

Qurbani Guidelines – Part 1

Some General Laws And Rules of Qurbani

The time of Qurbani commences from the day of Eid-ul-Adha – after the Eid Salaah – until the sunset of the 12th Thul-Hijjah. The best day to make Qurbani is on the 10th of Thul-Hijjah.

Qurbani is Waajib on the person upon whom Sadaqatul-Fitr is Waajib. If despite Qurbani not being Waajib, a person makes Qurbani, such a person will be greatly rewarded by Allah Ta'ala.

Qurbani CANNOT be made prior to the Eid Salaah.

Qurbani that is sent to a place where there is no Eid Salaah performed (like in remote areas) can be made before the one who sent the Qurbani offers his Eid Salaah.

It is not necessary to make the intention verbally, making it in one's heart will suffice.

It is best that the Du'a before slaughtering one's animal be recited verbally. However, if the Du'a is read in one's heart, the Qurbani is valid and the animal is Halaal.

Qurbani should be made with one's own hands. This is the best.

A woman can make her own Qurbani, provided that she has the strength to do so in order that the animal does not suffer. Her surroundings and environment should be in accordance to STRICT HIJAAB rules. The workers / helpers that hold her sheep are NOT her Mahram, hence they are NOT allowed to help her, look at her, talk to her, etc.! Her brother-in-laws are also not allowed to observe her slaughtering an animal.

The skin of Qurbani animals can be given away as is, or sold and the money received should be given as Sadaqah to those who are entitled for Zakaat. The money cannot be used for the upkeep of a Masjid or any other noble work.

Qurbani meat can be given to non-Muslims. However, meat, fat or anything of the animal cannot be given as a form of payment to the helpers. A separate payment should be given to them for the service they offered.

Some Laws Pertaining To The Animals

If a third or more of an animal's tail is cut, ear is cut off, or sight is lost (refer to an expert to know this in an animal), then such an animal cannot be used for Qurbani. An animal with no teeth is not valid for Qurbani. However, if majority of its teeth are intact, then it will be valid for Qurbani.

An animal born without ears is not valid for Qurbani. If an animal has very small ears, it will be valid for Qurbani.

An animal whose horns have been removed from the roots cannot be used for Qurbani.

An animal that only walks with three feet or uses the fourth foot only for support and does not walk with it cannot be used for Qurbani.

Type And Age of Qurbani Animals

The following animals may be used for Qurbani: *Goats, sheep, bulls, buffaloes and camels*. The females of each can also be used.

Goats and sheep have to be one year old for Qurbani.

If, however, a six month old sheep that is fat and healthy and if put together with one year old sheep is difficult to distinguish, then it will be valid to make Qurbani of such a sheep.

Bulls and buffaloes have to be two years old and camels five years old.

The Shares

Seven people may take shares from one bull, buffalo or camel, on condition that each one's share is a seventh and not less than that.

Another condition is that each one's intention should be that of Qurbani or Aqeeqah.

If less than seven people share one (big) animal, for example, if six people share one animal and none of their shares is less than a seventh, such a Qurbani is valid.

If eight people share one (big) animal, the Qurbani of each person is invalid.

The meat of a (big) shared animal should be properly distributed by weight and not by mere estimation.

If a particular share holder wishes to take the head, hooves and skin of a (big) shared animal, then it will be permissible to give him lesser meat.

Note: All the Masaa'il discussed here are taken from *Beshti-Zewar*. Kindly refer to *Beshti-Zewar* for more Masaa'il or refer to a reliable Aalim-e-Haq who is not an open flagrant sinner and justifier of his sins, for further explanations.