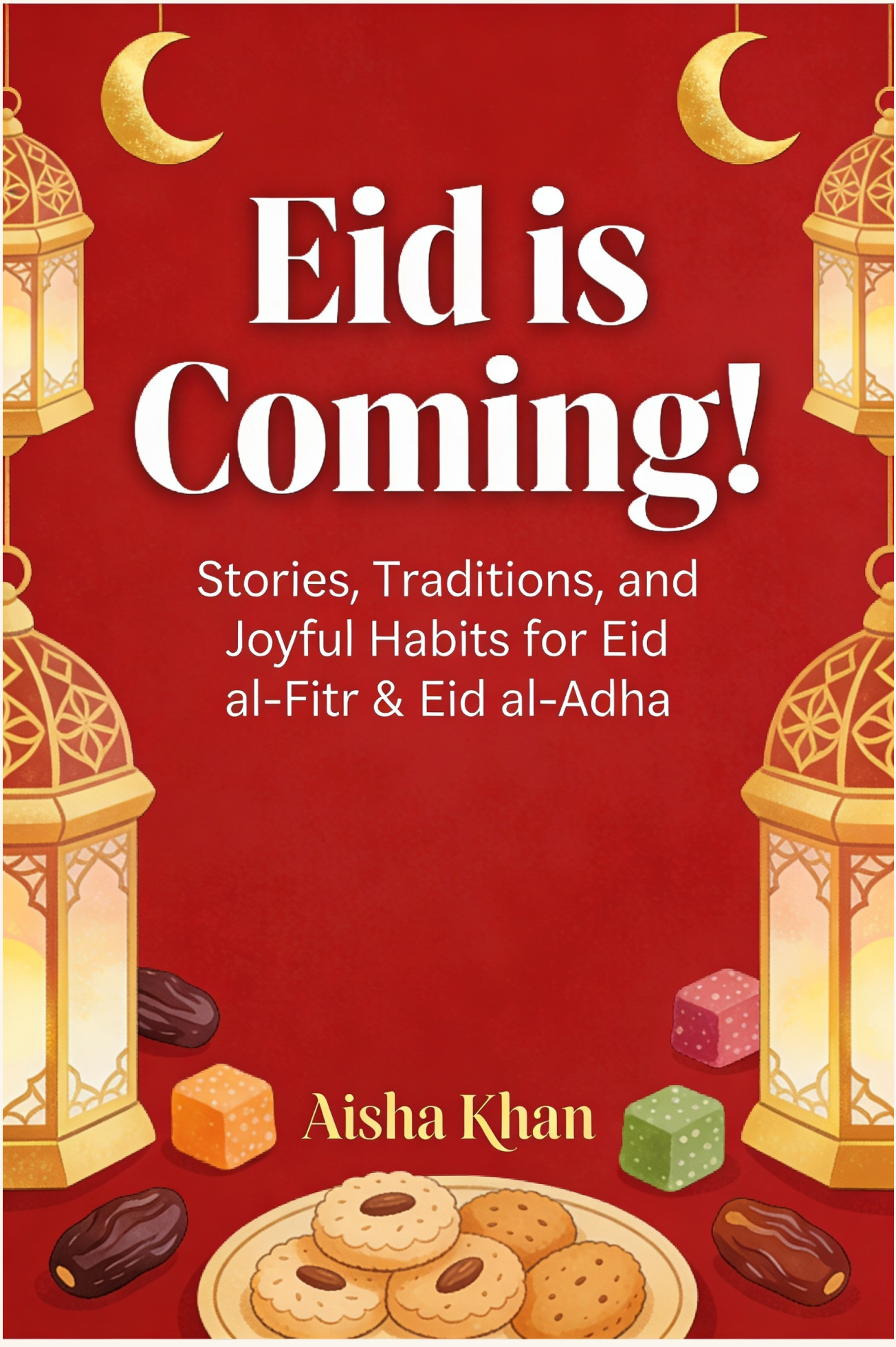

Eid is Coming!
Stories, Traditions, and Joyful Habits for Eid al-Fitr & Eid al-Adha
Aisha Khan

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by Aisha Khan

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CHAPTER I

What Is Eid? A Day Full of Joy!

Have you ever woken up and known — before you even opened your eyes — that today was going to be something wonderful?

That fizzy feeling in your tummy. The house already buzzing with noise and laughter. The smell of something good coming from the kitchen. That is exactly how Eid feels. Every single time.

Eid is a celebration. A real, proper, joyful celebration — and the best part is that Allah gave it to us as a gift.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told us that Allah blessed Muslims with two specia
Two days to come together, to thank Allah, to share food, to hug the people we love, and to feel — right down to our toes — how lucky we are to be Muslim. (Sunan Abu Dawud, 1134, graded sahih; referenced in mainstream Sunni tradition as foundational to both Eids.)

The first Eid is called Eid al-Fitr. It comes right after the month of Ramadan, when Muslim families spend thirty days fasting from sunrise to sunset. Thirty whole days of patience and prayer. And then — when the new moon appears in the sky — Eid al-Fitr arrives like a big, warm reward. The fast is over. Time to celebrate.

The second Eid is called Eid al-Adha. This one comes a little later in the year, during the days of Hajj — the great journey to Makkah that Muslims make from every corner of the world. Eid al-Adha reminds us of Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ and his deep, unshakeable trust in Allah. It is a day of sa
goes all the way back through history.

Two Eids. Two days that feel like the whole world is smiling.

On Eid, you will find Muslims in Indonesia and in Egypt, in Bangladesh and in Morocco, in Canada and in Nigeria — all celebrating on the very same day. Different languages, different foods, different colors of clothing. But the same joy. The same "Eid Mubarak!" ringing through the air.

Allah says in the Quran that He wants us to be grateful, and Eid is one of the most beautiful ways we show that gratitude (Quran 2:185). We say Allahu Akbar — Allah is the Greatest. We pray together. We give to those who need it. We feast and visit and laugh.

You do not need to be grown-up to feel it. Even at five years old, even at six or seven or eight, you already know what Eid feels like.

It feels like joy. It feels like belonging. It feels like home.

CHAPTER II

Rise and Shine — It's Eid al-Fitr Morning!

The house is still quiet. But something is different today.

You feel it before you even open your eyes — a flutter right in the middle of your tummy, a warm, fizzy feeling that crawls up your chest and makes you smile before you even know why. Somewhere down the hall, Mama is already moving. A drawer slides open. Something clinks on the kitchen counter. And then it hits you —

It's Eid!

Feet hit the floor before you can even think about it. Today is Eid al-Fitr — the beautiful celebration that comes at the very end of Ramadan, the whole long month your family spent fasting, praying, and drawing closer to Allah. Eid is His gift to the believers. A whole day made just for joy.

Bath Time First

Before anything else, everyone in the family takes a bath. This is the sunnah — the beloved way of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Clean body, clean clothes, fresh heart. The water feels quickly, because there is no time to linger. Eid is waiting.

The Best Clothes Come Out

Now for the best part of getting dressed — ever. Baba lifts the special outfit that has been hanging on the door since yesterday. It might be a crisp white thobe, a shimmery salwar kameez, or the most wonderful little dress you own. It does not have to be brand new. It just has to be your best. clothes on Eid day, because dressing up beautifully for Allah is its own kind of gratitude.

Buttons. Buckles. One look in the mirror. You look wonderful.

The Sweetest Three Bites

Almost time to go — but not quite yet. There is one more thing.

Baba reaches for the little box of dates on the kitchen shelf. Soft. Sticky. Sweet. Before heading out for the Eid prayer, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to eat an odd number of dates — t your family follows his example (Sahih al-Bukhari). You pop one in. Then another. Then one more.

Three dates. Your mouth is happy. Your heart is happy.

Out Into the Golden Morning

Outside, something magical is already happening. Voices drift through the open window — neighbors calling out Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar! The sound moves from house to house like music nobody planned but everyone knows. Doors are opening all the way up and down the road. Families step into the sunshine in their bright, beautiful colors. Children wave across fences and laugh.

Everyone is going the same way. Everyone is wearing the same smile.

You reach up and take Mama's hand. The sun is still low and golden. The air smells like soap and warm dates and something you cannot quite name — but it feels exactly like Eid.

You are ready.

Let's go.

CHAPTER III

Let's Go Pray! The Eid Prayer

The sun is barely up. But you are already awake.

Something feels different this morning. The house smells like soap and attar. Baba is smoothing down his thobe. Mama is pinning her hijab just right. Your little brother is already wearing his new shoes — and he hasn't even had breakfast yet.

Today is Eid. And right now, it's time to go pray.

Everyone Comes Out

One of the most beautiful things about the Eid prayer is who comes. Not just the grown-ups. Everyone. Long ago, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ commanded the Muslims to bring everyone out grandmothers, even babies in arms — so that the whole community could share in the blessing together. (Sahih al-Bukhari 974; Sahih Muslim 890)

That means you get to come too.

The Walk to the Musalla

Many families walk to an open field called a musalla. Others drive to the masjid. Either way, the streets feel alive. You can see people everywhere — men in white thobes, women in bright abayas, children running a little ahead and then circling back. Everyone moving in the same direction.

As you walk, you might hear voices softly saying: Allahu Akbar. Allahu Akbar. Allah is the Greatest. It rises from houses, from cars, from people on the pavement beside you. The whole neighbourhood is whispering — no, singing — together.

Long, Long Rows

When you arrive, rows are already forming. Long, straight rows stretching across the grass or the prayer-hall floor. Shoulder to shoulder. Foot to foot. Rich and not-so-rich. Old and young. All standing the same way, facing the same direction — toward Makkah.

The Eid prayer is two rak'ahs. But it has something extra — extra takbeers, said near the very start of each rak'ah, where everyone raises their hands and says Allahu Akbar together, again and again. Seven times in the first rak'ah. Five times in the second. Each one feels like a small burst of joy sent straight up to the sky.

After the Prayer — The Khutbah

When the prayer finishes, the imam stands to give the khutbah — a short talk. He might remind everyone to be thankful, to give to those in need, to hold their families close. Listening is part of the celebration. Even if you don't catch every word, you sit quietly and feel the calm that settles over the whole crowd like a warm blanket.

Then it is over. People turn to each other. Hugs. Smiles. The words Eid Mubarak floating through the air like music.

You did it. You prayed with your whole community — all at the very same moment.

That is the gift of the Eid prayer.

CHAPTER IV

Allahu Akbar! The Beautiful Takbir

The morning feels different on Eid. Something is in the air before you even open your eyes.

Then you hear it.

Allahu Akbar. Allahu Akbar.

Maybe it drifts in from a neighbor's open window. Maybe it is your baba's voice, low and warm, as he ties his shoes by the front door. That sound is the takbir — and on Eid morning, it spills into streets, floats over rooftops, and fills the whole world up.

What Do the Words Mean?

The full Eid takbir goes like this:

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La ilaha illallah, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, wa lillahil hamd.

Say it slowly. Let each word land.

Allahu Akbar means Allah is the Greatest — not just bigger than a mountain or a star, but greater than anything your mind can stretch to imagine.

La ilaha illallah means there is no god except Allah. Only He deserves our love, our worship, and our thanks.

Wa lillahil hamd means all praise belongs to Allah. Every good thing — the crisp new clothes on your bed, the smell of breakfast downstairs, Eid itself — every single one came from Him.

Three ideas. Simple, huge, true.

Why Do Muslims Say It Out Loud?

Allah tells us in the Quran, right at the end of the verses about Ramadan: "…and [for you] to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that to which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful." (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:185)

That word glorify — that is the takbir. Allah is asking us to say it. Out loud. On the way to Eid prayer.

The Prophet ﷺ and his companions would walk to the musalla — the open pra with raised voices. Not murmuring it under their breath, but saying it, so the whole neighborhood could hear. Imagine that walk. Hundreds of voices joining together until the sound became one enormous, joyful wave of Allahu Akbar.

For Eid al-Adha, the takbir rings out even longer — starting from the day before Eid and continuing through the three days that follow it. The streets stay full of Allah's name for days.

Your Turn

You can walk that same walk. Hold your family's hand. Let the words come out big and bright.

Allahu Akbar. Allahu Akbar. La ilaha illallah.

Every word is a small gift you send to Allah. And sending that gift, on a morning made of sunshine and sweetness, is one of the very best things Eid gives you.

Say it today. Say it with your whole heart.

The whole world is saying it with you.

CHAPTER V

New Clothes and Warm Hugs — Visiting Family

The prayer is over. Hugs everywhere. That's the best part.

After the Eid salah, something magical happens on the streets — strangers smile at you, neighbors squeeze your hand, and the whole world feels a little warmer. Families pile back into cars. They pull on their prettiest shoes. And then the visiting begins.

Wearing your nicest clothes on Eid is a real sunnah. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ on days of celebration, and his companions did the same — Abdullah ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) would put on his finest garments for Eid, following the example of the one he loved most. Clean, neat, your very best. Whether it is a brand-new outfit stitched just for the day or a favourite dress you have been saving — what matters is that you show up for Allah's celebration looking wonderful.

Maybe your outfit is a bright yellow shalwar kameez. Maybe it is a white thobe with gold trim, or a sparkly abaya, or a green dress with buttons shaped like tiny flowers. Every family is different. All of it is beautiful.

Now — who do you visit first?

Usually grandma. The moment you walk through her door and say "Eid Mubarak," her face does something wonderful. She opens her arms wide. The hug lasts a long time. It smells like rose water and cardamom. You do not want it to end.

"Eid Mubarak" means Blessed Eid. The companions of the Prophet ﷺ also gre words Taqabbal Allahu minna wa minkum — "May Allah accept from us and from you." A short prayer. A big wish. You can say it too.

Then comes Eidi. Grandparents press folded money into your palm. An uncle slips you a small envelope. Your aunt gives you a little wrapped gift. Eidi is a way of saying: you are loved, and this day is special. All at once.

But the visits matter even more than the gifts. Allah says in the Quran: "Fear Allah, through Whom you ask one another, and maintain family ties." (Quran 4:1) And the Prophet ﷺ told u and blessing in their life should keep their family close — visiting, calling, checking in — because those bonds are precious. (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Eid is the perfect day to do exactly that. Ring the doorbell. Say the words. Give the hug.

Some families visit five houses in one afternoon. Aunties offer biscuits at every single stop. You have to eat them. It is the rule.

By evening, your new shoes might pinch a little. Your belly is full. Your arms have hugged so many people you have lost count. And your heart — your heart is the fullest thing of all.

CHAPTER VI

Sweet Treats from Around the World

Close your eyes for a second. Imagine walking into a kitchen on Eid morning. The smell hits you first — warm milk, cardamom, rosewater, butter browning in a pan. Somebody's grandmother has been awake since before the sun came up. She is making something sweet. She is making it for you.

That happens in kitchens all over the world today.

A Bowl of Something Warm: Sheer Khurma

In Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, Eid al-Fitr morning almost always begins with a bowl of sheer khurma. The name means "milk and dates" in Persian, and that's exactly what it is — thin noodles called vermicelli cooked slowly in sweet, creamy milk, then stirred together with soft dates, raisins, and sometimes a handful of pistachios or almonds. It is golden. It is warm. It takes patience to make, which is why grandmothers always seem to make it best.

The Prophet ýú loved dates and he loved sweetness. Aisha þŽþìþèþË ýò þòþ¿þ- repor food and honey. (Sahih al-Bukhari, 5431) So there is something lovely about starting Eid with something sweet in a bowl.

Crumbly, Dusty, Perfect: Kahk and Ma'amoul

Travel west to Egypt and you will find kahk — small round shortbread cookies dusted in powdered sugar, sometimes hiding a treasure of dates or nuts in the middle. Egyptian families bake them by the dozens, stack them in tins, and carry them to every house they visit on Eid day.

In Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine, the treat of choice is ma'amoul — hand-pressed butter cookies shaped with a carved wooden mold, so each one comes out with a little flower or star pattern on top. Pistachio filling. Date filling. Walnut filling. Every family has a favourite.

Layers and Crunch: Baklava

Turkey, Iraq, and families from Morocco to Malaysia know baklava well — thin sheets of pastry stacked high, crushed walnuts or pistachios pressed between the layers, the whole thing soaked in syrup or honey until it glistens. It is sticky. It gets on your fingers. Nobody minds.

Something Made of Milk: Shondesh

Back in Bangladesh, another sweet waits — shondesh, soft white squares made from fresh milk cheese and sugar, sometimes shaped like flowers or fish. It melts on your tongue in about two seconds.

Different countries. Different languages. Different colours and smells in the kitchen.

But every single one of these sweets is made with the same thing: love, and the joy of Eid. The Muslim world is very big — and very, very delicious.

CHAPTER VII

Giving Before the Feast — Sadaqah al-Fitr

Imagine waking up on Eid morning and not having any food. No dates. No sweet breakfast. No feast to look forward to.

That thought feels a little sad, doesn't it? Allah cares about every one of His servants — and so did His Prophet ﷺ. That is exactly why Sadaqah al-Fitr exists.

Before your family heads out for the Eid prayer — before the hugs and the Eidi and the sweets — every Muslim family gives a special gift. Not a gift with a bow on it. A gift of food.

What Is Sadaqah al-Fitr?

Sadaqah al-Fitr is also called Zakat al-Fitr. It is a small amount of food — or money to buy food — that every Muslim gives at the end of Ramadan. Ibn Umar told us that the Prophet Muh means required, for every Muslim: man or woman, young or old, free or enslaved. One sa' — roughly a big double-handful, about two and a half kilograms — of staple food like dates, rice, wheat, or barley (Sahih al-Bukhari, no. 1503; Sahih Muslim, no. 984).

A bag of rice. A scoop of barley. Two fat handfuls of dates. That doesn't sound like very much. But multiply it by every Muslim family in your neighbourhood, your city, your country — and the whole wide world — and it becomes a mountain of food for families who need it most.

Why Before the Prayer?

Timing matters here. The Prophet ﷺ told us to give Zakat al-Fitr before the E al-Bukhari, no. 1503). The reason is beautiful: so that the people who receive it have food in their hands before the celebration begins. So they can wake up on Eid morning with a full tummy, just like you. So their morning smells like breakfast, not emptiness.

Think about that for a second. Your family's small act of giving lights up someone else's Eid morning.

You Are Part of It

Here is something wonderful. Zakat al-Fitr is paid for everyone in the household — and that includes you. Your parents give it on your behalf. Which means that even as a child, you are already part of this great act of kindness. You are already making someone's Eid brighter.

Allah reminds us in the Quran: "And in their wealth was a right for the petitioner and the deprived" (Quran 51:19).

So the next time Eid is coming and you see your parents counting out rice or setting aside coins before the prayer, you'll know exactly what they're doing.

They are making sure nobody misses the feast.

And so are you. That is a beautiful thing to carry in your heart on the morning of Eid.

CHAPTER VIII

The Story of Ibrahim ýú and Ism

Ibrahim ýú wanted a child more than almost anything in the world.

He had prayed and prayed — for years and years — asking Allah for a son. And then one day, Allah answered. A gentle, patient boy was born. His name was Ismail ýú, and Ibrahi heart.

They laughed together. They walked together under wide open skies. For Ibra him was one of the greatest gifts Allah had ever given.

Then one night, Ibrahim ýú had a dream.

In the dream, he saw himself sacrificing his beloved son.

For a prophet of Allah, a dream like that is not just a dream. It is a message — a command — straight from Allah Himself.

Ibrahim ýú did not run away from it. He went to Ismail ýú and told him the tru have seen in a dream that I must sacrifice you. So see what you think." (Quran 37:102)

Now, Ismail ýú was still young. He could have cried. He could have said no. and his heart was full of faith. He looked at his father and said, "O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast." (Quran 37:102)

Steadfast. That means strong and still, even when something is very hard.

Together, they walked. Ibrahim ýú had a heavy heart, and Ismail ýú had a brav completely.

And just as Ibrahim ýú lowered his son and was ready to obey, Allah called o

"O Ibrahim — you have fulfilled the vision." (Quran 37:104–105)

The trial was over.

Allah was not asking Ibrahim ýú to lose his son. He was asking Ibrahim ýú to and Ibrahim ýú had shown it. He loved Allah above everything.

As a reward, Allah sent a magnificent ram to be sacrificed in Ismail's place. (Quran 37:107) It was a gift of mercy — Allah's way of saying: I see your love. I accept your trust. Now rejoice.

And so the sacrifice became a celebration.

Every year on Eid al-Adha, Muslims all over the world remember that day. They remember a father and a son who were not afraid, because Allah was with them. They remember that when you give your heart to Allah, He gives you so much more in return.

That is why we say Allahu Akbar — Allah is the Greatest — and why Eid al-Adha tastes like something bigger than any feast ever could.

CHAPTER IX

What Does Sacrifice Mean? — The Heart of Eid al-Adha

Have you ever had something so precious — a toy, a snack, your favorite seat on the sofa — that sharing it felt really, really hard?

That moment, right there, is the beginning of understanding sacrifice.

The word sacrifice sounds big. Grown-up. But the idea is actually one you already know in your heart. It means giving up something you love, for the sake of someone — or something — more important. For us, as Muslims, it means doing something hard because we love Allah most of all.

That is exactly what Eid al-Adha celebrates.

In the last chapter, you met Prophet Ibrahim ýú and his son Ismail ýú. Ibrahim person he loved most in the entire world — his own son — simply because Allah asked him to. And Ismail ýú? He looked at his father and said yes. Bravely. Quietly. Without running a

Allah tells us in the Quran: "Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you." (Quran 22:37)

Read that again slowly. The animal is not the point. The piety — the love and trust you carry inside — that is the point. Allah does not need our things. He wants our hearts turned toward Him.

So what does that look like for you?

Maybe it looks like this: your little brother wants to hold the toy you just opened. Your first thought is no, it's mine. But then — you hand it over anyway. That small moment? That is sacrifice. Small, yes. But real.

Or maybe it is choosing to help Mama set the table even though your cartoon is still playing. Or sharing your Eidi money with a child who has none. Or saying sorry first, even when you think you were not wrong.

None of these things are easy. That is the whole point.

Ibrahim ýú did not find it easy either. The Quran calls him Khalilullah — the 4:125). That friendship was built, act by act, through trust and giving and love.

You are building something too. Every time you choose kindness when anger would be easier. Every time you share when keeping feels better. Every time you say Alhamdulillah and truly mean it.

Eid al-Adha reminds us, once a year, that the bravest thing a person can do is open their hands — and let go — for Allah.

You can do that. Even today.

CHAPTER X

Off to the Masjid — Eid al-Adha Morning

The sky is still pale when your eyes open. Something feels different today. Electric. Like the whole world is holding its breath and smiling at the same time.

It is Eid al-Adha morning.

Before you even brush your teeth, you might hear it — drifting from a neighbor's window or floating up from the street below.

Allahu Akbar. Allahu Akbar. La ilaha illallah. Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, wa lillahil hamd.

The takbir. People are already saying it. Out loud. Unashamed. Joyful. By the time your family is dressed and stepping out the front door, the whole neighborhood seems to be humming with those words, as if the streets themselves have learned how to praise Allah.

This is how Eid al-Adha begins.

The Prophet ﷺ loved to walk to the Eid prayer. He would set off on foot, and choose a different route — so that two paths had been graced with his steps, and two sets of people could greet him (Sahih al-Bukhari). Your family might walk too, if the masjid is close. Feel the morning air on your face. Let the takbir sit on your tongue like something sweet.

When you arrive, it is astonishing. So many people. Row after row after row. Fathers and grandfathers. Mothers and aunties. Little kids in brand-new shoes, fidgeting just like you. Everyone has come. No adhan is called — the Eid prayer needs no announcement — because the day itself is the call (Sahih Muslim). Everyone already knew. Everyone already came.

You stand in your row and the prayer begins — two rak'ahs, with extra takbirs that make this salah feel unlike any other. And then the imam gives the khutbah, and even if some of the words float over your head, you feel the weight of something big and good settling around your shoulders like a warm blanket.

Here is the most wonderful part. Right now — at this exact moment — there are millions of Muslims doing exactly what you are doing. In Lagos. In Karachi. In Istanbul and Jakarta and Birmingham and Cairo. All facing the same direction. All saying the same words. And far away in Makkah, pilgrims in white are gathered at the Haram, finishing the greatest journey of their lives on the very same day.

One ummah. One prayer. One morning.

You are not alone in this. You have never been alone in this. Every Allahu Akbar you say today joins a chorus so enormous it would take your whole life to count all the voices in it.

And every single one of those voices belongs to someone who loves Allah — just like you.

CHAPTER XI

Sharing the Meat — A Gift for Everyone

After the Eid al-Adha prayer, something special happens in Muslim families all over the world. It is called Qurbani — and it is one of the most generous things a family can do.

Qurbani means that a family sacrifices an animal — a sheep, a goat, a cow, or a camel — in the name of Allah. They do this to remember what Prophet Ibrahim ýú was willing to do ou is a big act. A serious one. But it is also wrapped in so much kindness.

Here is the most beautiful part.

The meat is not kept all for one family. It is divided into three portions. One portion goes to your own family, so you can cook a delicious Eid meal together. One portion goes to relatives and neighbours — aunties, uncles, the family next door, old friends down the street. And one portion is given to people who are poor, to those who might not have enough food on any ordinary day, let alone a special one.

Three portions. Three circles of care spreading outward, like ripples on water.

The Prophet ýú told his companions to eat from the Qurbani, to save some, an (Sahih Muslim, 1972) That simple instruction holds something enormous inside it: nobody should go hungry on Eid.

Allah says in the Quran: "So eat of them and feed the miserable and poor." (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:28) And then, just a few ayat later, He reminds us of something that might surprise you. He says: "Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you." (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:37)

That means Allah is not looking at the size of the animal. He is looking at your heart.

Imagine a child far away who wakes up on Eid morning wondering if today will feel any different from a regular day. Then a knock at the door. A neighbour arrives with a parcel of fresh meat, wrapped carefully, handed over with a warm smile and "Eid Mubarak!" Suddenly that child's Eid is bright. Their family will cook tonight. The smell of spices will fill their home too.

Your family's Qurbani did that.

Even if you are five years old and you did not do the Qurbani yourself, you are part of it. You belong to a family that gives. And giving — really giving, so that someone else can eat and feel cared for — that is the true feast of Eid al-Adha.

CHAPTER XII

What Is Hajj? A Very Special Journey

Imagine two million people — more than you could ever count — all walking toward the same place. All wearing the same simple white cloth. All saying the same words. Coming from Indonesia and Nigeria and Argentina and Egypt and Bangladesh, from cold countries and hot ones, speaking hundreds of languages. But arriving at one shining city in the desert.

That city is Makkah. That journey is Hajj.

The House That Ibrahim Built

Right in the heart of Makkah stands the Kaabah. A cube-shaped building draped in black cloth stitched with golden Quranic words. It is the oldest house of worship on earth. Allah calls it "the first House established for mankind" (Quran 3:96). Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ and his son Ismail ﷺ — remember together, praying for Allah to accept their work and make it a place of blessing for everyone.

When Muslims pray five times a day, they all face the Kaabah. A child in London, a grandmother in Malaysia, a farmer in Mali — facing the same place, every single day, together.

Once in a Lifetime

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. The Prophet ﷺ said Islam is built on pilgrimage is one of them (Sahih al-Bukhari, no. 8). Every Muslim who is healthy and able must make Hajj at least once. Just once. But that once stays in your heart forever.

Allah called people to come: "Proclaim to the people the Hajj; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass" (Quran 22:27). People have been answering that call for thousands of years.

A Sea of White

When pilgrims arrive, the men change into two pieces of plain white cloth called ihram. No fancy clothes. No jewels. A king and a farmer look exactly the same, because in front of Allah, everyone is equal.

Together they walk around the Kaabah seven times — that is called tawaf. They travel to the wide plain of Arafah to stand under the open sky and remember Allah. They walk between two small hills the way Hajar, Ismail's mother, once ran desperately searching for water. Every single step is full of story.

Hajj and Eid al-Adha

On the tenth day of the month of Dhul Hijjah, pilgrims make their sacrifice at a place called Mina. And everywhere else in the world, Muslims make their Qurbani too. That is Eid al-Adha. One enormous, shared day.

So when your family stands in the Eid prayer and the smell of food drifts through the house, millions of pilgrims in Makkah are celebrating at exactly the same time. Different cities, different kitchens. Same joy. Same Allah.

Maybe one day you will make that journey yourself. You will stand at the Kaabah and say Allahu Akbar and feel your heart go quiet and full all at once.

That day will be the best day.

CHAPTER XIII

Eid Around the World — From Indonesia to Morocco

Imagine waking up on Eid morning. The smell of something sweet on the stove. That buzz of excitement in your tummy. Now imagine that same feeling happening in homes all over the world, at the very same time.

That is what Eid looks like on Earth.

Allah tells us in the Quran: "We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes so that you may know one another." (Quran 49:13) Even when the food and the clothes look different, the joy is exactly the same.

Indonesia

More than 230 million Muslims live in Indonesia — more than any other country on Earth. They call Eid al-Fitr Lebaran. Millions of families travel by bus, boat, and motorbike just to reach their hometowns in time for hugs. On Eid morning, they eat ketupat — rice pressed into woven coconut-leaf parcels — and ask each other for forgiveness: "Mohon maaf lahir dan batin." I ask your forgiveness from the inside and the outside.

Egypt

Egyptian grandmothers spend the week before Eid baking kahk — small golden shortbread cookies rolled in powdered sugar, stuffed with nuts or dates. Children hold out their palms for eidi, crisp coins and new banknotes pressed into their hands, then run outside in bright galabiyyas — long, flowing robes saved for special days.

Turkey

Turkish children have a very important Eid job. They visit every elder, take their hand, and press it gently to their lips and forehead — a gesture called el öpmek meaning: I love you, I honor you. Then the elders smile and hand them baklava dripping with honey and pistachios. In Turkey, Eid al the Festival of Sweets.

Bangladesh

The night before Eid in Bangladesh is Chand Raat — the Night of the Moon. Girls paint henna swirls on their hands and stay up late laughing. By morning, boys wear crisp white panjabis and girls wear silk salwar

kameez in every color. Breakfast is sheer khurma: warm milky pudding made with thin noodles, sweet dates, and golden raisins. One bowl is never enough.

Morocco

At the far western edge of the Muslim world, Morocco wakes to Aid Mubarak. On Eid al-Adha — Aid al-Kabir, the Big Eid — families wear embroidered djellabas and sip sweet mint tea poured tall from a silver teapot. Women cook msemen, thin flaky flatbreads eaten hot with honey, while the smell of grilling meat fills every courtyard after the prayer.

Different languages. Different recipes. Different songs drifting from different windows. But every one of these families woke up thinking of Allah, grateful for another Eid. The Prophet ﷺ called it a very special celebration Allah gave to all Muslims — everywhere, and together (Sunan Abu Dawud, no. 1134, sahih). That is the most beautiful thing of all.

CHAPTER XIV

Carrying the Joy Forward — Every Day Can Feel Like Eid

The last bite of sweet sheer khurma is gone. The new clothes are folded and put away. The Eid hugs have all been given, and the house is quiet again.

But here is a secret. A good one.

Eid does not have to end.

The day itself is over, yes. The leftover sweets get covered, and tomorrow morning will look a lot like a regular morning. But everything that made Eid feel so wonderful — the kindness, the giving, the smiling, the praying together — you can carry all of it with you, every single day. Like a little lantern tucked right inside your chest, warm and steady and bright.

Think about what made Eid so special. You woke up early and prayed with your whole family. You gave Zakat al-Fitr so someone else could eat well and feel happy too. You hugged the people you love and told them "Eid Mubarak" with your whole heart. You shared your food. You were generous, and it felt good — really, truly good — because generous is exactly what Allah loves.

None of that has to stop.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ once told his companion Abu Dharr something simp
not think any act of goodness is too small — even meeting your brother with a cheerful face (Sahih Muslim 2626). A smile. That is all it takes. A smile is a gift you give for free, and it never, ever runs out.

He ﷺ also told us that the deeds Allah loves most are the ones done regularly
(Sahih al-Bukhari 6465). Not the biggest thing you do once and then forget. The small, steady thing you do every single day — that is what matters most.

So here is your challenge. The kind that is actually fun.

Pick one Eid habit and keep it going all year long. Say "Alhamdulillah" every morning when you open your eyes, just the way it bubbled up inside you on Eid morning. Share something — a snack, a sticker, a kind word — with someone who needs a little brightness today. Give your mum or your baba a hug before bed tonight, and then again tomorrow night, and the night after that too.

Eid al-Fitr comes after a whole month of fasting and drawing close to Allah. Eid al-Adha comes tied to the greatest journey on earth. Both days remind us that Allah is generous, and He loves it when we are generous too.

The next Eid will come. It always does. And if you carry the spirit of it in your heart all year — the giving, the praying, the smiling — then every single day in between will have felt just a little bit like Eid.

That is the best gift of all. And it is already yours.