

# A Simple Request for Eid al-Adha

By Julie Mair

Eid al-Adha will soon be upon us, alhamdulillah. It is a blessed time, a time for celebration, a time to share with family and loved ones—but it can also be a time of immense cruelty if the slaughter is not done properly and mercifully.

Allah Ta'ala tells us in the Qur'an that the Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alaihi was sallam, was sent as a rahmatan lil 'alameena – a mercy to the worlds (Surah al-Anbiya, 21:107). Much has been reported on the Prophet's [saw] kind treatment of animals, and some hadith specifically mention animals to be slaughtered:

Anyone who shows mercy, even to an animal meant for slaughtering, will be shown mercy by Allah on the Day of Rising. (Al-Adab Al-Mufrad)

Verily Allah has enjoined goodness to everything; so when you kill, kill in a good way and when you slaughter, slaughter in a good way. So every one of you should sharpen his knife, and let the slaughtered animal die comfortably. (Sahih Muslim)

Etiquettes of the slaughter are often unknown or overlooked, such as: hiding the knife from the animal; slaughtering out of the sight of other animals waiting to be slaughtered; killing in a comfortable way; and avoiding unnecessary suffering.

Tying an animal's legs together and leaving it to moan in the hot sun clearly results in unnecessary suffering, but this happens. Hanging animals together from hooks by their feet and killing them one-by-one results in unnecessary suffering, but this happens. Even less egregious actions such as dragging an animal or otherwise handling it roughly results in unnecessary suffering. It is incumbent on anyone who is going to slaughter an animal to learn the Islamic requirements and etiquettes of slaughtering so that it is done properly and mercifully.

The Prophet [saw] warned us, "Someone who does not show mercy will not be shown mercy." (Al-Adab Al-Mufrad)

So please, before this Eid al-Adha, educate yourself on the proper and merciful way to slaughter. If you are going to a farm or other facility, make sure that it will be done correctly. Educate those who do not know. Enjoin the good and forbid the wrong.\*

Whoever guides someone to goodness will have a reward like the one who did it.  
(Sahih Muslim)

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More Resources:

<http://halalcertification.ie/islamic-method-of-slaughtering/>

<https://kalamullah.com/Books/The Islamic Laws of Animal Slaughter.pdf>

