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The sacrifice of animals is a practice deeply rooted in human history and observed across civilizations and faith traditions for centuries. Throughout time, sacrifices have been offered for varying reasons viz. as expressions of gratitude, devotion, reverence, and submission.

In Islam, however, Qurbaani carries a far deeper and uniquely profound meaning.

The sacred tradition of Qurbaani traces its origins to the **monumental test of faith of Prophet Ibraheem (peace be upon him)**, who demonstrated absolute submission to the command of Almighty Allah by preparing to **sacrifice his beloved son, Prophet Ismaeel (peace be upon him)**. It was an act of unparalleled obedience, sincerity, and devotion; a sacrifice not merely of flesh and blood, but of ego, desire, and attachment for the Pleasure of the Creator, Almighty Allah.

So beloved was this act of submission that it was ordained as a lasting practice for the Ummah of the final Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) until the end of time.

Thus, each year during Eid al-Adha, **millions of Muslims across the world revive this sacred tradition through the offering of Qurbaani in fulfilment of a Divine command.**

The word “Qurbaani,” commonly used in the Indian subcontinent, stems from the meaning “to draw closer.” In the Arab world, the term “Udh-hiyah” is more commonly used. Yet the essence remains the same — **drawing closer to Almighty Allah through sincere sacrifice, devotion, and obedience.**

Qurbaani is therefore far more than the ritual slaughter of an animal. It is a profound spiritual exercise intended **to cultivate piety, discipline, compassion, gratitude, and unwavering submission to Divine guidance.**

The true spirit of Qurbaani is beautifully encapsulated in the Qur'ānic declaration:

“Neither their meat nor their blood reaches Allah, but it is your piety that reaches Him.”

(Surah al-Hajj 22:37)

This powerful verse reminds the believer that the essence of Qurbaani lies not in outward ritual alone, but in the condition of the heart – sincerity, taqwā, and complete obedience to Almighty Allah. It is for this reason that the values of Qurbaani and Halaal consumption are deeply interconnected. Both are acts of worship. Both are manifestations of obedience to Divine law. Both require the believer to place the command of Allah above personal desire, convenience, trends, or worldly pressures. A Muslim who truly understands the message of Qurbaani cannot remain indifferent regarding what he consumes on a daily basis.

Qurbaani is an annual command. Halaal consumption is a lifelong daily command.

In today's rapidly evolving global food environment where manufacturing systems, ingredients, processing methods, additives, flavourings, and supply chains grow increasingly complex, the responsibility of ensuring genuine Halaal compliance has become more intricate and demanding than ever before.

This reality makes the role of authentic Halaal governance and rigorous compliance not merely important, but indispensable.

For nearly three decades, SANHA has remained committed, by the grace of Almighty Allah, to safeguarding the integrity of Halaal consumption through structured Halaal assurance, scholarly oversight, technical scrutiny, and principled governance.

Islam is not a religion of emotionalism detached from law and structure.

Fiqh, Islamic jurisprudence, is an indispensable component of our Dīn. It provides the lawful framework through which Muslims practise and preserve their faith correctly and responsibly in every sphere of life.

The commands originate from the Qur'aan and Sunnah, while the methodology of implementation is governed through the principles of Fiqh developed and preserved by the scholars of this Ummah over centuries.

It is therefore both regrettable and irresponsible when certain individuals seek to trivialise or politicise legitimate scholarly discussions regarding the parameters of Halaal and Haraam by dismissing them as “nonsensical arguments.” Such rhetoric undermines the seriousness of Divine Injunctions and attempts to repurpose sacred religious obligations for external agendas.

As we celebrate the blessed days of Eid al-Adha, the South African National Halaal Authority extends its heartfelt wishes to the Muslim community and to all South Africans for a spiritually uplifting and blessed Eid.

May Almighty Allah accept our sacrifices, strengthen our obedience, purify our hearts, and allow the true spirit of Qurbaani: sincerity, sacrifice, submission, and devotion to become permanently

embedded in our lives. Aameen.

Eid Mubarak. Taqabbalallahu Minna Wa Minkum