



Eid al Fitr and Shawwal

What does Eid mean?

“Eid” means to return since the Islamic celebration returns twice a year. It also means festival. “Fitr” means to “break the fast.” This is because we are breaking the cycle of fasting on Eid day.

What is the history of Eid?

The Prophet (ﷺ) once arrived in Madinah during two days, which the people were celebrating. The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “What are these two days?” The people of Madinah replied, “We would celebrate these two days in the time of ignorance.” The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “Verily, Allah has replaced these two days with two better days: Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr.” (Abu Dawood) Since then, we’ve been celebrating Eid twice a year as Muslims.

What is the purpose of Eid?

Eid Al Fitr is a unique holiday as it is a celebration of *our own* acts, not a celebration of the acts of others. The days of Eid aren’t holidays *from* worship. In fact, they are holidays *for* worship. We worship Allah in special ways on the two days of Eid. They are days when we think of others instead of ourselves. They are days in which we praise Allah and show our gratitude to him. On the days of Eid, we gather with family and friends to celebrate our unity as Muslims.

The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said, “They are days of eating, drinking, and the remembrance of Allah” (Bukhari). Eid is a day to celebrate our huge accomplishments, such as the forgiveness we’ve received (insha Allah) in Ramadan. Eid day is what Allah gives us immediately after our hard work in Ramadan.

What are we supposed to do on Eid al Fitr?

Night Worship- *Laylatul Jaaizah* is the night of Eid, when the Prophet didn’t sleep but instead offered nafl prayers and spent the night in worship. We should also worship Allah on the night of Eid like we worshipped Him in Ramadan.

Giving in charity- We give Sadaqatul Fitr for Eid day so the poor don’t have to worry about making money to eat and feast. Eid is a day of remembering the oppressed, poor, and sick. We ask Allah to grant everyone a joyous Eid.

Praying Eid Salaah- Eid Salaah is a way to receive the blessings of the special day. The Prophet ﷺ's companions would meet and congratulate one another by saying, "May Allah accept good deeds from us and from you." تَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ مِنَّا وَمِنْكَ

What should we not do on Eid?

Don't ruin the day of Eid by returning back to sin!
We should also not keep a fast on Eid, as it is Haraam.

Why do we say Allahu Akbar repeatedly on Eid?

"Allāhu Akbar" is the declaration of Allah's absolute greatness, perfection, and might. As He is greater than everyone and everything, He is the only One who deserves to be worshipped and glorified. On this day of happiness and joy, we glorify and thank Allah for allowing us to complete a month of obedience and good deeds. We thank Him for bestowing us with the greatest of blessings: the blessing of Imaan.

What are some actions that are recommended for Eid Al Fitr?

- To pray the Fajr Salaah in congregation (Jama'ah).
- To eat something sweet *before* the Eid prayer. If possible, eat an odd number of dates.
- To perform the Ghusl, whether or not someone offers the Eid prayer.
- To use miswak.
- For men to wear fragrance.
- To wear one's best clothes.
- To show happiness and joy.
- To show thanks to Allah swt.
- To give plenty of Sadaqah.
- Wake up early in the morning.

Three lessons we learned from Ramadan that we apply on Eid day:

- Devoting ourselves to Allah- Takbeerat.
- Recognizing our blessings and thanking Allah for them- Eid prayer.
- Remembering the poor and giving in charity-Sadaqatul Fitr.

Keeping six fasts in the month of Shawwal:

We should also try to keep six fasts in the month of Shawwal. The Prophet ﷺ said, "Whoever keeps the fasts of Ramadan then fasts six days in the month of Shawwal shall have the reward of having fasted the whole year" (Muslim). These six fasts can be kept anytime within the month of Shawwal, after Eid day. Fasting in Shawwal is a way to celebrate the forgiveness we received in the month of Ramadan.

Post-Ramadan: A sign that our Ramadan was accepted is that we are able to continue with good deeds even after Ramadan ends. Worshipping Allah throughout the year, and not just in Ramadan is true piety. Once Ramadan ends, in the month of Shawwal we need to evaluate how our Ramadan went. We should ask the following questions to ensure we are living life after Ramadan in the best way:

1. Was our life after Ramadan better than how we lived before Ramadan?
2. What did we gain from Ramadan?
3. How did it change us?

The two most important things to continue after Ramadan:

1. We must continue doing obligatory acts
2. We must continue staying away from sin. We should ask Allah for protection against sin.

Naturally, we may experience the post-Ramadan blues since we are unable to worship Allah in Shawwal in the same way we worshipped Him in Ramadan. However, there are some steps we can take to keep the momentum going after Ramadan. We should seek knowledge and good company. After Ramadan, we should continue reciting the Qur'an, dhikr, dua, fasting, and the night prayer, even if it's very little. We should fill our daily schedule with good deeds, so there is no time to even think about sinning. There may be days or weeks we cannot do anything, but don't give up. Insha Allah, Allah will make these habits a part of our lives after a short time.

May Allah swt bless our Eid Al Fitr, and may he give us the ability to continue to worship Him after Ramadan. Ameen!

Resources:

[Eid al-Fitr: A Time to Be Thankful - SeekersGuidance](#)

[Islamic Months- Mufti Taqi Uthmani](#)

[Eid: A Day of Gratitude & Glory – Life With Allah](#)

[Sahaba on Eid: May Allah accept from us and from you](#)

[Post-Ramadan](#)

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