

Udhiya - A Bird's Eye View

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This is in short a quick check point for udhiya.

1. It is one of the great symbols of Islam, the sunnah of our beloved Prophet Mohammad (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam).
2. The Prophet (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) always prayed the Eid prayer and slaughtered his animals in the musalla of Eid. He was the first one to start the udhiya. Then everyone would follow him.
3. Udhiya is obligatory according to the most correct opinion.
4. What type of animals: Sheep, goat, cow or camel (male or female). It is permissible to slaughter pregnant animals!
5. Age requirement: sheep (at least 6 months), goat (at least 1 year), cow (at least 2 years), camel (at least 5 years)
6. Should be free of the following defects: one-eyed, limping, sickness, very skinny. Any other defects will not disqualify the animal from being slaughtered. For example: it is acceptable to slaughter animals with broken horns/teeth.
7. Shares: Sheep is one share, goat is one share, cow is seven shares, camel is seven to ten shares. Each share is appointed to one individual or one household.
8. If someone purchases an animal and then the animal develops one of the four defects as mentioned by the Prophet sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, that animal can't be slaughtered for udhiya until it gets well. If needed, the person in charge has to purchase another defect free animal for udhiya.
9. For one household, regardless of how many members are in the household, one share is enough. However, a household can choose to sacrifice more than one to as many as they wish.
10. Udhiya on behalf of dead family members is not sunnah. Neither the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alayhi was sallam) nor his companions used to slaughter on behalf of their dead relatives.
11. Udhiya on behalf of the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) is not sunnah. The sahabah never slaughtered shares for the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alayhi sallam). If this was good, sahabah would have done that!
12. Time: it must be done after the local Eid salah is over.
13. End time: Udhiya can be done all the way up until the sunset of the 13th of Dhul Hijjah. The best day to perform udhiya is on the 10th. This is the day the Prophet used to perform his udhiya and also 10th is one of the blessed days. Although it is allowed to slaughter on any time until the 13th, but 11th to 13th don't share the same virtue as the 10th of dhul hijjah does.
14. Udhiya must done given locally. It is not allowed to transfer one land's udhiya to another land. A very well established bid'ah!
15. Udhiya can't be substituted with money! For example: someone can't say "an animal costs \$400.00, I will just give \$400.00 as general sadaqah as a substitute for my udhiya."

16. Udhiya animals should be treated kindly, and all care should be taken not to scare them. Animals shouldn't be slaughtered in front of each other. [This is unfortunately overlooked by many slaughterhouses, Allaahul Musta'aan]
17. Knives should be sharpened thoroughly for a easy slaughtering
18. Animal should be put down on its left side, and the person slaughtering should put his foot on its side and hold the knife with right hand and say "bismillah wallaahu akbar" or "bismillah Allaahumma min fulan wa aali fulan"
"In the name of Allaah, O Allaah from so and so and the family of so and so" and slaughter it quickly.
19. The head of the household is responsible to choose the animal and make sure it is done according to the sunnah. Either he himself does it or appoints someone trustworthy to perform it on his behalf locally.
20. It is allowed for someone to assign a local person who can travel to another city to slaughter the udhiya and bring back the meat to the local town. This is because the companions used to slaughter udhiya during traveling.
21. There is no hard and fast rule to donate or give a certain portion of udhiya meat. The household can choose to keep all of it or share/donate whatever amount they wish. But it is highly recommended to at least keep some meat for themselves to benefit and eat from this meat. This meat is special and not like any other slaughtered meat!
22. No portion of the udhiya animal can be sold or given to the butcher as a compensation.
23. However, any portion of meat or skin can be given to a butcher as charity if the owner feels the butcher is poor. This is of course not as compensation but as charity!

May Allaah accept our taqwa, indeed the blood doesn't reach Him, neither does the meat!

Your brother

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