



The Best Days Of The Year



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The Greater Eid, An Act of Worship & The Best Days of the Year



The days leading up to Eid ul-Adha are a very important time of the year for Muslims. The month of Dhul Hijjah, is the month of the hajj pilgrimage and the month in which we celebrate Eid ul-Adha. The first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah are also the best days of the year!

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these (first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah)."

Tirmidhi

10 Days of Dhul Hijjah

The first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah are the best days of the year. In order to make the most of these days it is best to increase our worship of Allah. This may include fasting, making dhikr, giving in charity, reciting Qur'an and just overall trying to do more good deeds.

"There are no days greater in the sight of Allah and in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Him than these ten days, so during this time recite a great deal of Tahleel ("La ilaaha ill-Allah"), Takbeer ("Allahu Akbar") and Tahmeed ("Alhamdulillah")."

(Ahmad)

The 9th day of Dhul Hijjah is the Day of Arafah, when the Muslims on the hajj pilgrimage converge over Arafah. Fasting this day will expiate the sins of two years inshaAllah.

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, was asked about fasting on the day of 'Arafah and he said: "It expiates for the past and coming years."

(Muslim)

Hajj

Hajj is the annual pilgrimage to the Kaa'ba in Makkah. It is one of the five pillars of Islam and every Muslim must complete it once in their lifetime if they are able to do so.

Hajj can be quite a tiring journey because it includes walking to different areas in Makkah and carrying out certain actions. The process of Hajj takes 5 days and millions of Muslims complete it every year.

We will go through the steps of Hajj in further detail in the coming pages inshaAllah.

Eid ul-Adha

When the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, came to Madinah, he found that they had two days on which they used to play and celebrate. He said, "Allah has given you two days better than these, the day of al-Fitr and the day of al-Adha." (Abi Dawud)

Eid ul-Adha is the 'Festival of the Sacrifice' and it is the greater of the two Eid Festivals.

"The greatest of days before Allah is the Day of Sacrifice."

(Abu Dawud)

Udhiyah or animal sacrifice on Eid ul-Adha, is an important sunnah for every family that is able to carry it out. It involves sacrificing a sheep, goat, camel or cow for the sake of Allah, in commemoration of Prophet Ibrahim, peace be upon him, and his epic test. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said "Whoever offers a sacrifice after the prayer has completed his rituals (of Eid) and has followed the way of the Muslims."



The Story of the Ultimate Sacrifice

Prophet Ibrahim, peace be upon him, was a very special Prophet. He had complete faith in Allah. They threw him in the fire, he trusted Allah, and Allah protected him. Allah told him to leave his wife Hajar and young son Ismail in the hot, barren desert, he trusted Allah and Allah protected them. Allah loved Ibrahim, peace be upon him, so much that Allah calls him His close friend.

"And Allah did take Ibrahim as a Khaleel (an intimate friend)"

[Qur'an 4:125]

When Ismail, peace be upon him, became older, Ibrahim, peace be upon him, had a dream. The dream was from Allah and in it, he was told to sacrifice his son! Would Ibrahim trust Allah's plan again?

Prophet Ibrahim told his son of the dream he had had. Ismail loved Allah and wanted his father to do what Allah had told him to.

And when he reached with him [the age of] exertion, he said, "O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I [must] sacrifice you, so see what you think." He said, "O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast."

[Qur'an 37:102]

On the way to completing Allah's orders, they came across the Shaytaan who tried to convince them not to carry out the sacrifice. Shaytaan is always trying to convince us to disobey Allah, we must try not to give into him. Prophet Ibrahim didn't want to listen to Shaytaan, so he threw seven pebbles at him trying to shoo him away.

(Bayhaqi, classified marfu')

Allah was testing both Prophet Ibrahim and Ismail. Just as Prophet Ibrahim was about to sacrifice Ismail, they received good news from Allah. They had passed the test! They proved themselves to be obedient to Allah and trust in His plan. Allah then ordered Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice a ram (a male sheep) instead of Ismail.

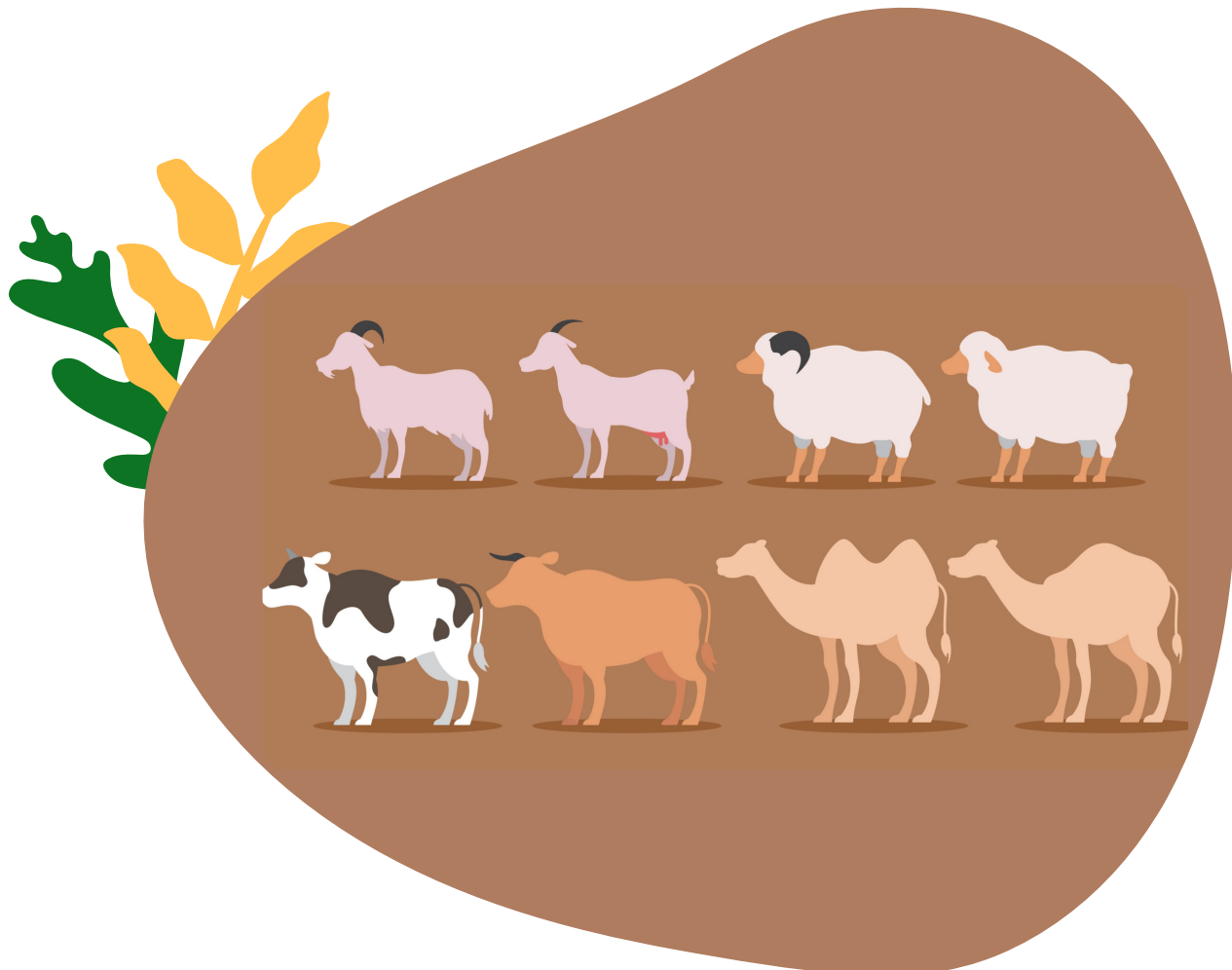
"And when they had both submitted and he put him down upon his forehead, We called to him, "O Ibrahim, You have fulfilled the vision. Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good. Indeed, this was the clear trial."

(Qur'an 37: 103-106)


Animals that can be sacrificed on Eid ul-Adha

Can you name them all?

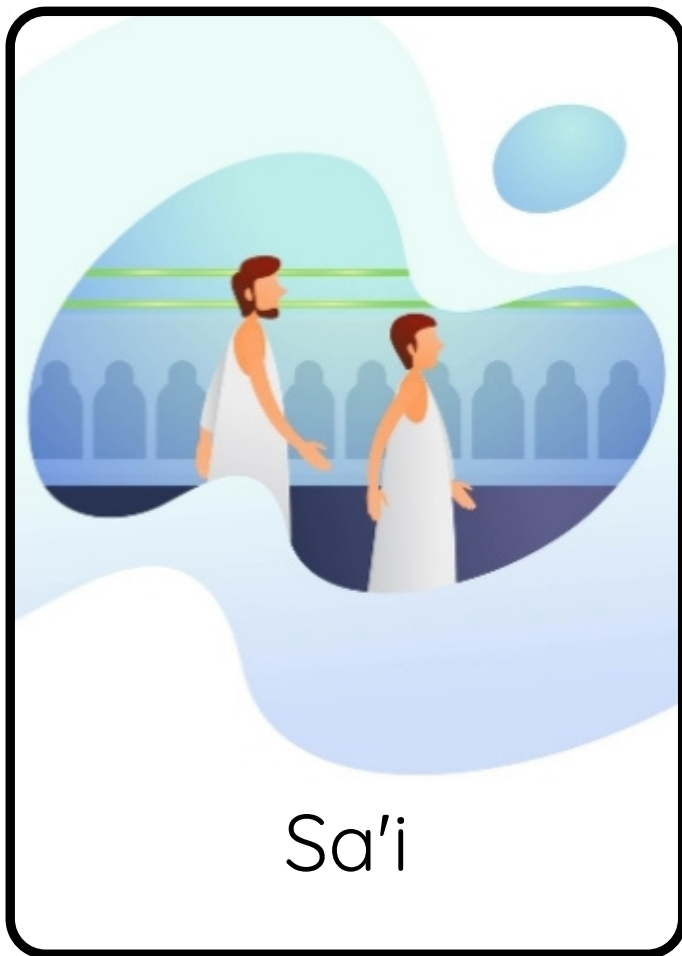
You will find the answer in the story of the Ultimate Sacrifice.



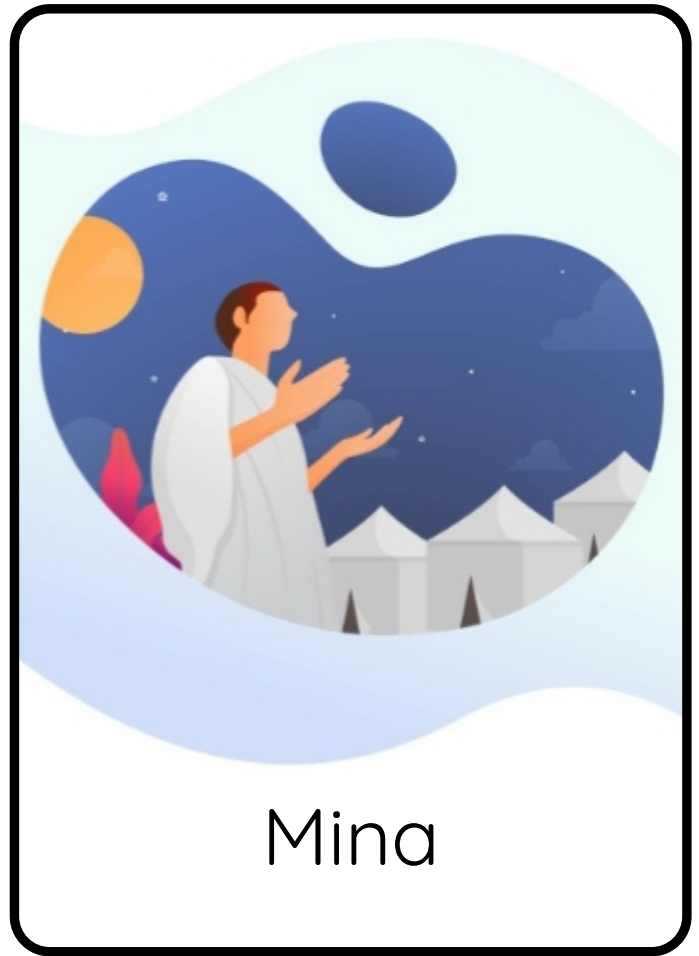
Hajj: Step By Step Guide

	<p>Enter Makkah from a Miqaat, or designated point in Ihram, a sacred state. A man will wear two pieces of unstitched white cloth. A woman may wear any appropriate Islamic dress.</p>	<p>Walk back to Mina, where you will find the stone pillars called Jamarat. You will throw 7 pebbles at the largest pillar. Just like Prophet Ibrahim threw at Shaytaan.</p> 
	<p>Circle around the Kaa'ba 7 times. This is called Tawaaf and this first Tawaaf is called 'Tawaaf al Qudoom.'</p>	<p>Make an animal sacrifice, just like Prophet Ibrahim had done.</p> 
	<p>Make Sa'i by walking between the hills of Safa and Marwa 7 times just as Hajar did when she was left in the desert with her son Ismail.</p>	<p>Men will now shave or cut their hair and women will have some of their hair trimmed off.</p> 
	<p>Walk to the tent city of Mina where you will spend the night in ibaadah.</p>	<p>Perform Tawaaf and Sa'i once more.</p> 
	<p>Walk to Arafah, where you will make lots of du'a. This is the most important day of Hajj.</p>	<p>Return to stone all 3 Jamarat. You need to collect 7 pebbles for each Jamarah.</p> 
	<p>Go to Muzdalifah where you will collect pebbles ready for the 'Pelting of the Devil' ceremony at the Jamarat.</p>	<p>Before leaving Makkah, you should perform a Farewell Tawaaf called 'Tawaaf al Wadaa'.</p> 

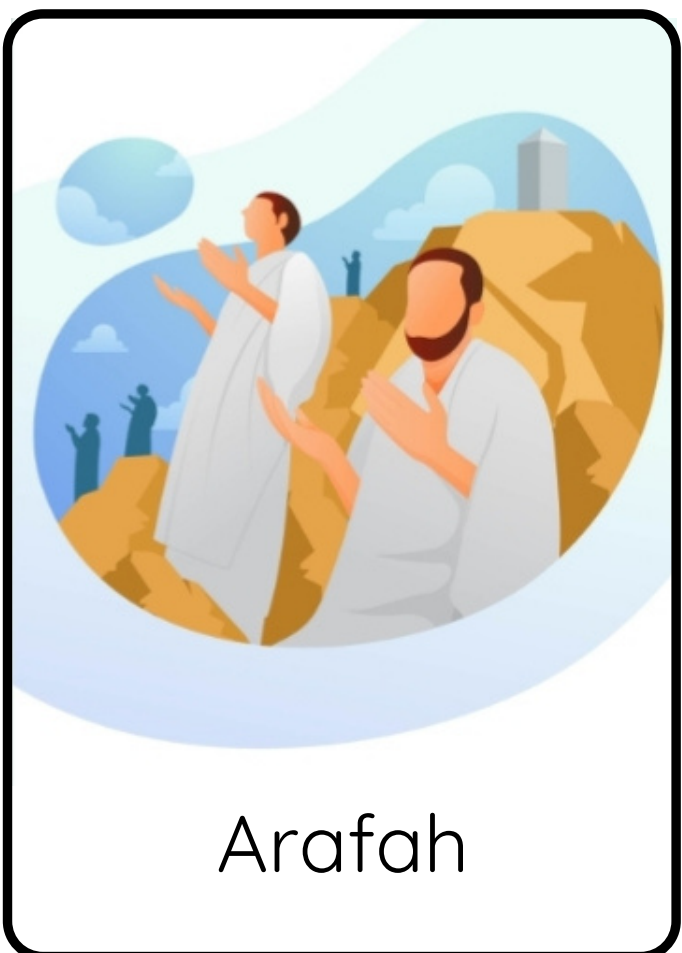
2 Part Steps of Hajj Cards



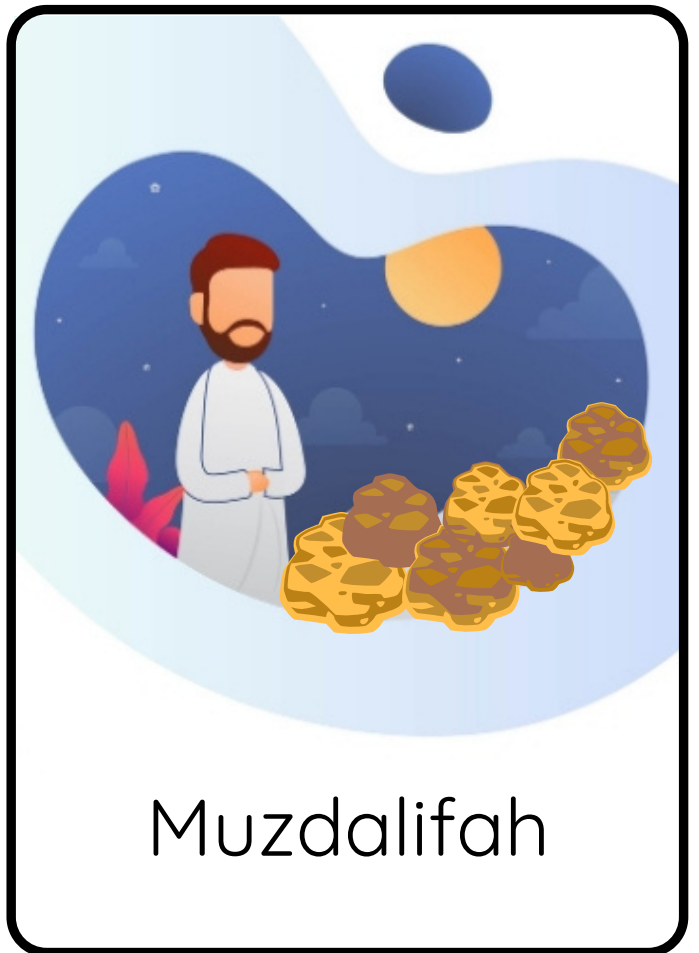
Sa'i



Mina



Arafah



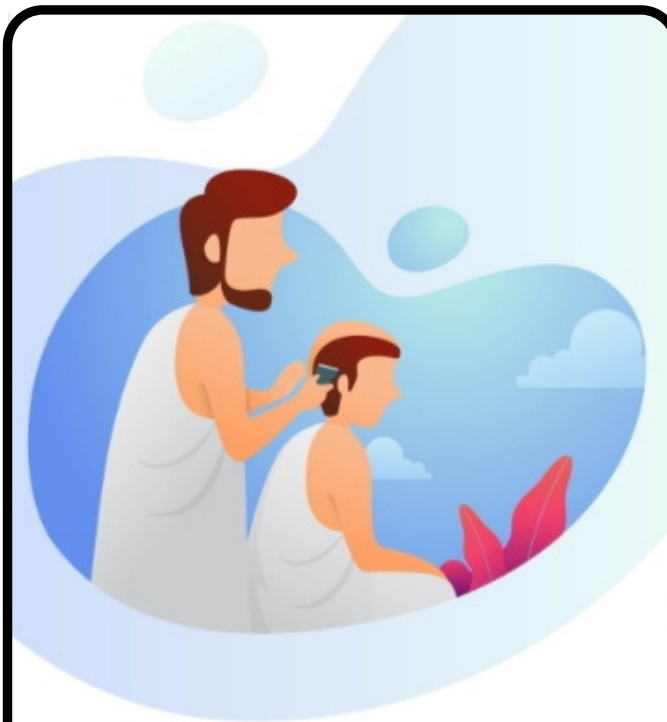
Muzdalifah



Jamarat



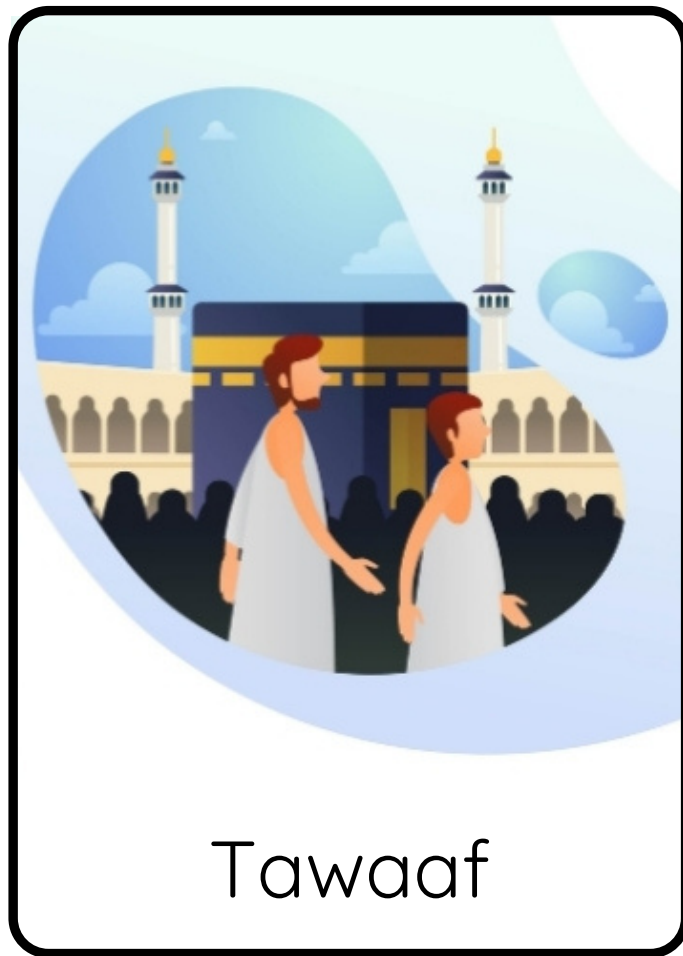
Animal Sacrifice



Hair Cut



Farewell Tawaaf



Tawaaf

These tags are to be used with the following desert portrait page. You will make a map of Hajj from materials around your home and label each step with these tags

Miqaat/Ihram

Tawaaf

Muzdalifah

Sa'i

Jamarat

Mina

Animal Sacrifice

Arafah

Hair Cut

