

Fifth Example

Understanding the Ahadith on *Al-Adha Eid* Sacrifices

Salamah Ibn Al-Akwa narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Whoever sacrifices (animal) should not keep anything of its meat after three days." When it was the next year the people said, "O Allah's Messenger (PBUH)! Shall we do as we did last year?" He said, 'Eat of it and feed of it to others and store of it for in that year the people were having a hard time and I wanted you to help (the needy).'¹

Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said: Do not eat the flesh of sacrificed animals beyond three days. They (the Companions of the Prophet) complained to the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) that they had children and servants of theirs (to feed), whereupon he said: Eat, and feed others, and store, and make it a provision of food.²

Abdullah Ibn Waqid said, "The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) forbade eating the meat from sacrificial animals after three days." Abdullah Ibn Abi Bakr said, "I mentioned that to Amra Bint Abd Al-Rahman, and she affirmed that he had spoken the truth as she had heard Aishah, the wife of the Prophet (PBUH) say, 'Some people from the desert came at the time of the sacrifice in the time of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH). So the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, 'Store up for three days, and give what is left over as *Sadaqah* (charity).'" She said that afterwards someone said to the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) that people had been accustomed to make use of their sacrificial animals, melting³ the fat⁴ and curing the skins. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "What about that?" They said, "You have forbidden the meat of sacrificial animals

¹ Al-Bukhari, *Sahih*, Book of "Sacrifices", Chapter: What may be eaten of the meat of sacrifices and what may be taken as journey food, Hadith no. 5569.

² Muslim, *Sahih*, Book of "Sacrifices", Chapter: The prohibition of eating sacrificial meat for more than three days, which applied at the beginning of Islam but was then abrogated, Hadith no. 1973.

after three days." The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "I only forbade you for the sake of the people who were coming to you. Eat, give *Sadaqah* and store up."⁵

Ibn Umar narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said: "None of you should eat from the meat of his sacrificial animal beyond three days."⁶

Thus, reviewing these Ahadith and their contexts, we can understand that the Ahadith stating "eat, give charity, and store up" and the Hadith of "Do not eat the meat of sacrificed animals after three days" do not abrogate each other. Rather, each one addresses certain circumstances. In good times, we shall act upon the Hadith "eat, give charity, and store up", while in times of economic hardships or poverty, we shall act upon the Hadith of "None of you should eat from the meat of his sacrificial animal beyond three days". The Prophet (PBUH) clearly stated this when people asked him about his prohibition "Eat of it and feed of it to others and store of it for in that year the people were having a hard time and I wanted you to help (the needy)."

Most people unfortunately restrict themselves to the Prophet's saying, "eat, give charity, and store up", and consider it is an absolute obligation to divide the sacrifice into three equal parts: one third for the poor, one third to give as a present, and one third for one's family. However, this way of distribution is just a roughly one meaning not to neglect the poor's share.

However, we affirm the necessity of providing the poor and the needy and giving them the largest portion of the sacrifice. A'ishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) had slaughtered a sheep and distributed major portions of its meat. Then he (PBUH) asked, "What remains of it?" She said: "Nothing remains of it except its shoulder." He said: "All of it remains except its shoulder."⁷ Thus, it is the Portion given as charity which a person will find in the Hereafter. Allah (Glory be to him) says, "What you have, runs out; but what God has endures" (Qur'an, 26: 96)

⁵ Muslim, *Sahih*, , Book of "Sacrifices", Chapter: The prohibition of eating sacrificial meat for more than three days, which applied at the beginning of Islam but was then abrogated, Hadith no. 1971.

⁶ Al-Tirmidhi, *Sunan*, The Book on Sacrifices, Chapter: The Prohibition To Eat From The Sacrificial Meat Beyond Three Days, Hadith no. 1509.

⁷ Ai-Tirmidhi, *Sunan*, Book of AMrriage, Hadith no. 2470.

The Prophet (PBUH) urged us to help the poor and the needy on the Day of *Eid* saying "Provide them on that day."⁸ That is, give them charity and do not let them ask people for help on that day. Allah's bounties upon us shall increase when we thank Him and help people. Allah says, "Remember that He promised, 'If you are thankful, I will give you more, but if you are thankless, My punishment is terrible indeed.'" (The Quran, 14: 7) and says, "Though now you are called upon to give [a little] for the sake of God, some of you are grudging. Whoever is grudging is so only towards himself: God is the source of wealth and you are the needy ones. He will substitute other people for you if you turn away, and they will not be like you." (The Quran 47: 38). The Prophet (PBUH) says, "Every day two angels come down from Heaven and one of them says, 'O Allah! Compensate every person who spends in Your Cause,' and the other (angel) says, 'O Allah! Destroy every miser.'"⁹

The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Allah has given bounties for some people, and will keep these bounties as long as those people serve other humans. If those people disliked serving others, Allah will deprive them these bounties"¹⁰

⁸ Al-Daruqutni, *Sunan*, Book of Zakat Al-Fitr, Hadith no. 2133..

⁹ Al-Bukhari, *Sahih*, Book of Zakah, Chapter: " There is the one who gives, who is mindful of God, who testifies to goodness– We will facilitate for them the Way of Ease.", Hadith no. 1442.

¹⁰ Al-Tabarani, *Al-Mu'jam Al-Awsat*, Hadith no. 8350.