness, as relatives and friends visit each other and exchange greetings. Children often receive gifts and new clothes, adding to the festive spirit.

Although Eid-ul-Adha is widely recognized for its ritual of sacrifice, its true meaning goes much deeper. The festival teaches Muslims several important values that apply to daily life. First, it emphasizes obedience to Allah, just as Prophet Abraham (as) was willing to follow Allah's command without question. This reminds Muslims to trust in Allah's wisdom, even when faced with challenges.

Secondly, Eid-ul-Adha highlights the importance of generosity and caring for others. By sharing meat with the poor, Muslims learn to be selfless and compassionate. It serves as a reminder that wealth and blessings should be shared with those who are less fortunate. The festival also strengthens family and community bonds, as people come together to celebrate, pray, and help one another.



Eid-ul-Adha is more than just a religious festival—it is a time for faith, sacrifice, and kindness. It teaches valuable lessons about trust in Allah, helping others, and being grateful for what we have. The story of Prophet Abraham reminds Muslims that true devotion comes from the heart, and that Allah rewards sincerity and faithfulness. As families gather to celebrate, they not only enjoy the traditions of Eid but also renew their commitment to living a life of obedience, generosity, and compassion.

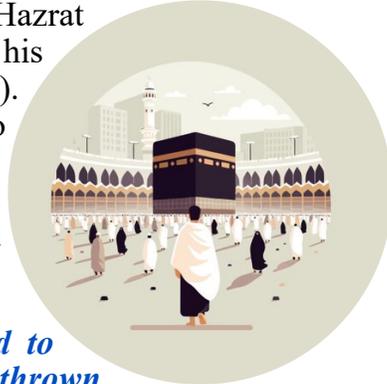
# The True Sacrifice

Zara Laiq / Age 16 / Virginia North

In the Holy Quran Allah says:

*“Their flesh reaches not Allah, nor does their blood, but it is your righteousness that reaches Him. Thus has He subjected them to you, that you may glorify Allah for His guiding you. And give glad tidings to those who do good.”* [Ch. 22: V. 38]

On the 10th day of *Dhul-Hajjah*, Muslims all around the world commemorate the profound obedience and devotion of Hazrat Abraham (as), Hazrat Hajirah (as), and Hazrat Ishmael (as) to Allah by celebrating Eid-ul-Adha, the Eid of sacrifice. In a test of obedience, Allah commanded Hazrat Abraham (as) in a dream to sacrifice his only beloved son, Hazrat Ishmael (as). When his son became old enough to understand, Hazrat Abraham shared the dream with him to which Hazrat Ishmael (as) accepted this decree in complete obedience to the will of Allah.



It is said in the Holy Qur'an,

*“And when they both submitted to the Will of God, and Abraham had thrown him down on his forehead, We called to him ‘O Abraham thou hast indeed fulfilled the dream.’ Thus indeed do We reward those who do good.* [Ch. 37: V. 104 -106]

From this story, we must realize that Hazrat Abraham's (as) sacrifice was not merely physical, but rather a surrender of his personal attachments. It signified his willingness to relinquish everything for the sake of Allah.

Alongside Hazrat Abraham's (as) and Hazrat Ishmael's (as) sacrifice, we also celebrate the obedience of Hazrat Hajirah (as), who was left in the barren desert with her infant son. She had stated, **“If this is being done as a result of the commandment of**



**Allah the Almighty, then Allah will never forsake us.”** (*Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 3364*)

Her words exemplify her unwavering faith and complete trust in Allah. They serve as a model for how we must also stay obedient to Allah even during times of hardship and uncertainty.

Today, those Muslims who are financially able, mirror their acts of obedience to Allah by sacrificing an animal after Eid prayer. However, this action goes much beyond an act of physical sacrifice. It signifies how just as animals are inferior to humans, humans are infinitely small before the All-Powerful Creator and therefore we must obey His every commandment. Regardless of one’s wealth, status, or



education, all people stand equal before Allah. The true essence of Eid-ul-Adha is not found in the physical animal sacrifice, but rather in the obedience to God that the sacrifice represents.

The Promised Messiah (as) has stated that we should love Allah as if we have died in His way. Just as we slaughter animals, we should consider ourselves slaughtered in the way of Allah. When our Taqwa is less than this, then it is not a sufficient level of Taqwa. What reaches Allah is the sincerity of our actions and our certainty that we are willing to surrender everything for Allah, just as Hazrat Abraham (as) was willing to sacrifice everything, including his only son. True sacrifice involves the constant prioritization of our personal relationship with Allah over all other worldly pursuits.

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) has stated, **If anyone is bereft of Taqwa [righteousness], even if hundreds of thousands of animals are sacrificed, God’s pleasure cannot be won.**

Mindless actions are not enough. The intention is truly what determines if our sacrifice will be accepted in the eyes of Allah. Therefore, it should be a priority of every Muslim to ensure that their sacrifice is a means of spiritual purification. The story of Hazrat Abraham (as) is not just a historical example, instead it should serve as a constant reminder that sincerity must accompany all our sacrifices so that we may attain true nearness to Allah.

# Eid-ul-Adha

Manal Ahmad / Age 12 / Virginia North

Every second engulfed in prayer.  
I wake up with Allah's blessings.  
Duas fill my head  
Allah, please guide me on the right path.  
Later, we get together with family.  
Always blessed to have this day.  
Detailed mehndi coats my hands.  
History begins with a sacrifice.  
Ameen the words I say, Ameen.



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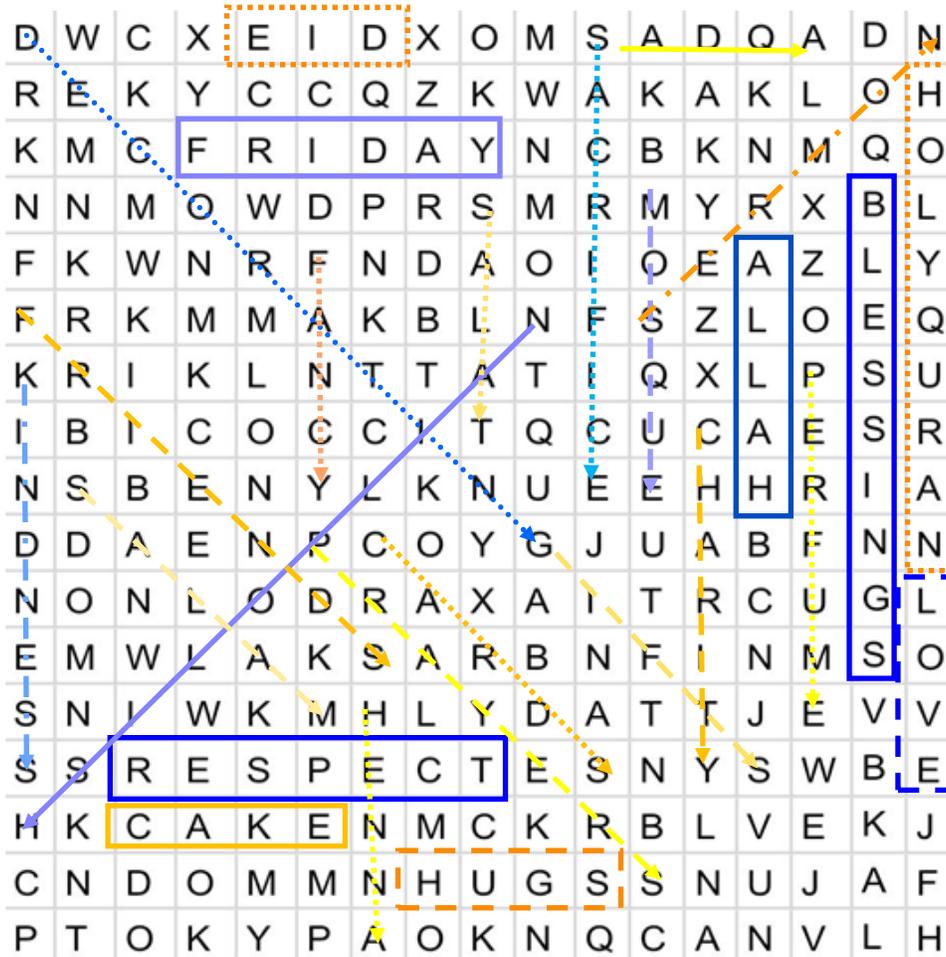
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# Answer Key



1. Allah
2. Blessings
3. Cake
4. Cards
5. Charity
6. Eid
7. Decorating
8. Fancy
9. Friday
10. Friends
11. Gifts
12. Henna
13. Holy Quran
14. Hugs
15. Kindness
16. Love
17. Mosque
18. Nail polish
19. Perfume
20. Prayers
21. Respect
22. Sacrifice
23. Sadqa
24. Salam
25. Salat
26. Sermon



# Glossary

Abū Dāwūd ابو داود : A collection of Aḥadīth. The author of this collection.

Adhan: The call to prayer

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ : All praise belongs to Allah.

Al-Hilāl الهلال : The new moon.

Āmīn [Āmeen, Aameen] آمين : So be it. Amen. Ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first reading of the Holy Qur'an.

As-Salāmu 'Alaikum السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ May peace be upon you. (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)

Bukhari: A collection of Ahadith. The author of this collection.

Chanda: چنده Monetary contribution, donation. (The ha at the end is to indicate a fath on dal, and is not pronounced, so should not be explicitly written in the transliteration of the word.)

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor (1950-...) حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد, may Allah be his Helper: Fifth successor (2003-...) to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

Ḥuḍūr [Ḥudhūr, Ḥuzūr, Huzoor] حضور : His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

Iftār افطار : breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

Iftārī افطاری : eating to break Islamic formal fast.

Ijtema: gathering

Jalsa Salana: Annual Convention

Jama'at: Community

Muezzin: caller to Prayer

Muslim: Believer, one who submits to Allah

Nāsirāt ناصرات : helpers (feminine). A member of Majlis Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya, association of young Ahmadi girls.

Sadaqah صدقه : alms



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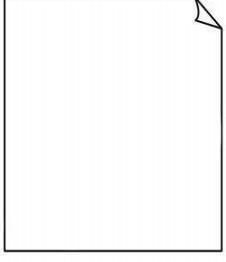


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*Muslims who believe in the Messiah,  
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani*