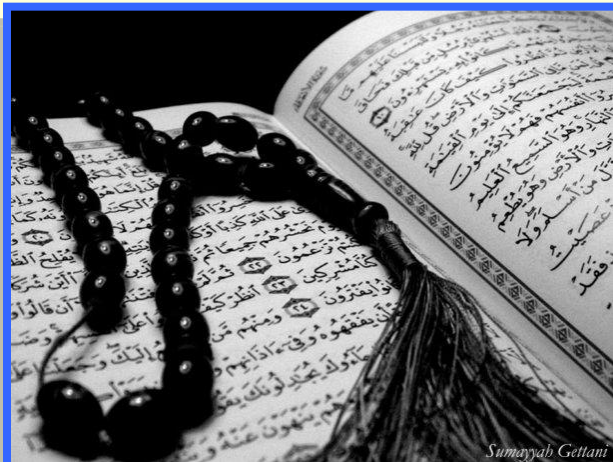


Islamic Festivals and Sacred Writing



Ramadan Fast

- A Muslim religious observance that commemorates when the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad.
- Ramadan is considered the most blessed month of the Islamic year.
- For the entire month of Ramadan, Muslims are forbidden to eat, drink, smoke, or have sexual relations from dusk until dawn, or practice “Sawn.”



Ramadan



The month of Ramadan serves to draw Muslims closer to God while developing:

- spiritual purity
- patience
- perseverance

Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr, often abbreviated as just Eid, is a Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan.

Eid is an Arabic word meaning “festivity”

Fitr means “to break the fast”

Eid-al-Fitr begins with the sighting of the new moon.



Eid al-Fitr

- On the day of the celebration, a typical Muslim family awakes very early, does the first everyday prayer, and is required to eat a little, symbolizing the end of Ramadan.
- They then attend special congregational prayers, which are generally short.
- Then worshippers greet and embrace each other with hugs in a spirit of peace and love.
- After special prayers, festivities and merriment are commonly observed with visits to the homes of relatives and friends to thank God for all blessings.

Eid al-Fitr

It is a joyous occasion celebrating a time of forgiveness, moral victory, sharing, and brotherhood.

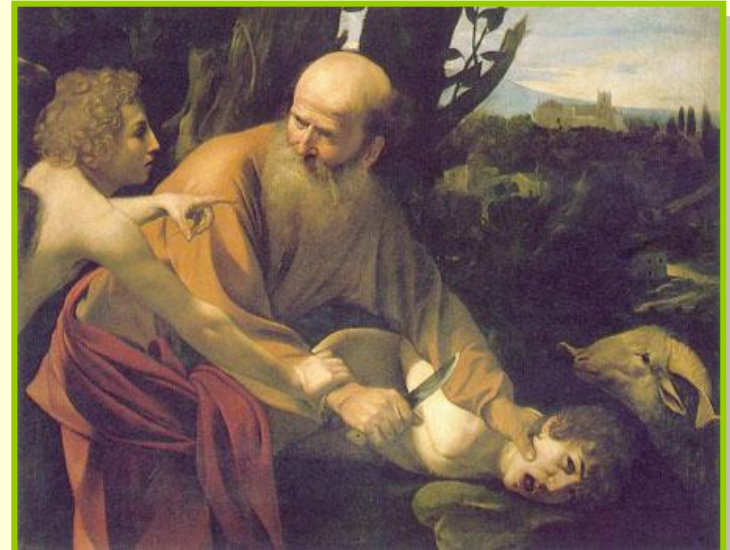
Muslims thank God for the strength he gave them to successfully practice self-control during the Ramadan fast.

Many Muslims
dress in holiday attire.



Eid-al-Adha

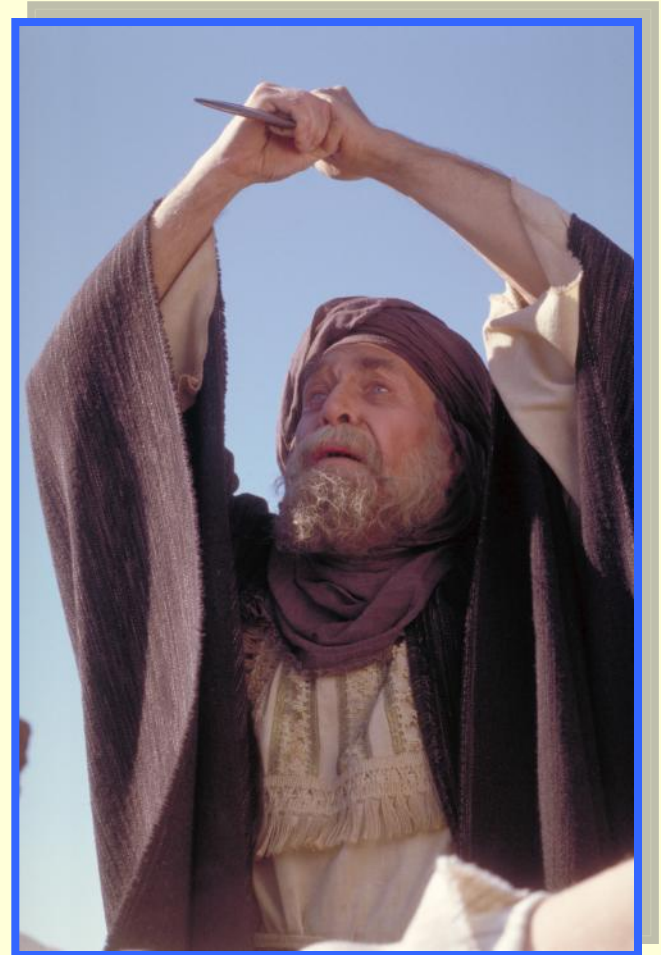
- Festival celebrated by Muslims worldwide as a commemoration of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac for Allah.
- It is one of two Eid festivals that Muslims celebrate. Like Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha also begins with a short prayer followed by a sermon.



Eid-al-Adha

Traditions & Practices

- Men, women and children are expected to dress in their finest clothes and perform Eid-prayer in any Mosque.
- Muslims sacrifice their best domestic animal (usually sheep, but also camels, cows and goats) as a symbol of Abraham's sacrifice.



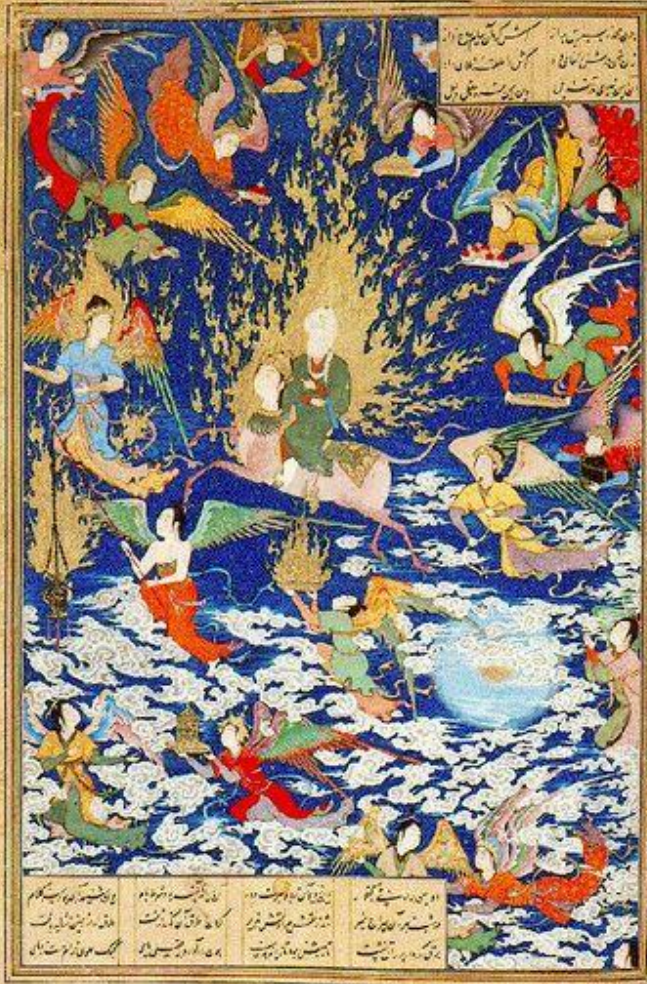
In accordance with the Qur'an a large portion of the meat is given to the poor or needy. The remainder is cooked for the family celebration meal in which relatives and friends are invited to share.



Mi'raj

Celebrates the “Night Journey” or “Ascension” where Muhammad is taken by Gabriel from Mecca to Jerusalem and then on to Heaven.

Celebrated on the 27th day of the 7th Islamic month.



ISLAMIC SACRED WRITING

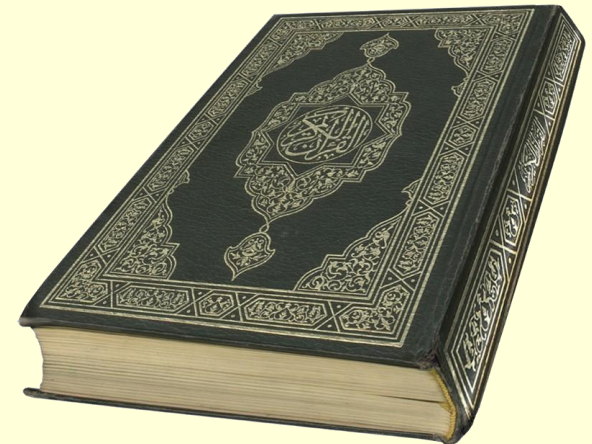
The Qur'an was given to Muhammad through Gabriel.

Muhammad memorized what Gabriel told him, then passed on these words to his followers.

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the word of Allah, that it in fact directly quotes Allah.

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is only authentic when it is written in Arabic, thus no translation of the Qur'an is truly authentic.

The Qur'an is the holiest book in Islam, and Muslims usually recite or chant the Qur'an aloud, rather than read it silently. The belief that the Qur'an is the actual Word of God distinguishes it from other sacred writings. The Qur'an itself is the first source of Islamic Law.



THE HADITH

The Hadith is the second source of Islamic Law.

It further clarifies Muslim religious practices such as prayer & almsgiving, which are mentioned in the Qur'an.

