

Eid Prayer And What To Do On The Eid Days?



It is written in Halabi-yi kabir, "The salat (prayer) of Eid consists of two rak'ats [1]. It is performed in jama'at (congregation). It cannot be performed individually. In the first rak'at, after reciting the Subhanaka the takbir-i zawaid is said three times, that is, the hands are lifted up to the ears three times; in the first and second times, they are let down hanging on both sides, and after the third time they are clasped under the navel. After the imam [2] says the Fatiha and the additional sura [3] aloud, they (the imam and the jama'at) bow for the ruku' [4]. In the second rak'at the Fatiha and an additional sura are said first, then the hands are lifted up to the ears three times, and after each time they are let down hanging on both sides. In the fourth takbir you do not lift your hands up to your ears but instead prostrate for the ruku'. In the first and second rak'ats five and four takbirs are said respectively. And in order not to forget where you will put your hands in those nine takbirs, you memorize this procedure as follows: "Hang them twice and clasp them once. Hang them thrice and then prostrate."

THINGS TO DO ON THE EID DAYS?

It is written in the book Ni'mat-i Islam: "It is sunnat [5] to do the following things on the Eid days:

- 1- To get up early,
- 2- To make a ghusl [6],
- 3- To clean the teeth with miswak,
- 4- To put on perfume [without alcohol],
- 5- To put on new and clean clothes,
- 6- To show that you are happy,
- 7- To eat sweetmeat before the prayer of the Eid of Fitr,
- 8- To eat dates; to eat an odd number of them,
- 9- To perform morning prayer in the masjid of one's quarter and to go a large mosque for the Eid prayer,
- 10- To wear a ring on that day,
- 11- To go to the mosque early and to go on foot,
- 12- To say the Eid takbirs (saying "Allahu akbar Allahu akbar, la ilaha illallahu wallahu akbar, Allahu akbar wa lillahi-l-hamd") softly on the Eid of Fitr and loudly on the Eid of Adha,
- 13- To take a different route on one's way back from the mosque. This is because the places where one offers one's ibadat [7] and the routes that one takes when going for 'ibadat will stand as witnesses on the Day of Judgement,
- 14- To welcome the Believers [Muslims] with a smiling face and by saying "Salamun 'alaykum,
- 15- To give alms generously to the poor and to give help to those who are working to disseminate true Islam,
- 16- To give the sadaqa-i fitr before the Eid prayer,
- 17- It is sunnat also to reconcile those who are cross with one another,
- 18- To visit one's relatives and brothers-in-Islam, and to give them presents,
- 19-Finally, it is sunnat for men to visit graves.

It is stated as follows in hadith-i sharifs [8]: "Man takes to those who do them favours," and "Give presents to one another and you will love one another." The most valuable and the most useful present is a smiling face and honeyed words. You should always treat everybody with a smiling face and soft words, whether they are friends or enemies, Muslims or disbelievers, unless they are bid'at holders. You should not quarrel with anybody. Quarreling will mar friendship. It will aggravate hostilities. You should not become angry with anybody. A hadith-i-sharif

admonishes: "Do not become angry!" At times of fitna ^[9], mischief, when you see people worshipping a cow, feed straw to the cow lest you should anger them.

[1] Rak'at: In performing namaz, the actions of standing, bowing and putting the head on the ground twice are altogether called a rak'at. Most prayers of namaz consist of two or four rak'ats. One of them contains three rak'ats.

[2] imam: i) profound 'alim; founder of a madhhab; ii) leader in congregational salat; iii) caliph.

[3] suura(t): a Qur'anic chapter [a chapter of the Qur'an].

[4] ruku: bowing during the prayer of namaz.

[5] sunnat: i) (when used alone) The Shari'at; ii) (when used together with the name Book) The hadith of the Prophet. iii) (when used together with the word Fard) Any action, word or thought liked and commanded by the Prophet.

[6] ghusl: ablution of the whole body as defined in fiqh.

[7] 'ibadat: pl. of 'ibada

[8] hadith (sharif): i) a saying of the Prophet ('alaihi 's-salam).; al-Hadith ash-sharif: all the hadiths as a whole; ii) 'ilm al-hadith; iii) Books of the hadith ash-sharif. iv) Al-hadith al-qudsi, as-sahih, al-hasan: kinds of hadiths (for which, see Endless Bliss, II).

[9] fitna: the widespreading of statements and actions that harm Muslims and Islam. : disunion among Muslims.