



**Masjid E Tauheedul Islam**

THE CENTRAL MASJID OF BLACKBURN

# Islamic Birth Rites

According to Hadith and  
Shariah

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# 1. Time of Birth

Birth Attendants and the time of birth the following should be observed:

- Ghair Mahaarim should not be present
- Only 1 or 2 close relatives can be present
- Modesty / Hayaa and Satar ( covering of the body) masail must be kept in mind.
- Family pressures / sisters in law, mother in law do not need to be present against the wishes of the mother who is giving birth.
- There is no such Taweez, book, emulate or formulae that can make the pain of labour go away.
- All such practices are innovations and not encouraged by Shariah



## 2. After Birth

### **Umbilical Cord & Placenta**

As every portion of the human body is sacred, parents of the newborn should ensure they 'collect' the placenta and arrange for the burial.

Most hospital authorities are only too willing to allow the father to collect the after birth in an airtight container. One merely needs to request politely at the appropriate time.

Once collected, the placenta should be wrapped in cloth and buried in the garden. One does not need to bury the placenta at the cemetery.

### **Ghusl (Bathing)**

Clean and bathe the baby as soon as possible after birth. Although midwives clean the baby with 'baby wipes', at the first opportunity, mothers should give a complete Sharee ghusl. No gargling or placing of water up the baby's nostrils is necessary and do remember to wrap up the baby well and ensure a warm environment.



### 3. Call to prayer (Adhan & Iqaamah)

It is narrated from Abu Raafi' (RadhiAllahuAnhu):

***"I saw the Prophet SAW give Adhan for the Prayer in the ear of al-Husayn ibn 'Alee when his mother Fatimah (RA) gave birth to him." (Reported by Ahmad, Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhee who declared it 'hasan').***

A new born child should hear the Zikr of Allah upon their arrival into this world. After the baby is born the Adhan should be said in the right ear and the Takbeer (Iqaamah) should be said in the left ear by anyone who is able to say the Adhan of the Salaat such as the father. This should be done as soon as possible.

Do not unnecessary delay in calling of the Adhan & Iqaamah, hoping for some scholar will do this.

Ulamah have mentioned one hikmat behind the recitation of Adhan to make the baby aware that both the Adhan and Iqaamah have been called, now await your Janazaah (funeral) salat. Another hikmat is to strenghten the capacity of Imaan in the baby by making them aware of the 'Greatness of Allah SWT' which is repeated constantly in both Adhan and Iqaamah. This also serves to distance Shaytan. In brief , these acts are a forewarning not to remain oblivious to the Hereafter in this world.





## 4. Breast feeding

**Hadith: Prophet SAW commented:**

***'When a woman breastfeeds her baby, then for every gulp of milk sucked by the baby, she receives thwaab equivalent to the reward of reviving a dead person. When she weans her baby a 'special angel' congratulates her (on the successful execution of the holy obligation of breastfeeding). And he says: 'All your past (minor) sins are forgiven.'*** (Al- Maratus Sallihah)

Breast feeding is an ibaadat which earns tremendous reward and enhances the bond between mother and child. Before, Muslim mothers used to always breastfeed their babies whilst in the state of wudhu and after reciting ***Bismillah***. This is one reason why great personalities knew by heart large portions of the Glorious Quran even before weaning.

From a purely health point of view, every mother should breast feed unless there is some medical complication. Mothers milk conveys to the baby immunity from any diseases; reduces the chances of gastro and bowel problems and establishes the baby's nutrition in the natural manner.

Breastfeeding strengthens the bond between mother & child. Breastfeeding is an amaanah. Breast milk is provided by Allah SWT for the needs of the child.

# 5. Tahneek

Asmaa' RA relates:

**‘ When Abdullah bin Zubair RA was born [we] presented him into the lap of Prophet SAW, whom requested a date and after chewing it, placed a small amount onto the palate of Abdullah bin Zubair RA, making dua for Khair [goodness] and barakah [blessings].**

Therefore request some pious Muttaqee person to chew and completely soften a piece of date. Thereafter place an extremely small amount [the purpose is to taste(not feed), sweetness of the date and saliva of some pious person] unto the palate of the baby by way of blessing. This is known as Tahneek – a sunnah of our beloved Prophet SAW and practice by the Sahabah RA. Our Pious scholars state that this chewed date: its sweetness and the saliva of some pious Muttaqee entering the child's stomach, will Insha Allah will assist the baby in acquiring Taqwa.

Although any muslim may carry out this act, it is best if the person performing the Tahneek be a pious person. Somebody once asked Shaikh Rashid Ahmed Gangohi Rahmatullahi alaih, ‘What is the ruling regarding Tahneek?’ the Shaikh replied ‘ Should the Tahneek be from a pious Muttaqee Alim then is masnoon, otherwise what benefit is there in tasting the saliva of some sinner!.

# 5. Tahneek

Tahneek is the process of chewing some food (usually dates) and gently rubbing it against the baby's upper jaw or palate so that the baby can suck or eat it.

There are many benefits of the tahneek, both medical and non-medical.

1. In performing the Tahneek, one is following the Sunnah of the beloved Messenger Muhammad (SAW), and a revival of his Sunnah which he used to perform with his Companions - and this is more than sufficient wisdom in itself.
2. It is, furthermore, a Prophetic miracle and protects the child from a danger which has only recently become apparent to the medical profession. This is that newborn babies may die if their blood sugar level is too low, and after the birth the baby's nutrition from its mother is cut off, so his body turns to whatever he has stored up whilst he was in his mother's womb - until his mother is able to breast feed him/her. It is at this time that the child's organs are most active, so whatever stores it has may quickly be exhausted causing the blood sugar level to drop and resulting in danger. We, therefore, find that rubbing the child's palate with a crushed date - which contains a large percentage of sugar - provides him/her with sugar which can pass into his system quickly and will be a protection for him/her from that deficiency should it occur. So how far above and free from any deficiency is Allah (SWT), the Most Wise?



# 5. Tahneek



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3. The tahneek also exercises the muscles of the mouth and helps with the circulation of blood in the mouth - which is brought about by rubbing the date upon the palate, and by the movement of the jaws when he chews and licks - this also helps the baby to be able to suck and take the mother's milk.
4. Furthermore, as is well-known, the date has a number of different benefits for health - so performing tahneek as done by the Messenger (SAW) - will produce a number of such benefits helping the body and health of the child.

# 6. Aqeeqah

**Hadith:**

**The Aqeeqah is a right (upon you). Sacrifice two sheep for a boy and one for a girl.(Ahmad)**

**Hadith:**

**Bareerah (RA) reported that the Prophet (SAW) said:**

**The Aqeeqah should be slaughtered on the seventh, the fourteenth, or the twenty first day.(Tabarani).**

Hakeemul Ummat rahmatullah alaih advised by preforming Aqeeqah (slaughtering of the animal) the child is safe from misfortune and mishaps. One should note the following:

1. Whenever a boy or girl is born, is it preferable to name the child and perform Aqeeqah on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.
2. For Aqeeqah, 2 sheep or goats should be slaughtered for a boy and 1 sheep or goat for a girl. Alternatively, these shares may be incorporated in one of the 7 shares in a cow or camel.
3. Hair of the head should be clean shaved on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and its weight equivalent in silver (our Ulama suggests £5) should be donated to the poor in charity. Remember to bury the hair. One may rub some saffron on the child's head.
4. If unable to afford 2 Aqeeqah animals for the boy, 1 animal too is sufficient. Should this also be beyond ones means, then there is absolutely no harm in not performing Aqeeqah.
5. If Aqeeqah was not performed on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, whenever this act is carried out, try to make it on a 7<sup>th</sup> day, e.g. if the child was born on a Friday try to perform Aqeeqah on a Thursday.
6. The Aqeeqah meat may be distributed both raw and cooked to whomsoever one wishes; relatives, friends, poor and the rich.
7. The animal which is fit for Qurbani is also fit for Aqeeqah.

## 6. Aqeeqah



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There is a common misconception that the Aqeeqah is actually a party organised by the family of the newborn after the meat has been cooked.

### Hadith:

**Allah's Messenger (SAW) commanded His daughter to do this for her children: "O Fatimah, shave his head, and give charity equal to his hairs' weight in silver." (Ahmad)**

After shaving the newborns head, Sadaqah is to be given which is equal in value to the weight of the hair in silver.

**Whilst carrying out a great Sunnah of our beloved Prophet SAW great care should be taken that everything should be undertaken according to Shariah. Extravagance and expenditure in the form of hiring halls etc. should be avoided.**

# 7. Naming the baby



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Hadith:

**Abdullah Bin Amr reported: The Prophet (SAW) commanded us to name a newborn on its seventh day...**

**Naming a child is an important decision.**

Below are a few Islamic factors that should be considered:

- **It is recommended to give the child a name indicating servitude to Allah (SWT).** Indeed, the best and most beloved names to Allah are: Abdullah (servant of Allah) and Abdur-Rahman (servant of the Most Merciful). (Muslim)
- **It is recommended to name the child after one of the Prophets or Messengers, the most righteous of humanity.** This also used to be practiced by the Bani Israel as the Prophet (SAW) informed us and approved us with his saying: They used to name their children after the Prophets and the pious people who came before them. (Muslim)
- **It is recommended to name the child after pious people in Islam and to teach them about them.** That way the child will grow up to love and respect them and follow their way and adopt their manners in righteousness and knowledge. Names such as names of the Khalifah, companions of the Prophets etc...
- **It is recommended to give the child a name which has a good meaning.** Names which have meaning of chastity, piety, honesty and truth etc..



# 7. Naming the baby



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One may decide on a name before the 7<sup>th</sup> day or even after, however it is necessary to ensure the name is good and authentic.

Our beloved Prophet SAW named his son Ibrahim Radiyallahu Anhu (after their Forefather and Prophet) the next day after birth, this too is permissible.

Always make enquiries from our Ulama into the meanings on the correct spellings of names.

Nowadays the craze is for fancy modern names with a fashionable flavour. Remember well, names greatly influence a persons life and our Prophet SAW often changed names which were dis-pleasing.

# 8. Circumcision (Khitaan)

## Hadith:

**There are five qualities of Fitrah: Circumcision, shaving the pubic hair, trimming the moustache, clipping the nails and plucking the armpit hair. (Bukhari, Muslim).**

Circumcision Khitaan is the removal of the foreskin.

Hakeemul Ummat rahmatullah alaih advised, 'When one notices ability of the child being able to tolerate; perform circumcision without any formality. It is Mustahab to perform it before 7 years of age and compulsory by the time reaches 12 years.

Experienced and pious doctors too recommend 'early' circumcision as Allah Ta'ala has created very rapid healing ability in the newborn.

# 9. Cultural & forbidden practices



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Nowadays the trend amongst Muslims, whom Allah Ta'ala has granted wealth, comfort and affluence, is to hold parties and celebrations upon the flimsiest of pretexts. These include:

- Baby showers
- Birthday parties
- Halls for Aqeeqah celebrations
- Extravagance and excessive expenditure on presents and cakes, cards etc..

Our beloved Prophet SAW has exhorted the Ummat from refraining and imitating the kuffar in every respect... 'He who imitates a nation becomes of them'.

If you truly desire goodness for your child adorn him / her with noble character and piety. Balloons, cakes, cards and presents all end up as garbage. Should relatives, friends and associates pressurize one to arrange or attend and of un-islamic event, refuse firmly with hikmaat.