

English Translation:

Eids in Iraq dramatically changed because you know that Iraq has gone through three wars: the Iranian War and the First Gulf War in '91 and the last war in 2003. In fact after each war, people's characters and habits change, and the thing most affected is the Eids.

In the beginning before this last war in 2003, people used to visit each other a lot, and go out more. People checking on other people. You could see a family go and give Eid greetings to relatives from both sides: the father's side, and the mother's side. They give Eid greetings the maternal aunts, the maternal uncles, the paternal, and the paternal aunts. They greet the neighbors of course this is the first thing they do; all of them, people greet people, and people visit people.

But now, honestly, no, by Allah, unfortunately, I mean Eid visits have seriously shrank. I mean for Al-Fitr Eid which is three days long, people mostly go out during the second day and that's it. They go visit the main families, for example father's side and mother's side, and that's it. I mean they mostly visit neighbors, and close by people in the same area because the security situation became very difficult, and the matter is very dangerous. I mean there are people in certain places where you cannot get out from your house and go visit anyone. That's why most people stay at home during the Eid.

If the visits are after the Eid, they usually, sorry during the Eid, are short because most families try to visit as many relatives as possible during, for instance, one day. They try to minimize the number of relatives visited because the situation, as I have said, is very dangerous. Most visits do not last after sunset. I mean, you see everyone returning home definitely an hour or two hours before sunset because sometimes curfew happens; in most cases, curfew happens suddenly. I mean in the middle of the day, you can experience curfew. That's why people try to be cautious. In addition, gas is very expensive; its price is unbearable. That's why people try to shrink their expenses regarding this matter.

People used to, unfortunately before this last war or I can say during the eighties or the beginning of the nineties, people used to distribute, for example the father and the mother, they used to distribute what we call *eiddiyya* which is money or sweets or new clothes. They distribute them to children, and sometimes to neighbors or nephews or nieces if they can financially afford. But, by Allah, this tradition has completely disappeared, unfortunately, because people's financial situation became very difficult. That's why many things disappeared including the *eiddiyya*. There is no *eiddiyya* anymore.

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