

What is 'Eid ul Adha?

'Eid ul-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) commemorates the obedience of Prophet Abraham (upon him be peace) to Allah (God) where he and son were tested by the command to sacrifice Ismael, and passed the test which actually saved his son, who was replaced by a ram.

Prophet Muhammad (prayers of God upon him and peace) continued this tradition of obedience and conveyed to us to divide the Udhya (sacrificed camel, cattle, lamb or goat) into thirds. One-third of the sacrifice is designated for the poor, one-third for the owner, and one-third to give away as gifts.

'Eid ul Adha is a three-day celebration observed after the Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah). It begins on the 10th day of Dhul-Hijja (Islamic month) for Muslims worldwide, regardless of cultural background or location. In the West, however, many Muslim communities will host gatherings and parties on the weekend immediately following the day of 'Eid since 'Eid ul Adha is not typically recognized as a three-day holiday exempting them from work or school.

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