

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APRIL 20)

Ask a friend for advice. Work on personal investments. Mingle with those who can further your goals. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Refrain from overspending. Change your living arrangements. Your unique contributions will enhance your reputation. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Travel will promote romantic connections. Your hard work will pay off. Jealousy may get in the way of a good relationship. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CANCER
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Get involved in groups. You may find yourself interested in more than one person. Stay on alert in case things go south. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



LEO
(JULY 23-AUG 22)

Don't trust others with important information. Jealous attitudes may lead you astray. Be cautious when dealing with co-workers. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Intellectual stimulation is what you need. Travel and entertaining conversation will be uplifting. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

Don't get involved in ventures. You can meet new friends who will provide mental stimulation. Loved ones can give you good advice. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Stay true to yourself. Problems with relatives could do some damage. Pamper yourself for a change. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Travel could be in order. Don't overwork yourself to the point of exhaustion. Discuss your ambitions with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Investments may be misrepresented. You need to challenge yourself. Don't let children hold you back from doing things you enjoy. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

You can't live your life for others. Make your intentions perfectly clear. You should be looking at ways to spoil yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MARCH. 20)

Catch up on overdue paperwork. Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of loved ones. Keep financial matters in check. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

QURBANI SPECIAL

The meaning of sacrifice

It is not their meat nor the blood that reaches Allah, it is the piety of the believer—the holy Qur'an (Chapter 22; Verse 37)

Every year Muslims all over the world observe the two Eid festivals as the largest community based celebrations for the entire Muslim nation. And yet, many of us may not realise that the second one, known as the Eid-ul-Azha, or the Feast of the Sacrifice, is not a celebration, rather it is supposed to be marked or observed as a day of piety instead, remembering that life is sacred, and that a Muslim shall put the commandments and love for Allah over everything else.

The act of animal slaughter is symbolic of this oath that a Muslim makes, to submit to the will of Allah.

The festival which often seems barbaric to many for the massive scale slaughter sacrifice of cattle, which is often times brutal due to the ignorance of those who perform it, is supposed to be a solemn affair, without reveling in any glee or blood-thirst.

Every adult Muslim with capacity to afford an animal is supposed to offer *Qurbani*, literally sacrifice, to remember the exceptional piety of the Prophet Ibrahim (AS), who prepared himself to even give up his beloved son when asked by Allah, regardless of the pain it would cause him personally.

This willingness to give up his 'most beloved' possession for the love of Allah is what forms the base of the festival of sacrifice.

As Muslims, and as human beings, we must remember that all life is sacred, and that includes the cattle we offer for sacrifice. These are sentient beings, and of

course each of the animals' life is to be taken with just solemnity.

This festival is not about offering the most expensive animal, it is not about showing off the most number of animals

The people offering sacrifice must be of sound mind and judgment. The animal used should be healthy and mature and without any permanent disfigurements. During the time of the festival, charity does not substitute Qurbani donations, nor does it fulfill the obligation.

Animals should be purchased some days ahead of the festival, and properly fed, nurtured and cared for. No animal should be made to see/observe or kept in the vicinity when another animal is sacrificed. No elements of slaughter shall be sharpened or kept in front of the animal ahead of time. All knives should be sharp, and the slaughter done with care to avoid needless suffering of the animal. Skinning must not begin until the animal is completely cold. The meat should be divided according to weight and not approximation. The butcher cannot be paid in meat, and the proceeds from the sale of the skin of the animal must be given in charity. The skin itself can also be used for personal use, but the money from it must not be.

that a person can buy, it is also not about indulgence in gluttony.

What is this about then?

The sacrifice should remind us of the nature of life, how vulnerable it is, how transient. Most of us eat meat all through the year, and it is off course procured through killing animals, just not before our very eyes. But the guidelines for the sacrifice itself, and more so for the sharing of the meat is a good indicator of how Allah wants us to live our lives at all other times of the year—one third for those in need, one third for family and friends, and only the remaining third for ourselves.

It serves as a good reminder of what is expected of a Muslim as a part of a society. Share your wealth and all of Allah's bounty with the people around you; some for those who might not be as privileged as you are — to foster bonds of brotherhood and community, some for those who are near and dear to you — to strengthen the bonds of love and affection, and only the rest for your own self.

So are we not supposed to enjoy the delicious things that our mothers make for us from the plentiful supply of meat during the festival?

Of course we can!

It is much love and a lot of hard work that goes into preparation of the food. It also often meal times such as those during festivals that help us make the very best of our memories for later years. Yet we also must remember why we do what we do, and let us pray that our Qurbanis are accepted.

By Sania Aiman

TIPS

Pointers for a stress free Eid

A successful Eid party lives on in everyone's memory long after the last glass of punch has been sipped and the last bit of dessert eaten. But the fuss and frustration of planning can be a big party pooper. In all the excitement and flurry of Eid, it can become quite overwhelming for the ones arranging the festivities for the day. So as not to get caught in the whirlwind, it is important to plan ahead and decide on the nitty-gritties from beforehand.

DECIDE - COW OR GOAT? PICK YOUR BUTCHER

Have a look inside your purse before deciding on what to buy this Eid. Although a cow is much preferred, a goat may fit your budget much easily. It is best to buy the day before Eid.

Livestock prices generally go up outrageously before Eid but with only one day left to the feast, sellers will be eager to get

rid of their remaining stock, so prices often slide.

Another advantage is that you will not have the animal in your yard for long. After making your pick, make sure you book the professional butcher for Eid day.

GET THE RECIPE

You may have a well-guarded family recipe or you may want to experiment with a fusion dish this Eid. Just make sure you draw up a grocery list and get the ingredients beforehand. It will lead to a hassle-free cooking experience on the day and you can get ready to wow your guests' taste buds.

FANCY INTERIORS

Go the extra mile in setting up your dinner table this Eid, as nothing is over-the-top for this occasion. A flower setting at the centre of the table or an array of candles will all complement the scrump-

tious beef and mutton dishes on display. Your home should carry the vibrant mood of Eid with bright coloured cushions, rugs and your best china. Chilled welcome drinks served in dispensers with taps on the table also add an element of drama as it will be quite hot this Eid as well.

DRESS FOR THE OCCASION

Dressing up and Eid go hand in hand. But make sure you have a day time and night time attire picked out as most families have activities planned out for the whole day. Opt for a light and breezy outfit for the day time in shades of white, creams or pastels, while you can go all out for your night time look. If you have the attire picked out for you and your family in advance, it will save you the hassle of deciding on what to wear on the day.

-- LS Desk