

6. Women Attending the 'Eid Prayer

The Prophet (s.a.w.) said: 'The unmarried young virgins and the mature girl who stay often screened or the young unmarried virgins who often stay screened and the menstruating women should come out and participate in the good deeds as well as the religious gathering of the faithful believers, but the menstruating women should keep away from the *Musalla* (place of prayer).'" [Bukhari]

7. Route Change

Jabir ibn 'Abdullah (r.a.) narrated that the Prophet (s.a.w.) used to come back from 'Eid al-Fitr on a path other than the one he used going to [the prayer]. [Bukhari]. It was said that he did this so that the two different routes would testify in his favor on the Day of Resurrection, because on that Day the earth will speak about everything that was done on it, good and evil. This was also done in order to demonstrate the symbols and rituals of Islam along both routes; to pronounce the remembrance of Allah.

8. Greetings

People should exchange congratulations and good greetings on the day of 'Eid. They should visit their relatives and friends, and uphold the ties of kinship by exchanging gifts.

For instance, they may say to one another, "*Taqabbal Allaabu minnaa wa minkum*" (May Allah accept [the fast and worship] from us and from you) or "*Eid Mubarak*" or any other similar permissible greetings.



Jubayr ibn Nufayr said: "During the time of the Prophet (s.a.w.), when people met one another on the day of 'Eid, they would say, *Taqabbal Allaabu minnaa wa minka* (May Allah accept from us and from you).'" [Fath al Baree]

9. Entertainment

On the day of 'Eid al-Fitr, the Prophet (s.a.w.) went to Aisha (r.a.) while two small girls were singing by beating the *duff*. Abu Bakr (r.a.) rebuked the girls to stop singing. The Prophet (s.a.w.) said: "Let them sing because for every people there is a feast and this is our feast." [Bukhari] It should be noted that the words of the songs should not contain anything impermissible.

10. No Fasting on the Day of 'Eid

Abu 'Ubaid (r.a.) narrated through 'Umar (r.a.) that the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) prohibited us from fasting on these two days: first when you complete the fast of Ramadan and second when you eat the meat of sacrificed animals. [Bukhari]

11. Voluntary Fasting in the month of Shawwal

"Whoever fasts for 6 days in Shawwal after completing the fasts of Ramadan every year, he will be rewarded as if he has been fasting for his entire life." [Muslim]



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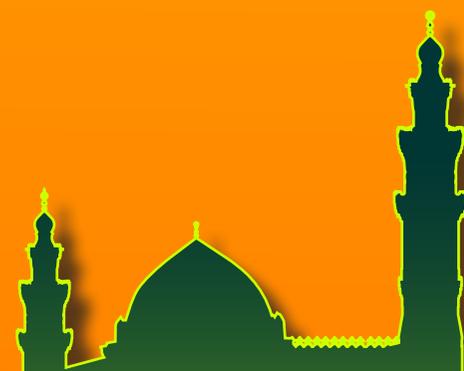
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Eid Mubarak



Celebrations in Islam

The desire to celebrate momentous occasions is part of the *fitrah* [innate disposition of human beings]; Islam not only encourages Muslims to celebrate special occasions but also renders it an act of righteousness. One must, however, celebrate these occasions by observing a high conduct and propriety; which distinguishes Islamic celebrations from all other ways known in society.

The Two Days of 'Eid

Anas (r.a.) narrated: "The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) came to Madinah and the people had two days when they would play and have fun. He said, 'What are these two days?' They said, 'We used to play and have fun on these days during the *Jaabiliyyah* [pre-Islamic era]. The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) said, 'Allah has given you something better than them, the day of *Adhaa* and the day of *Fitr*.'" [Abu Dawud]

What does a Muslim do on 'Eid?

1. Dressing up

On the Day of 'Eid, taking a bath, dressing up (wearing new or the cleanest dress available) and wearing perfume (for men) is recommended. It was narrated that Ibn 'Umar and other companions of the Prophet (s.a.w.) used to take a bath for 'Eid. [Fath al-Baree] Jabir (r.a.) narrated: "The Prophet (s.a.w.) had a *jubbah* [garment] that he would wear on 'Eid and on Fridays." [Ibn Khuzaymah]

It was also narrated that Ibn 'Umar would wear his best clothes for 'Eid along with other companions of the Prophet (s.a.w.). [Fath al Baree]

However, men should not wear silk since this is impermissible for them. Women, on the other hand, should avoid physically adorning themselves when they go out for 'Eid, because they are prohibited from displaying their beauty in front of non-mahram men.

“For every people there is a feast and this is our feast” [Bukhari]

2. Proclaiming the takbir [Magnification of Allah]

Allah (s.w.t.) said in Surah al-Baqarah, verse 185, "The month of Ramadan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an... [He wants] for you to complete the prescribed period, and to magnify Allah [do takbir (Allahu akbar)] for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful." It is in the same spirit that *takbir* should be called out on the day of 'Eid, especially in the morning before and while going to the 'Eid congregational prayer.

Al-Waleed ibn Muslim said: "I asked al-Auza'ee and Malik ibn Anas about saying *takbir* aloud on 'Eid. They said, 'Yes, 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar used to say it aloud on the day of *Fitr* until the Imam came out."

Wording of the takbir

Ibn Abi Shaybah reported in al-Musannaf that Ibn Mas'ud (r.a.) used to say *takbir* on the days of *tasbriq* as follows:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

"*Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar, laa ilaaha ill-Allaah, wa Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar wa lillaahi al-hamd.*" (Allah is Great, Allah is Great, There is no God but Allah, Allah is Great, Allah is Great, All Praises are for Him). Ibn Abi Shaybah reported it elsewhere with the same chain of narration, but with the phrase "*Allaahu akbar*" repeated three times.

3. Eating Sweet

Anas bin Malik (r.a.) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) on the day of 'Eid al-Fitr would proceed to the 'Eid Prayer only after eating some dates, and he used to eat an odd number of dates. [Bukhari]

If dates are not available then one can eat something sweet intending to be close to the *Sunnah*.

4. Fitr Charity

Fitr charity is obligatory on all Muslims - men, women, children, slave or free - whoever is able to give the prescribed amount.

Its purpose, as mentioned by the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.), is to purify the one who Fasts of any misdeeds done while observing the Fast, so that the reward is given in full to him; and to also provide food to the needy.

This charity must be given before the 'Eid prayer by the head of the family on behalf of all family members including children, infants and family servants.

The prescribed amount of *Fitr* Charity is 'One Saa' (two handfuls) of grain or dates (generally any staple food of one's country of residence).

5. 'Eid Prayer

It is *Wajib* [necessary] to perform the 'Eid al-Fitr prayer. "The Prophet (s.a.w.) and his companions always prayed the 'Eid Prayer, and they would gather the community for it including women who were in their menses, children and the elderly." [Bukhari]

The 'Eid prayer can be performed any time between when the sun is an arrow's length above the horizon until the zenith. "The *Adhaan* and the *Iqaamah* are not to be pronounced for the 'Eid Prayer." [Muslim]

It is not permissible to pray *Sunnah* before or immediately after the 'Eid prayer. "The Prophet (s.a.w.) prayed two *Rak'at* for the 'Eid prayer and did not pray before it or after it." [Bukhari]