



LET'S FULFILL ZAKAAT AL-FITR WITH SOUND KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING

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In this noble month of Ramadaan, let us altogether strive to increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala, by abiding all

of His Commands and leaving out all of His prohibitions. May we all attain success in this world and the Hereafter. The *khutbah* today is titled...

LET'S FULFILL ZAKAAT AL-FITR WITH SOUND KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING

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Zakaat al-Fitr is an 'ibaadah (worship) that is related to wealth, even though it is known as zakaat of the body. This is because we are required to give out one saa' (four double handfuls) of

foodstuff (staple food), and the condition is that the one must have food for adequate himself his and dependents on the first of Shawwaal.

Today, in providing convenience to everyone, contemporary fatwas have allowed us to fulfill zakaat al-fitr in monetary form, which is equivalent to the value of one saa' according to the

Baghdadi measurement or approximately 2.6 kilogram of staple food, which translates to RM7 per person.

Since zakaat al-fitr is an 'ibaadah that involves

wealth, then the best is to have it fulfilled with a sense of generosity. It is not an offense for anyone to pay more than what is required in fulfilling zakaat al-fitr, for it manifests one's

praiseworthy attitude of loving the poor and needy, wishing for their happiness on the day of 'Eid.

It is on that very basis that the *fatwa* allows us to

perform zakaat al-fitr according to the actual price of the type of rice that we consume, whether RM7 or RM14 or RM21 per person. In reality, this approach

has been taken by the Companions themselves, where they had chosen to fulfill zakaat al-fitr according to the type of food that they consume.

Zakaat al-Fitr has a stipulated time period where it must be fulfilled within that duration. Generally, the Muslim ummah would wait until the very last moment before fulfilling their

zakaat al-fitr, especially on the morning of the first of Shawwaal. Their excuse is that it is the most preferred time to pay zakaat al-fitr. In reality, the fatwa has stated that zakaat al-fitr

can be fulfilled earlier on, which is from the night of the first of Ramadaan until the last day of Ramadaan. **Putting off the fulfillment** of zakaat al-fitr until the morning of the first of Shawwaal has many risks.

Among them is that the person may become very busy in preparing for 'Eid that he totally forgets to fulfill it. It could be that the 'aamileen (zakaat duty collectors) on became busy and

swamped with other tasks that they were not able to collect last minute payments. And it happens very often that the official receipts for zakaat al-fitr payments would run out, hence

the *'aamil* on duty refuses to accept any more payments.

There is also a risk that is undeniable where the first of Shawwaal is announced to be one day

earlier than the expected date, and this actually took place last year in 2022, where we saw it became chaotic for the Muslims to fulfill their zakaat al-fitr. The very incident last year had

caused the zakaat al-fitr online payment facility managed by the Selangor Zakaat Board (LZS) to become overwhelmingly busy and crashed, because it was no longer able to accommodate the

heavy network traffic for transactions to be completed.

As a result, there were Muslims that had made their *zakaat al-fitr* payment haphazardly,

and there were also those that did not even fulfill it because they missed out on the deadline, including those that had made payments via online application belonging to entities

outside the state of to Selangor. According the projection report by LZS regarding that incident, the approximation of zakaat al-fitr that had gone "elsewhere" during that

time was estimated to be around RM2 million. Such matter could have been avoided if we all had fulfilled zakaat al-fitr from early on. Take heed,

for ibn 'Abbas *radiyAllaahu 'anhuma* had narrated that Rasulullah ^ﷺ said:

"Whoever pays it [zakaat al-fitr] before the 'Eid prayer, it is accepted as

Whoever zakaat. pays it after the 'Eid prayer, it will be sadaqah like other sadaqahs."

(Abu Dawood, ibn Maajah and ad-Daaraqutni)

Zakaat al-Fitr, when fulfilled with sound understanding, it can aid us to attain taqwa while fasting, as promised by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala in verse 186 of soorah al-Bagarah.

This is because, from among the proof that one has attained taqwa is that he or she would become passionate in being in the state of obedience and fearful of committing disobedience.

The evidence that one enjoys remaining in obedience can be seen in his or her demeanor when giving sadaqah (charity), and treatment of the poor, needy, reverts, and those in

need. The proof that one is fearful in committing disobedience can be seen when he or she would rigorously preserve 'ibaadah that are waajib (obligatory) such as zakaat al-fitr and

zakaat of wealth, fearful of usurping the rights of others within their wealth, and afraid of allowing their Muslim brethren remain to abandoned, suffering, and in destitution.

It is on that very basis that Rasulullah 🗯 stated that sadaqah (which includes zakaah) is the manifestation of one's imaan (faith) in Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala, as narrated in the

hadeeth of Abu Maalik al-Ash'ari radiyAllaahu 'anh, where Rasulullah said:

"The salaah (prayer) is a light, and charity is a proof, and patience is illumination, and the Qur'an is a proof either for you or against you."

(Muslim)

Al-Imaam an-Nawawi Rahimahullaah mentioned his in explanation this of hadeeth that "sadaqah" is named as such because it originates from the root word "as-Sidq", which

means sincerity, whereby one's sadaqah can manifest the sincerity of one's imaan, and this is the 'proof' that is meant. He mentioned in his work Sharh Saheeh Muslim: "It [sadagah] means the

proof or evidence of the true imaan the giver possesses. Hence, sadaqah is termed likewise, because it is the proof of the truth of a person's faith in Allah and the Hereafter."

What is promised by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala to those that are always committed in giving sadaqah including zakaat al-fitr? Take notice, for Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala has promised to

bestow upon us a very special gift in Paradise, which is a house that is see through, like a very beautiful glass house.

'AlibinAbiradiyAllaahu'anh

Taalib

narrated that the Prophet **# said**:

"Indeed in Paradise there are chambers, whose outside can be seen from their inside, and their inside can be seen from their outside."

A Bedouin stood and said: "Who are they for, O Rasulullah?" He said: "For those who speak well, feed others, fast regularly, and perform salaah [for Allah] during the night while the people sleep."

(at-Tirmidhi)

Let us ponder upon the promise of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala for those that fast and give sadaqah, meaning providing food to others, that prepared for them are special gifts, which if

in this world would definitely be an unparalleled splendor. Such is how zakaat al-fitr completes our fasting, and serve as benchmark for our level of imaan.

Before ending the sermon this time, the following are several matters than can be taken as guide:

1. The Muslim ummah must comprehend that zakaat al-fitr is an 'ibaadah that perfects the 'ibaadah of fasting in attaining taqwa.

2. The Muslim ummah must fulfill zakaat al-fitr according to its capability, by selecting the rate that befits them, and have it done from early on, so as to avoid the risk of forgetting and becoming preoccupied in the last moments.

3. The Muslim ummah must fulfill zakaat al-fitr and zakaat of the wealth through LZS for it is proven that they had been successful in managing them efficiently to the rightful asnaf (qualified recipients).

"And the example of those who spend their wealth seeking means to the approval of Allah and assuring [reward for] themselves is like a garden on high ground which is hit by a

downpour - so it yields its fruits in double. And [even] if it is not hit by a downpour, then a drizzle [is sufficient]. And Allah, of what you do, is Seeing."

(al-Baqarah 2:265)



Let us altogether strive to have the tagwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala by increasing our obedience towards Him and avoiding acts of disobedience and abominable deeds.

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O Allah, grant us guidance in performing the five obligatory prayers in congregation, fulfilling zakaat through Selangor Zakaat Board (LZS), making endowment (waqf)

through Perbadanan Wakaf Selangor (Selangor Endowment **Corporation) and giving away our** wealth (infaaq) through Tabung Infak Jariah Umat Islam Selangor (TIJARI, Selangor Continuous **Charity for Muslims Fund),**

and to the orphans throughDarulEhsanIslamicFoundation (YIDE).

Make us among Your slaves that fulfills the amaanah. Strengthen our imaan so that we avoid treachery, protect us from becoming among those that neglect their responsibilities, and protect

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our state and nation from destruction due to bribery. **Render the duty to lead our** country upon Your slaves whom are trustworthy and honest, as well as firm and courageous in upholding

the truth and executing justice according to the Sharee'ah. O Allah, make the masaajid and suraus in the state of Selangor as Your peaceful homes,

unitingeveryone,andserveastheheartofummah'sstrength.

INDERASING DEEDAWANOLEH

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