

## **Eid al-Fitr: A Celebration of Gratitude and Joy**

Eid al-Fitr, also known as the **Festival of Breaking the Fast**, marks the end of **Ramadan**, a month of fasting, prayer, and self-discipline. It begins with a special **Eid prayer** at the mosque, where Muslims gather to seek blessings and **express gratitude**. Before the prayer, it is **mandatory** to give **Zakat al-Fitr**, a form of charity that helps the less fortunate join in the celebrations. People wear **new or traditional clothes**, symbolizing **renewal and purity**, and greet each other with warm wishes like "**Eid Mubarak!**"

After the prayer, families and friends gather to enjoy **festive meals**, which often include traditional sweets like **sheer khurma, baklava, and maamoul**. The exchange of **Eidi**—money or gifts given to children—**adds excitement to the celebration**. People visit relatives, neighbors, and friends to **strengthen relationships**, and many take the opportunity to offer **forgiveness and kindness**. **Acts of generosity**, such as donating to charity or helping those in need, continue beyond Ramadan.

Beyond the **festivities**, Eid al-Fitr holds deep **spiritual significance**. It reminds Muslims to carry forward the values of **patience, self-discipline, and compassion** learned during Ramadan. The festival is a time of **joy, unity, and reflection**, bringing families and communities closer together.