

QURBĀNI: EMULATING THE SPIRIT OF IBRĀHĪM 'ALAYHIS SALĀM

Part
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The Sahābah Radhiyallāhu 'Anhum asked: "O Nabi of Allāh! What is Qurbāni?" Nabi Sallallāhu alayhi wa sallam replied: "The Sunnah of your father, Ibrāhīm 'Alayhis Salām." (Ibn Mājah, 3127)

With the approach of Qurbāni, Muslims will once again offer sacrifice and slaughter animals in commemoration of the great sacrifice of Ibrāhīm 'Alayhis Salām.

History of Qurbāni

After much duā and a lengthy period of longing, Ibrāhīm 'Alayhis Salām was blessed with a son at the ripe old age of 86. When Ismāil 'Alayhis Salām grew up and could now assist his father, Ibrāhīm 'Alayhis Salām was given the command to physically slaughter his beloved child. This was the ultimate test of his loyalty to Allāh Ta'āla. Being the Khalīl (friend) of Allāh Ta'āla, Ibrāhīm 'Alayhis Salām happily obliged. Without questioning the rationale, Ibrāhīm 'Alayhis Salām proceeded to Mina, laid Ismāil 'Alayhis Salām down for slaughter, and placed the knife on his neck.

Upon his unconditional surrender to Allāh Ta'āla's command, Allāh Ta'āla sent down a ram from Jannah to slaughter instead. Qurbāni is a reminder of this ultimate sacrifice. To be ready to sacrifice everything for the command of Allāh Ta'āla.

This is the spirit we need to enliven within us. Placing the knife on the neck of the sacrificial animal should bring about a commitment to submit to all the commands of Allāh Ta'āla unconditionally. We should never question any command of Allāh Ta'āla.

A great form of Ibādah

Nabi Sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam has said: "On

the day of Nahr, there is no deed more beloved to Allah than the spilling of blood (of sacrificial animals). On the Day of Qiyāmah, it will appear with its horns, hair, and hooves (which will weigh heavily on the scales of deeds), and indeed, the blood (Qurbāni) is accepted by Allāh Ta'āla before it even falls to the earth." (Ibn Mājah, 3127)

As Qurbāni is an act of Ibādah, we should strive to do it in the best possible way. Allāh Ta'āla will reward us for every cent we spend on Qurbāni. Despite the increase in the prices of animals, we should willingly sacrifice our Qurbani. Nabi Sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam said: "So wholeheartedly carry out the Qurbāni." (Ibn Mājah, 3127)

Protecting our rewards by abstaining from sin

The bare minimum for every believer is that he should refrain from breaking the commands of Allah Ta'ala on the day of Eid, especially while carrying out this Ibaadah.

Common sins to avoid on the day of Eid include:

- The intermingling of males and females, especially on farms and at family gatherings.
- Dressing in violation of the laws of Shari'ah.
- Shaving the beard or cutting the hair in an unislamic manner.
- Taking pictures of the Qurbāni animal and posting them on social media. The sacrifice is recorded in Allāh Ta'āla's treasure, and in-sha Allāh, we will find it there. In addition to the prohibition of photography, this is tantamount to showing off one's good deeds and may destroy the great rewards promised.

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