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EID AL-ADHA

Eid al-Adha ([Arabic](#): عيد الأضحى, [romanized](#): 'Īd al-'Aḍḥā, [lit.](#) 'Festival of the Sacrifice') is the latter of the two official [holidays](#) celebrated within [Islam](#) (the other being [Eid al-Fitr](#)). It honors the willingness of [Ibrahim](#) (Abraham) to [sacrifice](#) his son [Ishmael](#) as an act of obedience to [God's](#) command. Before Abraham could sacrifice his son, however, God provided a lamb to sacrifice instead. In commemoration of this intervention, animals are sacrificed ritually. One third of

their meat is consumed by the family offering the sacrifice, while the rest is distributed to the poor and needy. Sweets and gifts are given, and extended family are typically visited and welcomed.^[6] The day is also sometimes called Big Eid or the Greater Eid.^[7]

In the [Islamic lunar calendar](#), *Eid al-Adha* falls on the 10th day of [Dhu al-Hijjah](#) and lasts for four days. In the international [\(Gregorian\) calendar](#), the dates vary from year to year, shifting approximately 11 days earlier each year.

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ORIGIN

One of the main trials of Ibrahim's life was to face the command of Allah by sacrificing his beloved son. According to the new narrative, Ibrahim kept having dreams that he was sacrificing his son [Ismail](#) son of [Hajira](#). Ibrahim knew that this was a command from Allah and he told his son, as stated in the Quran "Oh son, I keep dreaming that I am slaughtering you", Ismail replied "Father, do what you are ordered to do." Ibrahim prepared to submit to the will of Allah and prepared to slaughter his son as an act of faith and obedience to Allah.^[14] During this

preparation, [Shaytaan](#) tempted Ibrahim and his family by trying to dissuade them from carrying out Allah's commandment, and Ibrahim drove Satan away by throwing pebbles at him. In commemoration of their rejection of Satan, stones are thrown at symbolic pillars [Stoning of the Devil](#) during Hajj rites.^[15]

Acknowledging that Ibrahim was willing to sacrifice what is dear to him, Allah the Almighty honoured both Ibrahim and Ismail. Angel Jibreel (Gabriel) called Ibrahim "O' Ibrahim, you have fulfilled the revelations." and a lamb from heaven was offered by Angel Gabriel to prophet Ibrahim to slaughter instead of Ismail. Muslims worldwide celebrate Eid al Adha to commemorate both

the devotion of Ibrahim and the survival of Ismail.^{[16][17][18]}

This story is known as the [Akedah](#) in Judaism (Binding of [Isaac](#)) and originates in the [Torah](#),^[19] the first book of Moses ([Genesis](#), Ch. 22). The Quran refers to the [Akedah](#) as follows:^[20]

100 "O my Lord! Grant me a righteous (son)!"

101 So We gave him the good news of a boy ready to suffer and forbear.

102 Then, when (the son) reached (the age of) (serious) work with him, he said: "O my son! I see in vision that I offer thee in sacrifice: Now see what is thy view!" (The son) said: "O my father! Do as thou art commanded: thou wilt find me if

Allah (God) so wills one practicing Patience and Constancy!"

103 So when they had both submitted their wills (to Allah), and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (for sacrifice),
104 We called out to him "O Abraham!

105 "Thou hast already fulfilled the vision!" – thus indeed do We reward those who do right.

106 For this was obviously a trial–

107 And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice:

108 And We left (this blessing) for him among generations (to come) in later times:

109 "Peace and salutation to Abraham!"

110 Thus indeed do We reward those who do right.

111 For he was one of our believing Servants.

112 And We gave him the good news of Isaac – a prophet – one of the Righteous.

— *Quran, sura 37 ([As-Sāffāt](#))*,
āyāt 100–112^[21]

The word "Eid" appears once in [Al-Ma'ida](#), the fifth sura of the Quran, with the meaning "solemn festival"

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