

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا لِأَنفُسِكُمْ مِنْ

خَيْرٍ تَجِدُوهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

...وَالصَّدَقَةُ تُطْفِئُ الْخَطِيئَةَ كَمَا يُطْفِئُ الْمَاءُ النَّارَ.

ZAKAT AND THE SADAQAH OF FITR

Honorable Muslims!

Our wealth, property, and all the means we possess are trusts granted to us by Allah the Almighty. Fulfilling gratitude for these trusts becomes possible by sharing our possessions with those in need, with orphans, the destitute, and those who have no one to care for them. Indeed, the form of this consciousness of trust that has been transformed into an act of worship is zakat and the sadaqah of fitr.

Dear Believers!

Zakat is one of the five fundamental pillars of Islam. Zakat is not merely a donation; rather, it is an act of worship prescribed directly by Allah the Almighty and His Messenger. It is a divine blessing that does not diminish a person's wealth but brings it abundance and blessing.¹ As it is stated in the verse, “**And in their wealth there was a rightful share 'fulfilled' for the beggar and the poor,**”² zakat is not a favor that places the poor under obligation, but the fulfillment of their rightful due.

Esteemed Muslims!

Zakat establishes bridges of mutual assistance and solidarity, mercy and compassion among the believers. It becomes a means for strengthening unity and togetherness even further. It enables the spirit of brotherhood to be felt in hearts, within households, and at the tables of people. In this respect, zakat makes a great contribution to social peace, tranquility, and solidarity.

Giving zakat purifies a person from selfishness, envy, and miserliness. Zakat helps a person restrain the love of wealth and worldly greed within the heart and assists in cleansing one from sins. As the beloved the Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “...Zakat extinguishes sins just as water extinguishes fire.”³

Honorable Believers!

As for the sadaqah of fitr, which we commonly know as fitrah, it is an expression of gratitude for reaching the blessed month of Ramadan and for attaining the day of Eid. Our Prophet (saw) commanded that we deliver our sadaqah of fitr to those in need before performing the Eid prayer.⁴ Through the sadaqah of fitr, the Eid al-Fitr becomes an exceptional time in which mercy and affection, joy and happiness spread throughout the entire society.

Noble Muslims!

In giving zakat and the sadaqah of fitr, the essential principle is that people should first look after needy relatives and neighbors within their own surroundings. Then, one should extend these acts of charity to brothers and sisters living in oppressed and distressed regions. Today, what falls upon us is to make use of Ramadan al-Sharif by bringing joy to the table of a poor person through our zakat and fitrah. It is to lighten the burden of one who is in debt, to extend a helping hand to the stranded traveler, and to bring a smile to the face of an orphan, the fatherless, and the lonely. It is to continue standing beside the oppressed and to remain a source of hope for them. In doing so, it is to transform the blessings granted to us by Allah the Almighty into an everlasting reward.

We conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following verse of Allah the Almighty: “**Establish prayer, and pay alms-tax. Whatever good you send forth for yourselves, you will 'certainly' find 'its reward' with Allah. Surely Allah is All-Seeing of what you do.**”⁵

¹ Baqarah, 2/276.

² Dhariyat, 51/19.

³ Tirmidhi, Jumu'ah, 79.

⁴ Bukhari, Zakat, 70.

⁵ Baqarah, 2/110.

