

# **Why Muslims do sacrifice of Animal on Eid ul Adha? What is QURAN AND Ahadith ruling on this sacrifice and why instead of spending money on sacrificial animals, why we do not give that money to poor people which they can better use?**

Muslims sacrifice animals on Eid ul-Adha in obedience to Allah's command and as a commemoration of the Prophet Ibrahim's (Abraham's) devotion and submission to Allah's will. Here's a complete and clear explanation based on the Qur'an, Ahadith, and scholarly understanding:

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## **◆ Why Do Muslims Sacrifice Animals on Eid ul-Adha?**

### **1. Following the Sunnah of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) :**

The act commemorates the moment when Prophet Ibrahim (AS) was commanded by Allah in a dream to sacrifice his beloved son Ismail (AS). He was about to obey, but Allah replaced Ismail with a ram and praised Ibrahim's sincerity and submission.

Qur'an – Surah As-Saffat 37:102–107:

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يَا بُنَيَّ إِنِّي أَرَى فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ فَانْظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَى قَالَ يَا أَبَتِ افْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ

فَلَمَّا أَسْلَمَا وَتَلَّهُ لِلْجَبِينِ  
وَنَادَيْنَاهُ أَنْ يَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ

قَدْ صَدَّقْتَ الرُّؤْيَا إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ

إِنَّ هَذَا لَهُوَ الْبَلَاءُ الْمُبِينُ  
وَفَدَيْنَاهُ بِذَبْحٍ عَظِيمٍ

“So when he reached with him [the age of] exertion, he said, ‘O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I [must] sacrifice you now tell me what is your view” He replied o my father Do as you are commanded: you will find me , if Allah so wills , of the patient. And when of them submitted to Allah and Ibraheem laid down his son prostrate upon his forehead for sacrifice, We called out to him: O Ibraheem stop, you have fulfilled your dream, Thus We reaward the righteous , That was a manifest test.

“...And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice.”

This “great sacrifice” is commemorated by Muslims during Eid ul-Adha.

## 2. A Symbol of Taqwa (God-Consciousness):

Allah does not need the meat or blood. The sacrifice symbolizes devotion, sincerity, and obedience.

Qur'an – Surah Al-Hajj 22:37:

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهَ لُحُومُهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤُهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ كَذَٰلِكَ سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

“It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is your taqwa (piety) that reaches Him...”

## 3 Allah's commandment in Quran about sacrificing Animals.

Allah commands sacrifice in Surah Al-Kawthar (108:2):

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ

\*"So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone]."\*

In Surah Al-Hajj (22:34), Allah states:

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنَسَكًا لِّيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِّنْ بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ فَإِلَهُكُمُ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَلَهُ أَسْلِمُوا وَبَشِّرِ الْمُخْبِتِينَ

\*"For every nation We have ordained religious ceremonies so that they may mention the Name of Allah over the sacrificial animals He has provided for them."\*

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## ◆ What Do Hadith Say?



Prophet Muhammad ﷺ Practiced and Recommended Sacrifice:

1. Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 5565:

“The Prophet ﷺ sacrificed two white rams with black markings. He slaughtered them with his own hand and said, ‘Bismillah, Allahu Akbar’ (In the name of Allah, Allah is the Greatest).”

2. Sunan Ibn Majah 3123:

“The Prophet ﷺ was asked: ‘What are these sacrifices?’ He replied, ‘It is the Sunnah of your father Ibrahim.’ They asked: ‘What do we get from them?’ He said: ‘For every hair (of the animal), you will receive a reward.’”

3. The best of deeds on Eid ul Adha is the shedding of blood of the sacrificial animal Al Tirmidhi.

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## ◆ Why Not Just Give Money to the Poor Instead?

That’s a common question, and here’s a balanced response:



1. Because It Is a Specific Act of Worship (Ibadah):

The sacrifice is not just charity; it’s a ritual act of worship with deep spiritual symbolism. Just like prayer or fasting, it’s not to be replaced with another good deed.



## 2. Charity is Built into the Sacrifice:

A major portion of the meat must be distributed to the poor.

Scholars agree on this breakdown:

- 1/3 for your family
- 1/3 for friends and neighbors
- 1/3 for the needy

So, sacrifice includes charity while also fulfilling a command of Allah.



## 3. We Don't Substitute Acts of Worship:

We don't skip praying or fasting and give money instead — the same principle applies here. Financial charity is encouraged year-round, but Qurbani is a specific obligation for those who can afford it

While donating money to the poor is highly encouraged in Islam (through *\*Sadaqah\** and *\*Zakat\**), the ritual sacrifice serves unique spiritual and communal purposes:

- **\*\*Symbol of Submission (Taqwa)\*\***:

The act physically embodies Ibrahim's complete surrender to Allah. It teaches Muslims to prioritize divine commandments over material attachments or personal sentiments.

- **\*\*Tangible Community Solidarity\*\***:

The meat is divided into three parts:

- One-third for the family,
- One-third for relatives/friends,
- One-third for the poor.

This ensures **\*\*direct, equitable food distribution\*\*** to those in need, fostering community bonds.

- **\*\*Economic Support\*\***:

Sacrifice sustains local farmers, butchers, and the halal meat economy. Direct cash donations wouldn't achieve this multiplier effect.

- **\*\*Spiritual Reward (Thawab)\*\***:

The ritual is an act of worship (\*Ibadah\*) prescribed by Allah. Replacing it with cash forfeits its unique spiritual merit and connection to Ibrahim's legacy.

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## . Addressing the "Money vs. Sacrifice" Question**\*\***

- **\*\*Islam Encourages Both\*\***:

Muslims are urged to give charity year-round (\*Quran 2:267\*). The sacrifice is an *\*additional\** act specific to Eid ul-Adha, not a substitute for monetary aid.

- **\*\*Principle Over Form\*\***:

Allah states in Surah Al-Hajj (22:37):


*\*"Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you."\**

The goal is **\*\*spiritual sincerity\*\***—not the physical act alone.

## **\*\*Scholarly Consensus\*\***:

Islamic jurists (including all four Sunni schools) unanimously agree sacrifice cannot be replaced with cash for those who can afford it. Money may be given *\*alongside\** sacrifice, but not

\*instead\*. According to Mufti Taqi Usmani, The act of sacrifice has a symbolic value beyond monetary equivalence.

-  If someone cannot afford an animal, they are exempt and may give charity instead. The obligation applies only to those with means beyond basic needs.

The wisdom of \*Qurbani\* lies in its synthesis of \*\*faith\*\*, \*\*community welfare\*\*, and \*\*symbolic devotion\*\*—fulfilling both spiritual and social dimensions of Islam. Also remember the distribution rule of Qurbani also matters, the three portion system (Though not mandatory but highly recommended) shows it is designed to benefit communities. Should clarify that this act of sacrificing is also not an act of wastefulness (as some people think) , the poor do receive substantial portion of meat, Remember in many communities, this is the only time people eat meat all year.

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