

Date: 31.03.2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمَا أَنْفَقْتُمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَهُوَ يُخْلِفُهُ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الصَّدَقَةُ تُطْفِئُ الْخَطِيئَةَ كَمَا يُطْفِئُ الْمَاءُ النَّارَ.

ZAKAT: A BRIDGE OF SOLIDARITY IN ISLAM

Dear Muslims!

We are the trustees of our Lord's blessings in this world. We also know that every blessing requires us to express our gratitude in its own kind. The gratitude for our heart is expressed through faith in Allah the Almighty (swt). The gratitude for our tongue is expressed through speaking and upholding the truth. The gratitude for our body is expressed through worship. The gratitude for our wealth is expressed in the form of zakat and sadaqah.

Dear Believers!

Zakat, one of the five pillars of Islam, is a bridge of brotherhood between Muslims. It is one of the most beautiful manifestations of solidarity and sharing. Zakat is an act of worship that leads individuals to welfare and society to prosperity. It is the manifestation of our submission to Allah the Almighty (swt) and our sincerity towards our brothers and sisters.

Zakat implies being mentioned in the supplication of a person in distress, as well as being the source of joy for iftar for a person in need. It is to be a remedy and comfort for a broken and grieving heart. It is to be the hand of compassion that caresses an orphan's head, to have a contribution to an oppressed person's food.

Dear Muslims!

Zakat is the sharing of a certain portion of one's wealth with those in need by a believer who is considered wealthy in religious terms. In fact, a believer, by giving zakat, delivers to their brothers and sisters in need their rightful share. Our Lord Almighty (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an as follows about His pious servants: **وَقَىٰ أَمْوَالِهِمْ حَقًّا لِّلسَّائِلِ وَالْمَحْرُومِ**

“And in their wealth there was a rightful share fulfilled for the beggar and the poor.”¹

Dear Believers!

Our Almighty Lord (swt) states in the Holy Qur'an, our guide for life, as follows: “**And whatever you spend in charity, He will compensate you for it. For He is the Best Provider.**”² This verse teaches us that zakat never causes the wealth to shrink, but rather makes it abundant and turns it into sustenance for the Hereafter. It liberates people from being enslaved by the world and leads them to true freedom.

Zakat is the assurance of social peace. This unique act of worship reinforces our unity and solidarity and strengthens our brotherhood. It purifies us from bad habits such as stinginess and worldliness. It cleanses believers from sins and enables them to attain the pleasure and forgiveness of their Lord. Our Prophet (saw) tells us about this virtue of zakat as follows: “**Charity extinguishes bad deeds just as water extinguishes fire.**”³

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

May our earnings be blessed thanks to our zakat in the days of Ramadan, when the need for cooperation and solidarity increases even more. May our homes be filled with peace and joy. May mercy and compassion surround us. Let us seek Allah's (swt) pleasure in the joy of an orphan. Let us attain happiness in the supplications of our brothers and sisters in need, both in this world and the Hereafter. Let us not forget infaq, spending in the way of Allah (swt), has its own etiquette. Let us also observe courtesy and grace in the performance of the worship of zakat. Let us search for those genuinely in need. Let us continue to reach them with our aid.

Dear Muslims!

Our Türkiye Diyanet Foundation highlights the importance of the worship of zakat with the campaign “May Our Brotherhood be Blessed with Zakat” this Ramadan, as it does every year. It delivers the zakat entrusted by our benevolent nation to those in need, especially to our brothers and sisters victimized by the earthquake. You can also contribute to our zakat campaign through our mufti offices, through the guidance of our religious officials, or through our Foundation's official website. In addition, after the Friday prayer today, we will be asking for your donations for educational and charitable services carried out by our Foundation. May our Lord Almighty (swt) reward us for the support we have provided and will provide.

¹ Dhariyat, 51/19.

² Saba, 34/39.

³ Tirmidhi, Jumu'ah, 79.