



*The Ruling on*

# Zakā̃t-ul-Fitr

*and Answers to Related Questions*

*By*

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1<sup>st</sup> Edition

Published by: [www.ashabulhadith.com](http://www.ashabulhadith.com)

Price: Free

*June 2016*

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## Ruling on Zakāt-ul-Fitr and Answers to Related Questions

Allah ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

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

Some of the Salaf-us-Saliheen (pious predecessors, Sahaba, Tabi'een and Atba ut'tabi'een) that this verse refers to Zakāt-ul-Fitr (Ibn Kathir)

First Hadith:

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

*The Messenger of Allah ﷺ enjoined the payment of one Saa' of dates or one Saa' of barley as Zakāt-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.* (Sahih Bukhari)

Second Hadith:

Narrated Abdullah ibn Abbas:

*The Messenger of Allah ﷺ prescribed the Zakāt-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; Graded 'Hasan' by Al-Albani)

### Question # 1: What is the meaning of Zakāt-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, Zakāt-ul-Fitr means, the obligatory charity following the fasting of Ramadan (in the condition of Fitr), which comprises of specific items, given to specific people in a specific time-period with the sole intention of achieving Allah’s pleasure.

Some people know Zakāt-ul-Fitr as Fitrana.

### Question # 2: What is the Ruling on Zakāt-ul-Fitr?

Zakāt-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 Zakāt-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 Zakāt-ul-Fitr obligatory for an unborn child?

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

### Question # 5: Who is responsible to give Zakāt-ul-Fitr?

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

### Question # 6: Is Zakāt-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 Zakāt-ul-Fitr?

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

### Question # 8: In what form is Zakāt-ul-Fitr to 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 Zakāt-ul-Fitr be given in cash or other forms of wealth?

No, it is not permissible as mentioned in the First Hadith (*The Messenger of Allah ﷺ enjoined the payment of one Saa’ of dates or one Saa’ of barley...*). Imaam Ahmed bin Hanbal (May Allah have mercy upon him) said, “It is not permissible to give the (monetary) value of Zakāt-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 Zakāt-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, ‘*The Messenger of Allah ﷺ enjoined the payment of one Saa’...*’ and narrated the entire Hadith which mentions a ‘Saa’ and not the (monetary) value of Zakāt-ul-Fitr.

**Question # 10: Is it permissible to give Zakāt-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 *Masakeen* (poor & needy). However, if there are poor and needy teachers or students who are entitled to receive Zakāt-ul-Fitr, then giving the Zakat to them is permissible.

**Question # 11: How much is given in Zakāt-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 Zakāt-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 *Sahaba* (Companions), may Allah be pleased with them all.

**Question # 13: Where should one give away Zakāt-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 Eid prayer.

**Question # 14: What is the wisdom behind Zakāt-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 grant us beneficial knowledge and guide 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.*