



Id-ul-Zuha is a festival of great rejoice. Special prayers with exchange of greetings and gifts mark the Occasion of Id-ul-Zuha (*Bakr-Id*). This festival of sacrifice is celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety in India. Id-ul-Zuha is a reminder of Prophet Ibrahim's readiness to sacrifice his son for God's sake. It also marks the completion of Haj (pilgrimage to Mecca). On this day, special `Dua' is recited by thousands of Muslims for peace and prosperity. This festival coincides with the Haj pilgrimage in Mecca. Prayers are offered in the mosques.



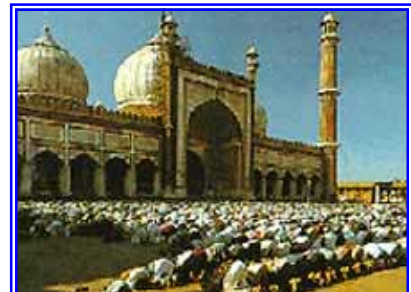
Legends



It is a commemoration of Hazrat Ibrahim's great test of obedience to *Allah*, who ordered him to sacrifice the person dearest to him. Ibrahim decided to sacrifice his son Ismail, at Mina, near *Mecca*.

Rituals

Id-ul-Zuha, is celebrated from the Tenth to the Twelfth day in the Islamic month of *Dhul Hijjah*. Every year, while visiting the mount of Mina pilgrims make animal sacrifices as part of the pilgrimage rituals. This festival is also called *Bakr-Id*. Every true Muslim who possesses wealth equal to or more than 400 grams of gold or is capable of affording two square meals a day is expected to sacrifice an animal on the eve of this festival. The sacrificial offering is divided in three



parts - one for the self, another for friends, and the third, most importantly, for the needy.

Celebration



Festivities start from the first day, when people wear new clothes, offer prayers at the mosque, greet friends and relatives. Special prayers are offered on all three days. It is said that the celebrations are carried on, over three days to ensure that the entire Muslim community partakes in the noble act of giving and sharing.