

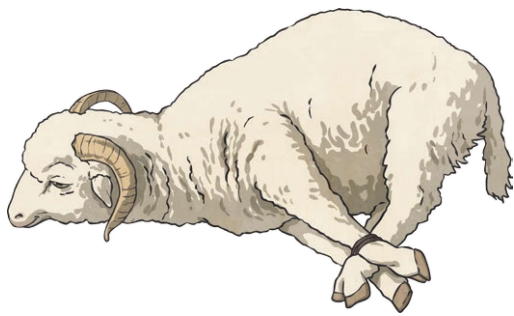
# Eid Al-Adha

## What Is Eid Al-Adha?

Eid al-Adha is an important Muslim festival, celebrated around the beginning of September by people who follow Islam. It is also known as the Greater Eid, or the Festival of Sacrifice. This is because of the loyalty, obedience and great devotion shown by one man for Allah, and the lengths he was prepared to go to for his creator.

### Interesting Fact

When people sacrifice a living creature to God, or Allah, it is a sign of their devotion and obedience. This is because animals like lambs and goats were very valuable to people hundreds of years ago and sacrificing one of these animals was a sign that they loved God more than the value of the animal.



## The Story of Sacrifice

Prophet Ibrahim had a son whom he cherished very dearly. One night, Allah spoke to Prophet Ibrahim in a dream. Allah told Prophet Ibrahim that he wanted him to sacrifice his only son to show loyalty and obedience.

Prophet Ibrahim loved his son very much, but had also devoted his life to Allah. He knew he had to do what he had been asked.

So, with a heavy heart, he agreed. The devil tried to tempt Prophet Ibrahim away from his task, but the prophet ignored him.

As Prophet Ibrahim prepared to sacrifice his son, Allah stopped him. He asked Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice a ram instead.

Allah was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim because he had proved that he was obedient and trusted Allah, and was willing to kill his beloved son for Allah.



## Celebrating Eid Al-Adha

It is customary for Muslim families to celebrate Eid al-Adha by wearing new clothes and going to the mosque. They praise Allah and give him thanks for the blessings they have received.

Often, they will prepare and share meals with family and friends, and sometimes sacrifice a lamb or a goat. They will give the meat to family, friends and the poor.

Some Muslims will make the pilgrimage, or Hajj, to Makkah (Mecca) where they praise and worship Allah. Healthy Muslims are expected to do this at least once in their lifetime.

They send cards and give gifts, and often girls and ladies will decorate their hands with mehndi patterns. Mehndi is made from crushed henna leaves mixed with oil and other liquids such as lemon juice, water or tea.



# Questions

1. What religion do people who celebrate Eid al-Adha follow?

Hinduism

Judaism

Islam

Buddhism

2. In the first paragraph, identify three facts about Eid al-Adha.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Write the definition of each of these words. You may use a dictionary.

Loyalty \_\_\_\_\_

Obedience \_\_\_\_\_

Devotion \_\_\_\_\_

4. Explain one way in which people have shown their devotion to Allah in the past, and why they did this.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How did Prophet Ibrahim feel about his son? Identify how you know, using a reference from the text.

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6. Describe how Allah spoke to Prophet Ibrahim.

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7. It could be said that Prophet Ibrahim had to face an awful dilemma. Explain what the dilemma was and find one phrase which tells us how Prophet Ibrahim was feeling about it.

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8. Order these statements from 1 to 6.

- Allah stopped him and saved his son.
- Prophet Ibrahim was devoted to Allah and knew he had to be obedient to his request.
- Allah asked Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his own son.
- Prophet Ibrahim had to kill a ram instead as the sacrifice.
- Prophet Ibrahim got ready to kill his own son.
- The devil tried to tempt Prophet Ibrahim away from doing what Allah had asked him to do.

9. Explain in detail two ways in which Muslims might celebrate Eid al-Adha.

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10. What do you think about Prophet Ibrahim and the type of person he was? Explain your thoughts.

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