



The Ruling on

# **Zakat ul Fitr**

and Answers to related Questions

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين نبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين، وبعد

## Evidence of Zakat ul Fitr from the Quran & Hadith

Allah says in the Quran:

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى ، وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى

Indeed whosoever purifies himself shall achieve success. And remembers the Name of his Lord and prays. (A'laa: 14 - 15)

Some of the Salaf-us-Saliheen (pious predecessors, Sahaba, Tabi'een and Atba ut'tabi'een) said that this verse refers to Zakat-ul-fitr (ibn Khathir)

### First hadith:

Ibn Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) said:

فَرَضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ زَكَاةَ الْفِطْرِ صَاعًا مِنْ تَمْرٍ أَوْ صَاعًا مِنْ شَعِيرٍ عَلَى الْعَبْدِ وَالْحُرِّ، وَالذَّكَرِ وَالْأُنْثَى، وَالصَّغِيرِ وَالْكَبِيرِ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَأَمَرَ بِهَا أَنْ تُؤَدَّى قَبْلَ خُرُوجِ النَّاسِ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ

Allah's messengers(ﷺ) enjoined the payment of one Saa' of dates or one Saa' 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: 1503)

### Second Hadith:

Abdullah ibn Abbas(May Allah be pleased with them both) said:

فَرَضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ زَكَاةَ الْفِطْرِ طُهْرَةً لِلصَّائِمِ مِنَ  
اللَّغْوِ وَالرَّفَثِ وَطُعْمَةً لِلْمَسَاكِينِ، مَنْ أَدَّاهَا قَبْلَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ زَكَاةٌ  
مَقْبُولَةٌ، وَمَنْ أَدَّاهَا بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ صَدَقَةٌ مِنَ الصَّدَقَاتِ

Allah's messengers(ﷺ) prescribed the Zakat-ul-fitr as a purification of the fasting from empty and obscene talk and as food for the poor. If anyone pays it before the prayer (of Eid), it will be accepted as Zakah. If anyone pays it after the prayer, that will be a sadaqah like other sadaqahs (alms). (Abu Dawud: 1609 | Classified Hasan by Allama Albani )

### Question 1: What is the meaning of Zakat-ul-Fitr?

This is made up of two words; Zakat, which means purity and Fitr, which means the condition before fasting where eating and drinking is allowed. Therefore, Zakat ul fitr means, the obligatory charity following the fasting of Ramadan (in the condition of Fitr), which

comprises specific items, given to specific people in a specific time-period with the sole intention of achieving Allah's pleasure. Some people know Zakat ul Fitr as Fitana.

**Question 2: What is the Ruling on Zakat ul Fitr?**

Zakat ul fitr is obligatory and the evidence of this is in the above mentioned two Ahadith, both of which start with the word فرض (Faradha - enjoined or prescribed, i.e. made part of the legal obligations of Islamic Law).

**Question 3: Who is obliged to give Zakat ul Fitr?**

It is obligatory on every Muslim who has one Saa' of (cereal grains or dates) over and above one day of supply. Please see above mentioned first Hadith.

**Question 4: Is Zakat ul Fitr obligatory for an unborn child?**

It is not obligatory but it is Mustahab (recommended). The second Caliph, Othaman bin Affan (may Allah be pleased with him) used to give it.

**Question 5: Who is responsible for giving Zakat ul Fitr?**

The head of the family will give Zakat for himself and on behalf of all the members of the household that are under his responsibility and are financially dependent upon him.

**Question 6: Is Zakat ul Fitr obligatory on a traveler?**

Yes, because it is obligatory on every Muslim as mentioned in the above Ahadith.

**Question 7: Who is entitled to receive Zakat ul Fitr?**

The Masakeen (poor & needy) as mentioned above in the Second Hadith.

**Question 8: In what form is Zakat ul Fitr should be given?**

Grains and cereals like wheat, barley, rice, etc. or similar things (i.e. those food items that can be stored in normal conditions for a long period) like dates.

**Question 9:** Can Zakat ul Fitr be given in cash or other forms of wealth?

No, it is not permissible as mentioned in the First Hadith (*Allah's messenger (ﷺ) enjoined the payment of one Saa' of dates or one Saa of barley...* ). Imam Ahmed bin Hanbal (May Allah have mercy upon him) said, "It is not permissible to give the (monetary) value of Zakat ul Fitr. Someone asked him, "Some people say that Umar ibn Abdul-Aziz (may Allah have mercy upon him) used to receive the value of Zakat ul Fitr in the form of wealth?" Imam Ahmed said, " (They) leave the command of the Prophet(ﷺ) and follow someone else's saying. And Abdullah ibn Umar (May Allah be pleased with them both) said, "Allah's messenger(ﷺ) enjoined the payment of one Saa'..." and narrated the entire Hadith which mentions a Saa' and the (monetary) value of Zakat ul Fitr.

**Question 10:** Is it permissible to give Zakat ul Fitr (as a contribution) for the construction of a Masjid or an Islamic School?

It is not permissible. The hadith mentioned above clearly states that it is for the Maskeen (poor & needy). However, if there are poor and needy teachers or students who are entitled to receive Zakat ul Fitr, then giving the Zakat to them is permissible.

**Question 11:** How much is given in Zakat ul Fitr?

It is one Saa', which is equivalent to approximately 3 kilograms for most food items.

**Question 12:** What is the prescribed time for giving away Zakat ul Fitr?

It is obligatory to pay the Zakat before the start of Eid prayer. The Mustahab (recommended) time to give Zakat is on the day of Eid, after the Fajr prayer and before the Eid prayer. It is permissible to give it one or two days before Eid. This was practiced by some Sahab (Companions), may Allah be pleased with them all.



**Question 13: Where should one give away Zakat ul Fitr?**

**It should be given in the same city where the person who is responsible for giving the Zakat is a resident. If he has poor relatives in another city or country, then sending it there is also permissible with the condition that a trustworthy person is made responsible and it reaches the rightful recipients before the time of the Eid prayer.**

**Question 14: What is the wisdom behind Zakat ul Fitr?**

**It is to purify us from the mistakes made during fasting and it provides food for the poor and needy, who can benefit from it for a longer period.**

**We pray to Allah that He grants us beneficial knowledge and guides us towards good deeds; accept our prayers, fasting, night-prayer, charity and alms. Guide us to observe the night prayer on the night of Qadr and free ourselves from the fires of Hell. Aameen.**

**May Allah Exalt the mention of our Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) and grant him peace, his family and all his Companions.**