

The two Eids

Two festivals in the Muslim year, both opening with a prayer in the morning. How each one is kept.



1 An 'Id for every nation

"There is an 'Id for every nation, and this is our 'Id." Two days only: al-Fitr after Ramadan, al-Adha in Dhul-Hijjah.

Sahih al-Bukhari 952

2 You may not fast them

'Umar, from the pulpit: he عليه السلام forbade fasting these two days — one is the day you break your fast, the other the day you eat your sacrifice.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1991, 5571

3 Glorify Him for the guidance

وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ

"...that you may complete the period and glorify Allah for that to which He has guided you." The takbir is the sound of the day.

Qur'an 2:185

4 Eat first on al-Fitr

He عليه السلام never went out on the morning of 'Id al-Fitr until he had eaten some dates, and he used to eat an odd number of them.

Sahih al-Bukhari 953

5 Two rak'ah, no adhan

No adhan was ever called for the 'Id prayer. Two rak'ah at the musalla, with nothing prayed before them or after them.

Sahih al-Bukhari 958, 964

6 Prayer first, then the khutbah

He began with the prayer, then stood and preached while the people kept sitting in their rows. Abu Sa'id objected when a governor reversed it.

Sahih al-Bukhari 956, 963

7 Everyone goes out

Umm 'Atiyyah: we were ordered to bring out the young women and the secluded. Those menstruating joined the gathering but kept from the prayer rows.

Sahih al-Bukhari 974, 981

8 The sacrifice, after the prayer

"Whoever slaughtered before the prayer — that was only meat he gave his family." What reaches Allah is not the blood but the taqwa.

Sahih al-Bukhari 5545 · Qur'an 22:37

9 A day to be glad in

Two girls were singing in 'A'ishah's house and Abu Bakr objected. He عليه السلام said: leave them, these are the days of 'Id.

- He عليه السلام returned from the prayer by a different road

Sahih al-Bukhari 952, 987, 986