

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

This is a religious *fatwa* (religious ruling) of the obligations, requirements and recommendations for (religious slaughter) of animals during the festival of *Eid-ul-Adhaa*.

Introduction

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهُ لُحُومَهَا وَلَا دِمَائُهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ كَذَلِكَ سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ
وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

"It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is piety from you that reaches Him. In this way We have made them (the animals) submissive to you so that you may glorify Allah for your Guidance. And give blessed news (O beloved Prophet ﷺ) to those who do good deeds (Muhsineen)." (Holy Qur'an 22:37)

What is Qurbani (Religious slaughter or sacrifice)?

Qurbani is an Islamic obligation upon us ordained by Allah Almighty as part of the religious festivities of *Eid-ul-Adhaa*. This is following the great show of obedience of sayidinaa Ibraheem (as) when he was asked to sacrifice his blessed son sayidinaa Isma'eel (as). Allah Almighty caused him to sacrifice a white-horned ram instead, as He states:

وَفَدَيْنَاهُ بِذَبْحٍ عَظِيمٍ

'We ransomed his son with a great sacrifice' (HQ 37:107).

It is said that this ram was one extremely special who had grazed in *Jannah* for 40 years before being transported down to this earth. The horns of this ram were in fact passed down through the generations of the family of sayidinaa Isma'eel (as) till our beloved Prophet ﷺ and beyond. It is also said that this ram was the same sacrificed by Habil (HQ 5:27) generations earlier. As Qurbani is a religious obligation for us, we must follow the correct procedures and regulations. Our beloved Prophet (ﷺ) has stated the following:

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ، قَالَ حَطَبْنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَوْمَ أَضْحَىٰ وَانْكَفَأَ إِلَىٰ كَبْشَيْنِ أَمْلَحَيْنِ
فَذَبَحَهُمَا . مُخْتَصِرٌ

It was narrated that Anas bin Malik said: "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ addressed us on the Day of Sacrifice (*Eid-ul-Adhaa*), and he went toward two 'Amlah' rams and sacrificed them." (Abridged). (Nisaaee 4,388)

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ الْفِطْرُ يَوْمَ يُفْطِرُ النَّاسُ, وَالْأَضْحَى يَوْمَ يُضْحِي النَّاسُ

Narrated 'Aishah (6): Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said: "('Eid) al-Fitr is the day on which the people break the fast, and ('Eid) al-Adha is the day the people offer sacrifices." (Tirmidhi 802)

Rules of Qurbani in accordance with the Hanafi school of Jurisprudence

In the Hanafi school, Qurbani is wajib and hence considered compulsory if all conditions are met. Other schools differ with some agreeing that it is compulsory and others saying that it is a highly recommended sunnah. In Hanafi *fiqh*:

1. The Hanafi school states that all sane, adult Muslims (who have reached the age of puberty), who possesses the Nisaab value must give a Qurbani. Therefore, if one is eligible to pay Zakat, one must offer a Qurbani.
2. Qurbani must be performed on the 10th, 11th or 12th days of *Dhul-Hijjah*.
3. Sacrifices can only be made after the Eid prayer has been performed. (Note that sacrifices made before do not count as Qurbani but *sadaqah*). This is because our most beloved Prophet ﷺ offered the Eid prayer and then only after that made the sacrifice.
4. Animals for sacrifice must be sacrificed by religious slaughter; must meet minimum age and health requirements; must be slaughtered by hand by a Muslim slaughterman reciting *tasmiyyah* and *takbir* on each and every animal.
5. Sheep & Goats must be at least one year old; Cows and Buffalo should be at least two years old; Camels should be at least five years old. Both male and female animals are deemed permissible for Qurbani.
6. Sheep and Goats count as one Qurbani and Cows, Buffalo and Camels count as seven, thus, seven people can share one Cow, Buffalo or Camel.
7. Qurbani sacrifices can be given in three shares - one for yourself, one for family or friends and one for the poor and needy; or all of it can be donated to the poor.
8. It is permissible to give more than one Qurbani although after the first one, the remainder count as *sadaqah* and are *nafl* (optional).
9. The animals offered for sacrifice must be healthy and fit with limbs, teeth and eyesight intact - although minor injuries are permissible.

10. Qurbani can be offered in areas where there is greatest need such as to refugees, isolated and poor communities, or those in general hardship. However, the needs of your immediate locality should not be ignored.
11. It is permissible to store the Qurbani such as in tins or frozen for distribution over distance if required.

Almighty Allah and His beloved Prophet ﷺ know best.

Signed



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