EID-UL-AZHA

The Sacrifice in Ethical and National Perspectives

by M Arshed Ali

God demands of his dearest creation, the human beings, sacrifice of their selfish desires and instincts. Those who are able to act up in accordance with this divine pleasure, by spurning the petty personal motives, are favoured with His acceptance of their sacrifice of animals.



ID-UL-AZHA: It is a day glorified by the ideals of supreme sacrifice — the sacrifice that brings man in close proximity to God, that all his supplications so sincerely and ardently aspire after. The holy Quran proclaims, "it is not their meat nor their blood that reaches God: it is your piety that reaches Him". Apparently though it is the sacrifice of animals, it is, indeed, the sacrifice of the animal propensities of man, his baser elements that inhibits the growth of his spiritual faculties. The money and materials that go to the rearing or procuring of a sacrificial animal are to be unalloved and free from all sorts of impurities in order for it to be acceptable to the Omniscient.

God demands of his dearest creation, the human beings, sacrifice of their selfish desires and instincts. Those who are able to act up in accordance with this divine pleasure, by spurning the petty personal motives, are favoured with His acceptance of their sacrifice of animals. This is in tune with the divine motives behind the scheme of creation — man was sent to the earth not to beguile himself with indulgences in sensuous activities but to fashion life to earn satisfaction of

the Creator and to bring succour to the suffering humanity and work for their welfare. The welfare of the others calls for the negation of personal interest. The monstrosity of self-interest can be obviated only by total surrender to the will of God. And Qurbani symbolises this obliteration of the self to the satisfaction of the Supreme Being by way of surrender to His

The history of the Qurbani, as we now observe, traces back to the patriarch Abraham to whom belongs the unique credit of the establishment of the holy Ka'ba — the house of God — at Mecca. In the very prime of his life Abraham had already successfully proved himself undaunted against the unthinkable and inhuman torture engineered by Namrud in plunging him into the tank of burning fire. No perturbation of the loss of his precious life, his selfimmolation and effacement from the face of the charming earth could ever intrude his mind which was a virtual battlement of immanence. Abraham came out unhurt and unscarred due to the fortification raised by the strength of total surrender to God. Who plays the rescuer when man seeks help from none but Him at times of crises of the highest magnitude. Again in his old age Abraham was put to a test equally unexampled and unparalleled in the history of religion. According to both the Quran and the Bible,

God, in order to determine how profound Abraham's allegiance and dedication to Him were. asked him to sacrifice the life of his son Ismail. Without the slightest faltering Abraham asked his son to prepare for the sacrifice, took his knife, sharpened it, folded his own and son's eyes with coverings and laid him prostrate for sacrifice.

Imagination could only be stretched to conceive how the entire surroundings, even the whole universe and all its paraphernalia stood dumbfounded at the poignant spectacle of the unprecedented tragedy that was just going to be enacted. It was, by all scales of measurement, the most critical moment in the life of any father and his child, nay, it was the most crucial trial that was ever put to any prophet of mankind, the affectionate father and the loving son remained unwavering and unflinching without the slightest consideration of the greatest and most literally irreparable loss of life ever peeping into their minds nor could the Evil's temptations and provocations deviate them a little from their

determination. The unfathomable grief that was inherent in the situation was overpowered by the spirit of surrender 'deeper than ever plummet sounded' to the will of God. Abraham and Ismail could prove themselves absolutely

SLAM has been a great liberating and civilizing force for humanity. It enkindled the torch of knowledge and learning. It gave a fillip to science and technology. It introduced to man the true concept of freedom, equality and justice. It taught man the greatness of love, brotherhood and tolerance. Islam is not a mere religion of rites and rituals - prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, Eid, Qurbani etc - it is a complete way of life, an ideology which provides evidence for every field of human activity. It is an allembracing system, a social order, a polity, an economic ideology. In fine, it is a complete code of life.

Tawheed: Tawheed is the principle of unity of God. It is the bed-rock on which the entire Islamic system of life rests. Tawheed means that there is the supreme Lord of the universe. He is Omnipotent, the Sustainer of the world and

mankind. Islam enjoins its followers to decide the problem which confront them with justice whatever be the consequences. Rule of law is supreme and administration of justice is above every thing else. The Holy Quran says: "And when you judge between man and man, judge with justice" (Al-Quran

"O Ye! who believe! Fear Allah as He should be

equal to the challenge. Allah, who has certainly full knowledge of secrets of all hearts (Sura Mulk-29) could full well plummet the deepest recess of the minds of His two most obedient servants and prophets harbouring there in none but Him, in His infinite mercy intervened and replaced the boy with a ram. Thus the spirit of supreme sacrifice that Abraham demonstrated became a symbol originating the institution of Qurbani. From then on no other religious activities than sacrifice of animals came to be regarded as better on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha.

(PBUH) attached so much importance to it that it assumed the status of an obligatory rite to be observed by those who are financially capable. So much stress is laid on the rite that even the shortest of the Suras (Kauthar) enjoins upon the believers to say prayers and sacrifice animals as marks of gratitude to the unique gifts of the Supreme Cherisher of the Universe. The offering of the sacrifice on the Eid-ul-Azha on the 10th of Zilhajj is so important a rite that with it closes the pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the five pillars on which the edifice of Islam is built and which has been made obligatory on all

And die not except as Muslim

And hold fast, all together to

And never be separated.

A few sayings of Prophet

Mohamad (SM): 1) The best man

is he who, as he advances in

years, advances in good deeds.

2) God is not merciful to him,

who is not so to mankind. 3)

Modesty is the part of Iman

(faith). 4) There are two quali-

ties which do not occur in a

Momin — miserliness and bad

disposition. 5) He is not true

Muslim and Momin; who eateth

his fill and leaveth his neigh-

cal constrictive programme.

The Islami system of holding

congregational prayer — several

times a day, and on Friday and

Eid day in a bigger and the

biggest way — is the best method

of realising the spiritual broth-

erhood of man. The ideals

which the league of nations

have set before us can be more

conveniently realized by the

Islamic institution of Hajj -

Significance of Sacrifice:

Prigmage to Mecca.

Islam presents a nice practi-

the covenant of Allah

(Surah 3:102-103)

bour hungry.

who can afford.

The Prophet Muhammad

It is to acquire the satisfaction of the Creator by dint of piety and spending a part of our, earning for our poor brethren that the institution of Qurbani has been introduced. Regretfully enough, some people are found to be recoursing to ostentatious demonstration of wealth in purchasing a sacrificial heifer at more than a lac of taka. Ostentation is the least acceptable to God as it detracts from the value of sacrifice degenerating it into a boastful display of wealth and riches. Pride is something most despised by God and so is lavishness - a vice kindred to the Evil as per divine ordinance. The slaughter of a gigantic animal is not the desired objective of the Qurbani, in stead it is the beast in man that is to be slaughtered for the elevation of the self as well as for the welfare of the society.

It has already been stated that the sacrifice is obligatory on the part of those who are capable of defraying the cost. When a financially solvent person proposes to make a sacrifice and his animal is found missing he has to sacrifice only a substitute whether the lost one is retrieved or not. But if an impoverished person undertakes to sacrifice an animal and if his animal is missing he has to sacrifice both the substi-

quadrupeds, then eat of them

and feed the distressed one, the

their flesh nor their blood, but

to Him is acceptable the guard-

ing (against evil) on your part"

Bengali people have become out

and out ceremonious. But we,

the Muslims have strayed away

from the path of rectitude. We

have forgotten the teachings of

Islam. This is why our rich peo-

ple are becoming richer and the

poor pooer by a system which is

so vicious. The rich people, spe-

cially the so-called black

money holders among them

have flourished at the expenses

of the have-nots. Sympathy.

empathy, follow-feeling, broth-

erhood have become scarce

these days. The senseless are

making a parade of their piety

by slaughtering eye-catching

cows and beautiful bulls on the

day of Eidul Azha. I have wit-

nessed how the rich after

slaughtering the sacrificial cat-

tle. closed the door behind the

All I have to say is that

"There does not reach Allah

It is admitted that we the

needy" (Ayat-28)

(Ayat-37)

The Festival of

Sacrifice

by Prof Abul Kalam Elias

tute and the originally proposed one if the latter is come by. No religious injunctions beyond human capacity has ever been prescribed in Islam. This is the beauty and humanism of the religion of Islam that it never imposes a burden on a person unable to shoulder it.

An attitude of humility di-

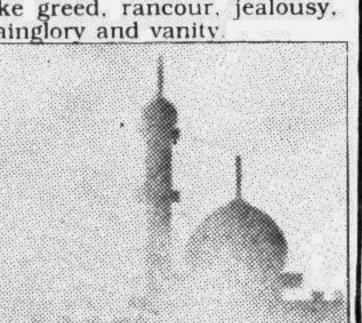
vested of all extravagance and egotism, ostentation and vanity is what is acceptable to God. The institution of sacrifice is increasingly gaining in importance particularly in the backdrop of our society where man's selfish orgy is rebelling his endless greed in seeking satisfaction in heinous hatred, contentious conflict, seething squabble and brutal bloodshed more than ever before. Containing all these bestial manifestations that the Qurbani signifies implies a sure step forward in the road to the establishment of an egalitarian society which we and more so our leaders aspire after. And the gain is two-fold the one having social, national and international implications on the physical plane and the other on the spiritual height as the Great God will be satisfied with the elevation of His vicegerents above he petty per sonal motives of self-interest May our Qurbani this year take on its pristine virtues of sacrifice by way of banishment and extinction of the myopic political interest that has bedevilled the national life, specially the academic life as the President's clarion call urged upon the political leaders on the recent occasion of the 1st Convocation of the Khulna University.

The writer is Inspector of Colleges (Offg) University o Dhaka.

appear to be hypocrites. We perform our prayers, keep fast, go on a pilgrimage but most often do not pay the poor men their due. We are sadly lacking in Islamic brotherhood and social justice.

To put in the words of Kaz Nazrul Islam, our rebel poet: "After becoming Muslims, we did not repose our trust in Allah. The Satan has undone our Iman (faith). We have indulged in quarrels and killing each other. We did never make an sacrifice in our life. We had never regard for what is great and good... "This day is not for the slaughter of beasts, but for the invocation of truth and stringth. The real invocation of the festival is the sacrifice of life, for Allah's sacred cause.'

Conclusion: Year after year we are killing the sylvan beasts. But time has come to pause and ponder over how many of us have killed the beast in ourselves — the bestial propensity like greed, rancour, jealousy vainglory and vanity



Dhaka Day by Day

When Lines Have

their Own Drama

by Fayza Haq

Shahabuddin was wearing his favourite red shirt, sipping his own brand of black tea from a thermos and playing around with a strong French cigarette. He was sitting and talking to this writer at the Gallery Tone where he had his exhibition of 39 pieces of drawing.

Talking about what motivated him to have a display of drawings Shahabuddin says, "I have had exhibits of sketches before in Paris in '83 and once in Dhaka in '94. I wanted to show control of line. My paintings are spirited and free. Without the knowledge of the classics of drawings I can't control figures and movements. Once I master the drawing the painting that follows is easy."

Does he find sketching satisfying? "I don't find it satisfying because I want a softer effect. I plan to do more sketch exhibitions. I prefer a brush as it is most sensitive in catching movements. It is difficult but worth it. I want to master that which is difficult".

He adds, "A painter needs breathing in other media. don't do water-colour. Asked to name his favourite artists Shahabuddin says, "I've been influenced by Goya, Michaelangelo, Rembrandt and Vales Quez. Besides, I like the painters Francis Bacon (British), Tapias (Spanish), Apple (Dutch) and Olivier du Vrais (French). The drawings of Velic Vic. Picasso. Leonardo da Vinci and Michaelangelo are something for which I have great regard."

Was it difficult for him to do the sketches with a brush? He replies "I can play with sketches. You concentrate for 10 minutes and it's done. Painting takes days, you have to, however, draw many and then choose from among them for the exhibit. It is difficult to compare painting with drawing. Painting is like orchestra while drawing is like a single instrument. Jackson Pollock and Kandinsky were abstract painters but their early drawings were good. I believe Bacon's drawings were better than his

paintings. "The work is difficult and conscious mind."

sensitive If you are nervous, all your work is spoilt. If I could draw like Zainul Abedin would shake the whole world with my talent. His lines are powerful but simple". All great masters have done sketches at some time. Drawing, however, is not popular in the subcontinent. I do it for my own satisfaction and I enjoy the black dramatic lines. When I did my charcoal drawings I wanted to paint in black and white. My attraction to drawing grew and I enjoyed it. I have continued my earlier style. I see no need for a departure from my original

Discussing the general theme in the series of sketches. Shahabuddin says, "on the whole the movement expresses strength and power. I try to make my figures leave the canvas. I deal with Bangladesh freedom fighters in general and animals like horses and cats besides that.

Dwelling on his own experiences as a freedom fighter he recounts, "I was a platoon commander. Lalbagh and Dhanmandi were in my charge. Green Road and Elephant Road all came under me. Before that I was in Laxam's Shalda River, for nine months I struggled as a soldier. I put up the flag for Bangladesh Betar on December 16th morning.

Discussing whether he will go on sketching for exhibitions he says "naturally I will continue to experiment with other media if I feel like it and at the same time I'll-carry on with my drawing."

Talking about the state of art in Bangladesh Shahabuddin says, "I think the young Bangladeshi artists are talented if you consider painters like Ranjit, Jamal, Ifthikhar and Igbal. Artists get enough support considering that our country is poor. No artist is actually starving."

Why does Shahabuddin sport red shirts so often? "It is the colour of the Bangladeshi flag and I can't forget the Liberation War the red is a reminder of it all and never leaves my un-

many of us, if not most of us, "He has given them the The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

destitute.

Thursday 17th April (Atl programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran, Programme Summary 3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Re-telecast of selected programme from TV Archive 4:00 News in Bangla 4:15 TV Couching 4:45 Carton: Shazzam 5:25 National Television School Debate 6:30 Sor Goal 6:50 Religion and Life 7:00 The News 7:25 Sandha Malatee 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Arabian Nights 9:00 Package Programme 10:00 The News 10:25 Switch 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Friday's programme summary 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 Time Out: Holiday 7:00 BBC World News inc Business Workd Report/Asia Today /24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 11:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:00noon BBC Newsdesk 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: Film '97 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Time Out: Holiday 5:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC Newsdesk 6:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:30 Time Out: Top Gear 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 11:00 The World Today 12:00 The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News



1:30 World Focus: Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 3:00 **BBC Newsdesk inc World** Business Report & 24hr 4:00 BBC Newsdesk inc. Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight

CHANNEL V 6:00am Launchpad VJ Samira 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 8:00 Frame By Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00noon Rewind VJ Sophiya 1:30 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 BPL Oye 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 6:00pm Rewind VJ Sophiya 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey 8:00 The Vibe 9:00 Videocon Flashback 9:30 Top of the Pops 10:00 Liberty First Day First Show 10:30 Malibu Jammin 11:00 Over The Edge 12:00mn Rewind VJ Sophiya 1:00 Haysah 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey

Alessandra 4:30 BPL Oye 5:30 Jump Start VJ Alessandra

STAR PLUS

630am Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:00 Mollie Katzen's Cooking Show 10:30 Behind The Scenes Absolute Power 11:00 Charles in Charge 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30noon Picket Fences 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Tehkikaat 3:30 Khandaan 4:00 Banjara Guest House 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 New Adventures Of Black Beauty 6:00pm Charles In Charge 6:30 Mollie Katzen's Cooking Show 7:00 Maneka's Ark 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Awaz 8:30 Tu Tu Main Main 9:00 Ghutan 9:30 Star News 10:00 Are You Being Served? 10:30 Baywatch 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00mn Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News

Movie: Halifax FP 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 Barnaby Jones

STARSPORTS

6:30am PBA Game Of The Week 7:30am This is the PGA Tour 8:30 Watersports World 9:30 Dubai 24 Hours Kart Race 11:00 1997 Masters Day 3 From Augusta, USA 1:00 Indian Football Edier Nehru Int'l Series Final 3:00 FIM World Motorcycle Champs Malaysia GP Highlights 4:30 This is the PGA Tour 5:30 Spanish F'ball League 6:00pm World Wrestling Federation Raw 7:30 Omega Tour 1997 London Myamar Open Highlights 8:00 Live India Tour of West Indies 1997 5th Test Match Day 1 From Guyana 10:00 Spanish F'ball League 10:30 Lunch 11:00 Live India Tour of West Indies 1997 5th Test Match Day 1 From Guyana 3:00 Omega Tour 1997 London Myanmar Open Highlights 4:00 Dubai 24 Hours Kart 1:30 Space: Above And

Race 5:00 FIM World Motorcycle Champs Malaysia GP Highlights

STAR MOVIES 7:30am Family: I've Heard The Mermaids Singing 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 Action: Crazy Mama 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Classic: Seance On A Wet Afternoon PG 1:30 Family: Watership Down PG (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Classic: Metropolis PG (Silent Movie) 5:30 Classic: The Black Sheep of Whitehall PG (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Film Club: Thank You Jack 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 US Top Ten 10:00 Romance: Heartbeat 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 12:00 After Dark: Blindfold: Acts of Obsession 18 2:00 Comedy: The Wild Party 18 4:00 Action: The Wrong Stuff (Arabic Subtitles) 5:30 Classic: Made for Each Other PG (Arabic Subtitles)

ZEE TV

6:00 Jagran 6:30 ZED 7:00 ZED 7:30 Adarniya Pradhan Mantri 8:00 News 8:30 Ru-Ba-Ru 9:00 Disney Hour 10:00 Gaane Anjaane 10:30 Jhatpat Khana 11:00 Andaz 11:30 Zimbo 12:00 Khana Khazana 12:30 Mast Mast Hai Zindagi 1:00 Aakanksha 1:30 Silsila 2:00 Hum Paanch 2:30 Tara 3:00 Raahat 3:30 Low Cal Show 4:00 Campus 4:30 Suhana Safar 5:00 Chanakya 6:00 Filmi Deewane 6:30 Disney Hour 7:30 Raahat 8:00 Gaane Anjaane 8:30 Chutki Baja Ke 9:00 Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum 9:30 Dastaan 10:00 Vakaalat 10:30 News 11:00 Umeed 11:30 Nirma Hum Paanch 12:00 Action Hindi Feature Film: Arjun (Sunny Deol, Dimple) 12:30 Daraar 1:00 Ek Aur Mahabharat 1:30 Raahat 2:00 Hanste Khelte 2:30 TMM 4:00 Tara 4:30 Casper Kya Scene Hai 5:00 Surtal 5:30 Suno Bhai

EL TV

12:30 Hindi Feature Film 2:00 Akhri Dao 2:30 Kal Bhi Aai Bhi 3:00 Siyaram Kamal Kombination 3:30 Cine Smyle 4:00 HFF (B/W) 7:00 Music Capsules 7:30 Stand By 7:40 Music Capsules 8:00 Haseen Pal 8:40 Brigadier Balwant Bhawan 9:00 Abhinetri 9:00 V3+ 10:00 HFF 1:00 Parag No. 1 1:30 Zandu Balm Dance Mania 2:00 Gujarati Band 3:00 Aakhri Dao 3:30 Amar Prem 4:00 Dard 4:30 ZED 5:00 HFF 5:10 Haseen Pal 6:00 Shadyantra 6:30 Liberty Public Demand 7:30 Anuraag 8:00 Jaguar It's My Choice 8:30 Stand-By 8:45 HFF

PTV

8:00 am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/ Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Cut Piece 9:20 Aahang and Roshni 9:45 Phool Chandi 10:05 Sona Chandi (Drama Serial) 10:30 Buttons and Rustys (Eng Film) 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Aabshaar (Music Programme) 11:55 Tele Play (Drama Serial) 12:45 pm Qawaali 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem and Bismillah 1:15 Muqaddar (Drama Serial) 2:00 Putjhar (Drama Serial) 2:45 Perspective and Health Forum 3:40 Taleemi Maloomat 4:35 Aurat Aur

Qanoon 5:05 Home Economics 5:25 Humaray Saath 5:55 Varna (Drama Serial) 6:25 Aiou Courses 7:05 Muqabil Hai Aaina 7:20 Ainaik Wala Jinn 7:45 English News 8:05 Jawaan Sangeet 8:45 Eendhan (Drama Serial) 9:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabarnama Commercial News 10:35 Mast Mast Sanyo 11:15 Urdu Feature Film and Khas

SONY ET

Khas Khabrin/Close down

8:30 am Yaadon Ki Baarat 9:00 The Three Stooges 9:30 Dennis The Menace 10:00 | Dream Of Jeannie 10:30 Bewitched 11:00 Taak Jhanak 11:30 Gaane Jane

(Serial) 1:30 The Young And The Restless 2:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 5:30 The Three Stooges 6:00 Dennis the Menace 6:30 Yadon Ki Barat 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 Bewitched 8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune (Game Show) 8:30 5 Star Xpressit 9:00 Siddhi (Serial) 9:30 Mahayaga 10:00 Aahat 10:30 Janee Kaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji (Serial) 11:00 The Young And The Restless 12:00 Yeh Sadi

Mane 12:00 Ghav 12:30 pm

(Serial) 1:00 Boogie Woogie

Premier/Chamatkaar

Nahi Ho Sakti (Serial) 12:30 Bindas Bol 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fourtune (Game Show)

2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed

Dance 11:30 Parliament Hour 12:30 Monorama Cabin 1:00 Janmabhumi (Serial) 1:30 Trishna (Serial) 2:00 Classical Music 2:30 Surja Sunnan

DD 7

10:30 Janmadin 10:35

Classical Music 11:00

3:00 Ghum Nai (Serial) 3:30 Tanaporan (Serial) 5:30 News 6:00 Aparajito/Pallikatha 6:30 Mone Rekho More Gaane 7:00 Darsaker Darbare 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Salbone Katha (Serial) 8:30 Chetana (Serial) 9:00 Janmabhumi (Serial) 9:30 Monorama Cabin (Serial) 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show 1:00 Closed

Tom and Jerry









DRAWN BY JOHN MCLUSKY

