



The ruling on Qurban/Udhiyah in Islam

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Qurban or Udhiyah in the Shari'ah, refers to the sacrifice of a specific animal, offered by a specific person, on specific days to seek Allah's pleasure and reward.

The word qurban appears in 3 places in the Quran: once in reference to animal sacrifice and twice referring to sacrifice in the general sense of any selfless act of giving which brings us closer to Allah.

Prophet Ibrahim Sala Allahu alaihi asSalam demonstrated this spirit of submission and sacrifice in the best possible manner. When confronted with the challenge of love and allegiance, he chose to submit unconditionally to God and suppressed personal desire and love for his family and child.

Allāh Most High Says: 'So turn in prayer towards your Lord & sacrifice (108:02)

Sayyiduna Zayd Ibn Arqam (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates that the Companions asked, 'O Messenger of Allāh! What is Udhiyah? He replied, 'It is the Sunnah of your father Ibrāhīm (peace be upon him). They asked again, what benefit do we get from it? He answered, A reward for every hair (of the sacrificed animal). And [what reward is there for animals with] wool, O Messenger of Allāh? they asked. A reward', he said, for every fiber of the wool. (Sunan Ibn Mājah)

Each adult member of a family, male or female, who can pay Zakat should make a Qurban if their wealth is in excess of one's basic personal needs and allows them to pay Zakat.

A husband or father, apart from offering his own ritual slaughter, may offer another on behalf of his wife or son, with their permission.

The animals eligible for Udhiyah are male or female goats, sheep, cattle and camels. No other type of animal is allowed for Udhiyah.

-Castrated animals may be used for Udhiyah.

-Barren animals may be used for Udhiyah.

-Goats and sheep have to be at least one year old. However, a healthy sheep that looks like a one-year-old may also be used, provided it is at least six months of age.

-Cattle (cow, ox and buffalo) must be at least two years old.

-Camels must be at least five years old.

It is allowed for the one performing Udhiyah to eat of the meat & give it to whomsoever he pleases, rich or poor, Muslim or non-Muslim. It is preferable, however, that the meat is divided into three parts: One part for the home, one part for relatives and friends, and one part for the poor and needy.

The meat or skin of the animal cannot be sold or given to an employee or butcher in payment of his labour.



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If person could not offer the Udhiyah on the three prescribed days (10th, 11th and 12th of Zhu'l-Hijjah) then, they should give the monetary cost of the Udhiyah as Sadaqa to those allowed to be paid Zakat. But during the days of Udhiyah, NO Sadaqah can be Substituted for the Qurbani / Udhiyah.

The one doing the actual slaughter should keep track of which Qurban belongs to which person.

Alternatively, Al-Tirmidhi (1505) narrated that Ata Ibn Yassar said: I asked Abu Ayyoob: How was the sacrifice done at the time of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)? He said: A man would offer a sheep on behalf of himself and the members of his family, and they would eat some and feed others with some.

Imam Ibn al-Qayyim said in Zaad al-Ma'aad: The teaching of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) was that a sheep is sufficient on behalf of a man and the members of his household, even if they are many in number.

Al-Shawkaani said in Nayl al-Awtaar: In fact, a single sheep is sufficient on behalf of the members of a household, even if there are one hundred or more, as is indicated by the Sunnah.

Wa Allahu a'laam

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July 2021

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

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