

# Fruits for the Week

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7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 40 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong  
E-mail: [iuhk@netvigator.com](mailto:iuhk@netvigator.com)

Tel: 2575 2218  
Fax: 2834 5409

Website: <http://home.netvigator.com/~iuhk/>

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## EID-AL-ADHA : FEAST OF SACRIFICE

Muslims all over the world are celebrating and commemorating the Eid-al-Adha or Feast of Sacrifice. In this Feast, Muslims from around the globe go to Mecca to perform the fifth pillar of Islam, which is pilgrimage or Hajj.

This feast reminds Muslims of many things, among which are the following:

1. The pilgrimage is an international convention with participants from all over the world, irrespective of color, nationality, language, social status or economic level. More than two million Muslims from across the world get together in one place at one time once every year. They discuss their common problems, share their views and ideas and come to mutual understanding.
2. The concept of pilgrimage is a concept of peace. When Muslims perform pilgrimage, they will attain peace with their souls, peace with their Lord, peace within the society and world peace.
3. The concept of pilgrimage is a concept of loyalty to Allah Almighty. A Muslim entrusts all his loyalty to Allah (SWT) and to Allah (SWT) alone. He pledges to worship none but Allah (SWT). He puts the rules and regulations of Allah (SWT) before his personal opinion.
4. The ultimate wisdom of this feast is the concept of sacrifice. For this reason, it is

called the Feast of Sacrifice or Eid-al-Adha. This concept of sacrifice is very important in Islam. A Muslim should sacrifice his time, his efforts, his energy, his knowledge, his wealth and even his own personal life for the love of Allah (SWT). The Feast of Sacrifice reminds Muslims of Prophet Ibrahim who offered to sacrifice his own beloved child Ismail and, instead, Allah (SWT) blessed him with a ram for the sacrifice. For this reason, Muslims all over the world are requested to make a sacrifice on the occasion of this feast. It is not only a symbolic remembrance, but also a reality of sacrifice for the love of Allah (SWT).

5. The ritual of pilgrimage bring to our attention the concept of equality, justice, brotherhood and universality. This can be observed when one sees two million people gathering at one place, wearing the same white clothes, performing the same ritual, addressing themselves to the Universal and Eternal Lord.

These are among the many things we are reminded of. Let us hope that all of us try our best to acquire these benefits in our daily lives. Wallahu A'lam.

Prepared by Br. Muhaemin Karim, Dawah Worker, IUHK