

# THE PHYSICAL ACT OF SACRIFICING AN ANIMAL AT EID UL ADHIYA

*Frequently Asked Questions from the National Tarbiyat Department*

*Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA*

## **Special Instructions for USA Jamaat**

It was brought to beloved Huzoor's notice that "the practice of Sacrifice of animals at the occasion of Eidul Adhiya in (Jamaat) USA is fairly uncommon, and that there is a misconception that people don't have enough spare time to 'waste' a full day for Sacrifice. In places like America, it should be possible to arrange for Sacrifice and it should not be thought of as a waste of time. The Promised Messiah (as) has said "these sacrifices are a means of attaining closeness to and the company of Almighty God for the person who observes this practice of sacrifice with sincerity and faithfulness for the worship of God, and these sacrifices are among the highest forms of worship". Therefore the Jamaat should be educated about its importance, and wherever possible members should arrange for a Sacrifice and should remove this misconception that observing the Sacrifice is a waste of time."

Response from Center: *"You should bring this to the attention of Jamaat members at your various Jamaat meetings and events. This will also serve to make the younger generation pay attention to this obligation."*

*Letter of Additional Wakil ut Tabshir to Jamaat USA, London, Dec. 13, 2010*

## **Isn't sacrificing an animal is a voluntary practice?**

No. The physical act of slaughtering an animal, for someone with the resources, is Wajib (meaning necessary) and Sunnat-e-Moakada (Fiqh Ahmadiyya. Ibadat. Page 182) every year on the occasion of Eidul Adhiyya. For example, performing 4 raka in the beginning of Isha prayers is Fard but three Vitr are Wajib.

## **Is it sinful not to sacrifice an animal at Eidul Adhiya?**

The Holy Prophet (saw) once said that a person of means who does not observe sacrifice should not come to his mosque (Ibne Majah). We can see from this and other sayings that a believer should not take this duty lightly.

## **Who is responsible to offer Sacrifice?**

Every earning head of household is responsible for offering at least one sacrifice on behalf of his family. One sacrifice suffices for one family. Additional sacrifices on behalf of others in the family are optional.

## **What is the benefit of doing animal sacrifice?**

The act of sacrifice is symbolic reminding the person who offers it that as the animal is inferior to him so he, also, is inferior to God and should, therefore, be ready to sacrifice himself and all his personal interests and inclinations for the sake of God when he is required to do so

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih AlKhamis(atba) in his Eid ul Adha Addresss dated, 31<sup>ST</sup> December 2006 said “The incidence of Hadhrat Ibrahim, Hadhrat Ismaeel and Hadhrat Haajrah (pbu them all) teaches us that when we are ready to face hardship in Allah’s cause, then Allah (swt) will Himself remove them from our path.”

**If two people are earning in the same household, is it wajib on both of them to sacrifice an animal each?**

One sacrifice suffices for one family (for example if both husband and wife work, even then minimum is one sacrifice). Additional sacrifices on behalf of others in the family are optional.

**What does each animal suffice for?**

Each goat or sheep suffices for sacrifice for 1 Muslim male or female; whereas each head of cattle or camel could represent the sacrifice for 7 Muslim males and females (not more than 7), provided that all seven have an equal share, nobody is to have a larger portion than another at the time of the distribution of the meat.

**Practicing Sacrifice in the USA**

**What are some of the ways in which an animal sacrifice can be accomplished?**

That depends on the person:

- A good way to offer sacrifice is to give money to the Jamaat (through your local finance secretary) before the day of Eid-ul-Adhiya, and Jamaat will arrange Sacrifice in another part of the world where there are more needy people. In 2013, the rate of one sacrifice is \$150.
- Another good way is to send the money to a family member in a Muslim majority country and have them do the sacrifice on your behalf
- A better way is to talk to your local Halal meat shop, and have them slaughter the animal and provide you the prepared meat. It is preferred (not mandatory) to make three portions of the meat (for the poor, family/friends, and yourself)
- The best way is to search a local slaughterhouse and contact them days in advance so you could go yourself and fulfill this obligation. According to our estimate, nearly 50 Ahmadi Muslim families are able to accomplish this task every year.

**Ok. I am happy to give \$150 to my finance secretary for a sacrifice oversees. But I am curious, how are the funds used?**

- A daily fax is sent from US to UK. The funds are then allocated to a country where Khalifatul Masih feels the need is the greatest. This process starts a few days before the Eid and continues till the third day of Eid. You can watch a video from Pakistan (4 minute mark) where such animals are slaughtered and distributed (<http://www.alislam.org/v/2418.html>)

### **Is the distribution of meat a hard and fast rule? Do I have to distribute 1/3 to my family, 1/3 to the poor and 1/3 for myself?**

It is a recommended rule according to a Hadith as the purpose of the sacrifice is to share the meat of the sacrifice with one's immediate family, extended family/friends and the poor. But you could also use all the meat yourself if need be (Fiqh Ahmadiyya, Ibadat. P 182)

### **Isn't going to a farm and physically sacrificing an animal a very time consuming chore on Eid day?**

International headquarters in London has discouraged such a mindset. The act of sacrificing an animal is Wajib (meaning its obligatory if one has the means to do it) and therefore should be given due attention.

### **How should the animal be slaughtered?**

- The knife for Zabah has to be sharpened to the optimum, and the slaughter should be carried out quickly and effectively to minimize the suffering sustained by the animal.
- The throat of the animal should be cut in a manner to ensure that the gullet, the wind pipe and the two external jugular veins are severed .It is Makrooh to sever the entire neck including the vertebrae.
- Every effort should be made to ensure that animals are not slaughtered in the presence of other live animals.
- In the process of slaughtering, the knife should be concealed till the moment of slaughter and the animal should be placed such that it allows the person slaughtering the animal to face Qibla, as this is Mustahab. Takbeer is recited.
- The skinning of the slaughtered animal and dismembering of body parts should not commence until the animal's carcass has turned cold.

### **I have always done Sacrifice. What should be my next goal?**

A true believer always seeks opportunities to draw near to Allah through various acts of worship. The act of sacrifice should always remind a believer of his/her obligation of performing a Hajj. Don't put that off. Learn more about Hajj by reviewing this step by step guide at the Tarbiyat department website – SpiritualFitness.us (<http://spiritualfitness.us/2013/07/01/hajj/>)