
The meaning of celebrating *Eid-al-Fitr*

The celebration of *Eid-al-Fitr* is a kind of appreciation and praise to Allah who gave Muslims the opportunity to improve themselves -- their moral consciousness and behaviour.

The celebration of *Eid-al-Fitr* is a token of praise to Almighty Allah who gave Muslims the opportunity to obliterate their sins and mistakes which had accumulated throughout the year. It is during *Ramadhan* that Muslims try their best to atone for their sins and mistakes.

The celebration of *Eid-al-Fitr* is a sign of unity of the Muslim *ummah* throughout the world under the banner of *La ilaha illallah Muhammadun Rasulullah*. All Muslims must fast during the month of *Ramadhan* at the prescribed time, and they have to break their fast at the prescribed time as well. No one can begin his fast after dawn, and no one has the right to break his fast before sunset. This type of unity is the unity of Muslims. No single Muslim is exempted from the fasting of *Ramadhan* on the basis of his wealth or for his position, or his status in the society. Muslims all over the world are equal in the sight of Allah.

The celebration of *Eid-al-Fitr* is a Thanksgiving Day when Muslims assemble in a brotherly and joyful atmosphere to express their gratitude to Allah for helping them to fulfill their spiritual obligations prior to the *Eid*. This form of thanksgiving is not confined to spiritual devotion and verbal expressions. It goes far beyond that to manifest itself in a handsome shape of social and humanitarian spirit. The Muslims who have completed the fasting of

Ramadhan express their thanks to Allah by means of distributing alms among the poor and the needy on the first day of *Shawwal*.

The celebration of *Eid-al-Fitr* is a Day of Remembrance. Muslims make a fresh start of the day by performing various forms of worship to Allah. They pray to Him and glorify His name to demonstrate their remembrance of His favors. At the same time, they remember the deceased by praying for their souls, the needy by extending a hand of help, the grieved by showing them sympathy and consolation, the sick by cheerful visits and utterances of good wishes, the absentees by cordial greetings and sincere considerateness, etc.

The celebration of *Eid-al-Fitr* is a Day of Victory. The individual, who succeeds in securing his spiritual rights and growth, receives the *Eid* with a victorious spirit. The individual, who faithfully observes the duties which are associated with the *Eid*, is a triumphant one.

The celebration of *Eid-al-Fitr* is a Day of Harvest. All the good workers in the service of Allah, all the faithful believers reap the fruits of their good deeds on that day, as Allah grants His mercy and blessings abundantly.

That is the proper meaning of an Islamic *Eid*: a Day of Peace and Thanksgiving, a Day of Forgiveness and Moral Victory, a Day of Harvest and Achievements, and a Day of Festive Remembrance.

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