



NUMML

National University of Modern Languages

BS-Software Engineering 1ST-E
Assignment # 3

English

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Title: Essay Writing

Submitted to
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English Composition & Comprehension

Submission Date (3-6-2021)

How I Spend Eid-ul-Fitr????

Eid ul-Fitr is an auspicious festival celebrated by Muslims all around the world. The occasion marks the end of the Islamic holy month fasting of Ramadan. It is believed that Prophet Muhammad got the first revelation of the Holy Quran in this month. The date of the festivity is dependent on the combination of the sighting of the new moon as well as the astronomical calculations. Moreover, the onset of Eid also depends on where an individual is in the world and when the new moon is seen. By sleeping. Then waking up putting on new clothes and going out to eat. Now, that's the way people now a

days seem to be celebrating Eid as I can see from social media and discussions with my friends but that is certainly not how I celebrate Eid! My Eid begins the night before Eid, called "Chand Raat"(moon night, as it's the first sighting of the new moon). First we finish up the preparations of culinary delights for Eid day. Finely chopping walnuts and pistachios and dates to be put in that delectable warm delight of Eid, "sheer korma". Then follows a hurried trip to the tailor to collect the Eid clothes which he had promised to deliver days earlier. After this I went to my friends to have some Chand Raat hang out but due to covid we were unable to go to any good place. . All these activities amidst the playful chatter of a family gathering. Finally we hit the pillows(literally hit them as pillows go into shortage when all of us gather together so really it's a strategy game when you need to ensure you are one of the last to sleep as your pillow can, and will be, slipped out from under you if you sleep early) and in a matter of minutes it seems we are shaken awake by the yelling of my mum. For the boys of the family this time is the hardest! Because all the men must shower and get ready and reach the ground for the communal Eid prayers by 7 in the morning. And when the bathrooms are 2 and men are 16 that can cause a "slight" problem. So after a lot of bumping and swearing and screaming and topsy turvy

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running around (all this assuming no water or electricity outage occurs) they finally looking all nice and serene and shiny and eastern in their new Eid Kurta shalwars. Then it's time for the girls to repeat this cycle but obviously with more screaming and crying and more time taken at every step. Loud voices emanating from the gate indicate that the men are coming back from the Eid prayers. A frantic final touch up and the girls too are all ready. The whole family then greets each other, all the elders and the young hug each other and loudly wish each other "EID MUBARAK". This is my favourite part of Eid as Eid really is a family occasion and this point In time in the courtyard of my grandfather's house when my entire family with fresh faces and bright clothes is laughing and talking happily while the clear bright sunshine of the late morning plays around us and the smell of mehndi and sheer khorma and perfume fills the air all my senses are overwhelmed with the spirit of celebration and the spirit of Eid. No friends party or late night celebration can compare to this moment. We then all of us have SHEER KHORMA. the milk and dry fruit based sweet drink which is special to eid and a delight to have. A heavy breakfast of eggs and parathas and kabab follows. Fights do break out sometimes when it is revealed that a cousin of mine is gobbling all the eggs without any attention to the bread or that the tea is over

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so those who are left can simply fume in anger or take one sip each from the last remaining cups! What follows is the ritual of EIDI! Oh yeah!! The best part of Eid. When all the youngsters in turn bug each of the elders for EIDI. For the uninitiated, Eidi is a token money given on Eid to the children by their elders, kind of like Christmas gifts. It's not a lot but for me the money of Eidi has a higher importance. I wouldn't trade it for ten times its value on any other day of the year. Every one in the family older than me is badgered to give me Eidi no matter how old I get. In fact I myself earn so I give Eidi to those younger than me but still the few rupees given by my grandfather and the corresponding "salaam" or "aadab" that I do has a spirit of Eid written all over it. After lunch we usually debate for long on the merits and demerits of countless movies. This debate eventually culminates in one of us angrily storming out and the others breaking into raucous laughter. Board games follow, chess, carom, or our most favourite and equally controversial, luddo!! Night falls and that is the time we have family photo sessions and then each of us say goodbye loudly and head our own individual homes. Wait, you thought Eid was over? No Way! Eid is THREE day holiday! So the 2nd day of Eid which begins rather lazily is dedicated to my mother's family! And the third day for meeting all the extended family relatives whom

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we never get to meet throughout the year. So in short, my eid is celebrated the way eid-ul-fitar "should" be celebrated. By dressing up, eating, and spending quality time with my entire family

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