
In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

What is Zakat-ul-Fitr (Fitrah)?

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Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi, President of the Fiqh Council of North America explains Zakat-ul-Fitr: "*Zakat-ul-Fitr* is a special charity of the month of Ramadan. This charity should be given during the month of Ramadan anytime before the *`Eid-ul-Fitr* prayer. Because it can be given until the *`Eid-ul-Fitr* time, it is called *Zakat-ul-Fitr*. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him (PBUH), urged Muslims to pay this charity in the month of Ramadan."

Narrated Ibn Umar: The Prophet (PBUH) enjoined the payment of one Sa' of dates or one Sa' of barley as Zakat-ul-Fitr on every Muslim slave or free, male or female, young or old, and he ordered that it be paid before the people went out to offer the Eid prayer. (Bukhari).

Zakat-ul-Fitr is often referred to as Fitrah.

Reason for payment:

Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi explains¹: "Various reasons are given by scholars for this obligatory charity. Some say that this charity helps the poor and needy and takes care of their needs in the month of Ramadan and also makes it possible for them to celebrate the *`Eid* festival with other Muslims. Other scholars maintain that this charity is meant to expiate (*Kaffarah*) for any mistakes or wrongdoings a person may have done during this blessed month. Ibn `Abbas said: The Prophet (PBUH) enjoined *Zakat-ul-Fitr* so that those who fast are purified of their sins and the poor and needy people are enabled to arrange for their basic needs of food, clothing etc. Therefore, the *Sadaqah* (charity) of the person who gives before the *`Eid* prayer is the real *Sadaqah*, but if someone delays and gives it afterwards, his charity will be an ordinary one. (Reported by Abu Dawud and Ibn Majah.)"

Dr Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, Dean of the University of Qatar states²: "*Zakat-ul-Fitr* is associated with the *`Eid* and is meant to create happiness in such a way that includes the poor and the needy. That is why the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said: **"Make them (i.e. the poor) rich on this day (i.e. the day of *`Eid*.)"**

¹ Zakat ul-Fitr: Rules and significance, Islamonline, 12 October 2006

² Islamonline