

Rules and Etiquette of Eid Al-Fitr
By Sh. Ahmed Youssef
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The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Every nation has its festival, and this is your festival.”

Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) said:

“The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) came to Al-Madinah, the people of Madinah used to have two festivals. On those two days, they had carnivals and festivity. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) asked the Ansar (the Muslims of Madinah) about it. They replied that they had carnivals on those two joyous days before Islam. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) told them: “Instead of those two days, Allah has appointed two other days which are better, the days of `Eid Al-Fitr and `Eid Al-Adha.” (Abu Dawud)

Offering `Eid Prayers Rule حكم صلاة العيد:

1. Wajib (obligatory) – this is the view of the Hanafi scholars and Ibn Taymiyah.
2. Fard Kifayah (a communal duty binding on the Muslims as a group, and it is fulfilled if sufficient people perform it, thereby absolving the rest of sin) Hanbalis.
3. Third opinion `Eid Prayer is Sunnah Mu`akkadah (Malikis and Shafi`is).

Sunnah acts for Eid al-Fitr

1. Make ghusl (take a shower or bath) It was reported that Sa`id ibn Jubayr said: *“Three things are Sunnah on `Eid: to walk (to the prayer-place), to take a bath, and to eat before coming out (if it's `Eid Al-Fitr).”*
2. Eat breakfast – the Prophet (SAW) ate dates before going out to prayer. Anas ibn Malik said: *“The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) would not go out in the morning of `Eid Al-Fitr until he had eaten some dates ... and he would eat an odd number.” Bukhari, 953.*
3. Wear the best clothes you have. Jabir (may Allah be pleased with him) said: *“The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) had a Jubbah (cloak) that he would wear on `Eid and on Fridays.”*
4. Exchange congratulations and good greetings on `Eid, no matter what form the words take. For example they may say to one another, *“Taqabbal Allahu minnaa wa minkum (may Allah accept from us and from you our good deeds!)”*. Jubayr ibn Nufayr said: *“At the time of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) when people met one another on the day of `Eid, they would say, ‘Taqabbal Allahu minnaa wa minka.’” (Ibn Hajar)*
5. Say the general takbeerat after Fajr prayer. Al-Daraqutni and others reported that when Ibn `Umar came out on `Eid Al-Fitr and `Eid Al-Adha, he would strive hard in making Takbir until he reached the prayer-place, then he would continue making Takbir until the Imam came. The time for takbir on `Eid al-Fitr starts from the night before `Eid until the imam enters to lead the `Eid prayer. **Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, la ilaha ill-Allah, Allahu**

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akbar, Allah akbar, wa Lillah il-hamd (Allah is Most Great, Allah is most Great, there is no god but Allah, Allah is Most great, Allah is most great, and to Allah be praise).

6. Using a different route on the way back. Jabir ibn `Abdullah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that *the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to change his routes on the day of `Eid. (Al-Bukhari)*
7. Apply fragrance/perfume; Exchange gifts; Perform Eid prayer in congregation.

The Eid ul-Fitr prayer consists of 2 rak'at:

Hanafi Method: The Eid prayer has two raka'at performed in the usual way, with the only addition of six Takbirs: three at the beginning of the first raka'ah and three just before ruku' in the second raka'ah. The Hanafi's opinion considers it is as obligatory and that he who misses it must perform 2 or four rak'ahs Nafl without extra Takbir.

Shafi: seven times extra takbirah in the first Rakah of prayer, then five times in the second unit of prayer.

The Maalikus and Hanbalis said that in Eid prayer, there are six takbeers in the first rak'ah and five in the second. That was narrated from the seven fuqaha' of Madinah and from 'Umar ibn 'Abd al-'Azeez, az-Zuhri and al-Muzani.

Salah is valid regardless of the method applied by Four Mazhab¹.

If you miss Eid Salat, you can do it at home the same day or the next day; however, you lose a high reward.

As the prophet said, women and children are recommended to attend Eid rituals.

References:

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