

**T**oday is the 10th of Zilhaj, the twelfth and last month of Islamic Calendar. On this day of the Islamic Calendar, the Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Azha to commemorate the glorious tradition of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS), who set the supreme example of total surrender to the will of Allah.

Celebrated throughout the Muslim world, Eid-ul-Azha signifies the renewal of the pledge, which Hazrat Ibrahim Khalil Ullah made with the creation, not only to sacrifice his most precious and dearest possession in the way of Allah but also to keep him ever ready to obey the Divine call demanding such a sacrifice.

Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) was very dear to Allah therefore the door of sacrifices opened for him.

At first he had to leave his relatives because of their idol worshipping. Then he was convicted to jump in the fire pool by the then king named "Namrood", but Allah converted the fire pool into the flower garden and thus he did not experience a single burn.

Afterwards, in the end, his love for his Allah was examined by an event which has a great importance in history. One night Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) saw in a dream that some one was saying to him, "Oh Ibrahim! get up and sacrifice," complying with the orders received in the dream, he got up and gave the sacrifice of two hundred camels for the sake of Allah at the time of Fajr. He used to see the same dream for three consecutive nights and each time he sacrificed two hundred camels. In the fourth night, he dreamt, he was given the order of sacrificing his only and beloved son Hazrat Ismail (AS) for the sake of Allah.

As the dream of a Prophet is not like that of a human but carries the status of revelation (Wahi), next morning he reached to Hazrat Hajira (RA) and asked her to comb their nine years old son Hazrat Ismail (AS)'s hair put oil in his hair, stain his eyes with collyrium dress him neatly and send him with him for a party where he was invited. Bibi Hajira obeyed his orders.

Hazrat Ibrahim concealed a sharp knife in his sleeve and left the house with his son. Seeing the situation the Satan decided to lead Hazrat Ismail (AS) astray and came to him but could not say to him a single word and then decided to go to Bibi Hajira to betray her. He went to her and...

# The spirit of Eid

*Festivals  
News 23.2.02*

"O my father! do what ever you are ordered by Allah you would find me among the patients. I am the obedient of Allah and not a disobedient. So you hurry up. Do not allow Satan resort us to temptation as he wants to lead us astray."

At the same time Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) asked his son to stone Satan and both the father and son threw stones on Satan and their act is now a Sunnah for Hajis (pilgrims) who throw stones at three satans during Hajj.

Later on, Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and Hazrat Ismail (AS) reached the place which is now called 'Mina' and where all pilgrims sacrifice of the animals.

Reaching there when both the father and the son agreed to the order of Allah Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) laid Hazrat Ismail (AS) flat on the ground so that he could not see the face of his son and due to the paternal love, he fell short of complying with the Divine order.

At the time of slaughtering, Hazrat Ismail (AS) made three requests to his father and emphasised him to follow them strictly. Elaborating his requests, he said to his father.

"First of all tie my limbs tight by as the soul is very tender. May I not move myself with the wound of knife. My second advice is that turn my face towards the ground so that we both cannot see the faces of each other and being compelled by the love of father and son, we abandon complying with the order of Allah. The third request is that when you return home, Pay

While Hazrat Ibrahim was listening to the conversation of the knife a sound of Takbeer was heard. Then the angel of Allah, Hazrat Gibriel (AS) was seen saying.

"O Ibrahim! no doubt you made your dream true. We give the recovery in the same way to those who oblige by putting them in a strict order. And then as a reward, bestow them with great status. And we rescued Hazrat Ismail (AS) impelled knife blind folded forceful but the throat of Hazrat Ismail was not cut and Hazrat Gibriel (AS) replaced Hazrat Ismail (AS) with the ram."

When Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) removed the band from around his eyes, he saw that a ram was slaughtered instead of his son who was standing smiling around. Hence a Sunnah was set up for successive Ummah and would be continued till the day of Judgement.

The word 'Sacrifice' is derived from the Arabic word 'Ya Qurban' that stands for sacri-



(AS) astray and came to him but could not say to him a single word and then decided to go to Bibi Hajira to betray her. He went to her and attempted to lead her astray but she said, "If it is the order of Allah, that Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) has taken his son to slaughter, I agree with it."

On the disappointing answer of Bibi Hajira, Satan went to Hazrat Ismail (AS) and tried to make him astray but Hazrat Ismail (AS) remained firm to his obedience to his father and replied Satan that if it was an order by Allah, he could sacrifice a thousand lives for the sake of Allah willingly. On his answer, Satan returned hopelessly.

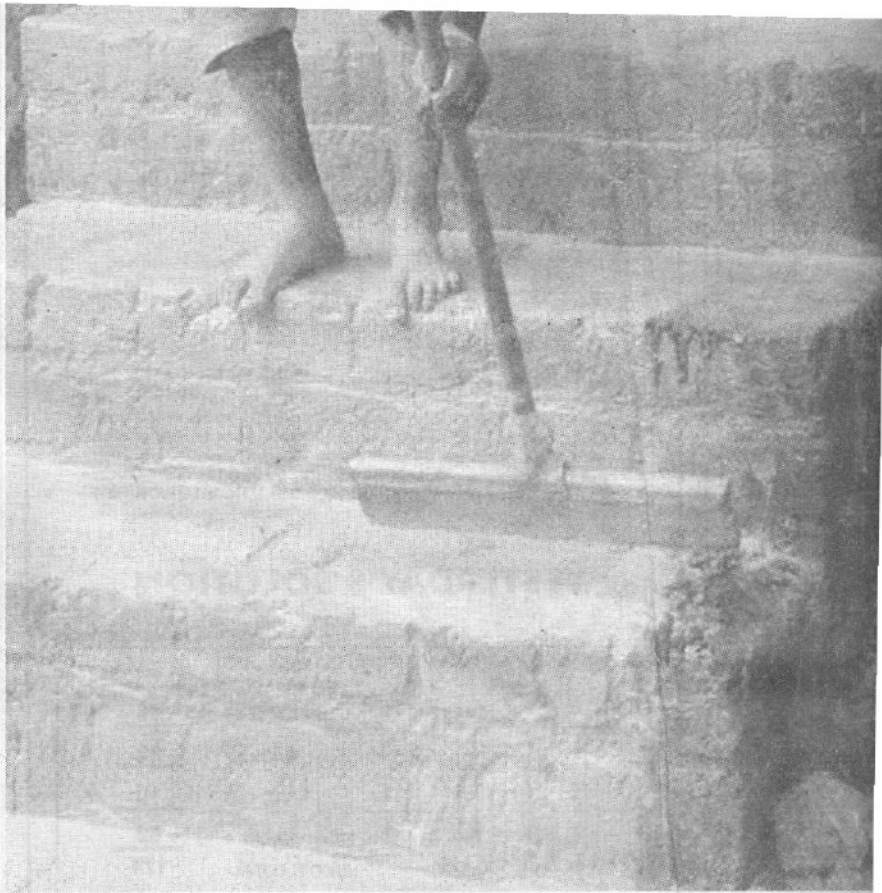
When both the father and son travelled a long distance, Hazrat Ismail asked his father where he was taking him. The father described the whole dream to his son and said, "My son I am here to sacrifice you with my hands."

Then he remained silent. Fearful and pale he could not bear looking into son's eyes but when tried to console the son, Hazrat Ismail (AS) replied.

ther and son, we abandon complying with the order of Allah. The third request is that when you return home, Pay my regards to my mother and hand her over the blood stained shirt of mine so that this keep sake can console her, I am doing all this because she has no other son except me".

After listening to his son, Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) took out the knife from his sleeve and with a rope tied his son firmly and made Hazrat Ismail (AS) lie face downward, then the father impelled the knife on the throat of son forcefully but with the order of Allah nothing was cut, the son inquired whether the father was slaughtering him from the back side of the knife.

On this Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) who was wearing a band around his eyes, pushed the knife with more force but in vain. Now Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) threw the knife on the ground angrily. At the same moment, the knife spoke to the Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) "O Ibrahim (AS)! Allah Says to you to cut and says to me not to cut. He orders you once and orders me ten times."



was on the  
ak-he  
iel  
ou  
We  
ne  
by  
er.  
ow  
we  
n-  
e-  
s-  
at  
at  
S)  
m  
a  
d  
g  
n-  
e  
n-  
e-  
a  
i-

ficing the most precious valu-  
ables to win the will of the  
beloved ones. It stands for  
higher and noble ideal, which  
provide nourishment and ele-  
vates the soul. At the same  
time it refines the personality  
of a man and purifies his in-  
naerself. Cultivation of the  
soul, its fortification and beau-  
tification are the matters of  
supreme importance.

All around the world, wher-  
ever the Muslims exist, they  
revive the Sunnah of Hazrat  
Ibrahim (AS) by performing  
the act of sacrificing pre-  
scribed by Islam with animals  
such as goat (male or female),  
sheep of all species, cow, bull,  
buffalo (male or female),  
camel and she-camel. The sac-  
rifice of any other animal is  
not in order.

In the 36 verse of 22nd  
chapter of the Quran it is said,  
"The sacrificial animals we  
have made for you, as symbols  
from God, in them is much  
good for you then pronounce  
the name of God over them as

they line up (for sacrifice),  
when they are down on their  
sides (after sacrifice), eat ye  
there of, and feed such as (beg  
not) but live in contentment  
and such as beg with due hu-  
mility. Those have we made  
animals subject to you that ye  
may be grateful".

Over the years, sacrifice of  
animals on Eid-ul-Azha seems  
to have been reduced to a rit-  
ual, and also a vehicle for per-  
petuation and exhibitionism.

Consequently, we find the  
true spirit of sacrifice mostly  
missing among the followers  
of this tradition. The readiness  
to sacrifice all that we hold  
dear to achieve a higher ob-  
jective in life and there after is  
generally found missing in the  
annual.

On the auspicious day of  
Eid-ul-Azha we must thor-  
oughly search our souls by  
asking ourselves a question,  
whether we have imbibed the  
true spirit of sacrifice, both in  
our individual as well as col-  
lective lives.

Selfishness and avaricious-  
ness seem to have pervaded  
our society, greed and the pur-  
suit of personal interests at  
the expense of others continue  
to afflict us. There seems to be  
no end to lust for power and  
attaining the positions of in-  
fluence, greed in money mat-  
ters and practices.

We seem to have forgotten  
the basic principle of sacrifice.  
We concentrate on amassing  
wealth through fair or foul  
means often by trampling over  
the rights of others.

Due to the high expenses  
people are now being driven  
to self immolation and suicide.  
They are sacrificing them-  
selves. How can they think of  
sacrificing a goat under these  
circumstances.

Now the Muslims have un-  
fortunately confined the word  
sacrifice only to the sacrificial  
of animals forgetting the  
theme. The people's motive of  
sacrifice is to get fame in the  
society that they possess  
enough capital and resources  
to perform the sacrifice of  
number of animals.

As our famous poet Iqbal  
said, "it is easier for a non-  
Muslim to become a Muslim,  
but it is for more difficult for  
a Muslim to become a Mus-  
lim."

Eid-ul-Azha demands that  
we should shun all our class  
linguistic and regional differ-  
ences. The spirit of sacrifice  
forge, a lasting link among the  
Muslims of the world and bring  
them closer to each other.

We should not forget others  
the less privileged the handi-  
capped widows, and orphans  
because it is our duty to look  
after them and attend to their  
needs.

According to the Holy

after them and attend to their needs.

According to the Holy Quran "Before the drop of blood falls on the ground. God accept the sacrifice."

In one Hadith it is stated, "for sacrifice, three days are specific. They are 10,11,12 of Zilhaj. However the first day is more Supreme".

Islam is a way of life which requires an absolute and unconditional surrender to the will of Allah, and not mere submission.

On this very basic principle lies the foundation of our individual and collective behaviour. Parenthetically, slaughtering of animals will not be deemed as an act of worship if it is not accompanied by a pledge: "Truly my prayer and my sacrifice my life and my death are for Allah, the Cherisher of the World".

We should remember the pronouncement of the Holy Quran: "It is neither the animals' flesh nor their blood that reaches Allah, it is your piety (Taqwah) that reaches Him."