

SADAQATUL FITR

What is Sadaqatul Fitr? (Zakaatul Fitr)

Ibn ‘Abbaas (RA) has narrated that Rasoolullaah (SAW) prescribed *Sadaqatul Fitr* as an obligatory duty in order to purify those who fast, from useless and obscene activities and to provide food for the poor.

(Abu Daawood 1609)

Sadaqatul Fitr has been stipulated by Rasoolullaah (SAW) in authentic Ahaadees. The Sahaabah (RA) and later the Jurists adapted the stipulations according to the needs of the time.

‘Abdullaah Ibnu ‘Umar (RA) is reported to have said; “Rasoolullaah (SAW) instructed us to give Sadaqatul Fitr, 1 *Saa’* (a measure used at the time of Rasoolullaah (SAW) of dates or 1 *Saa’* of Barley. ‘Abdullaah Ibnu ‘Umar (RA) mentions that the Sahaabah (RA) later gave 2 *Mud* ($\frac{1}{2}$ *Saa’*) of wheat in place of dates and barley.

(Bukhaari Hadees # 1511 and Muslim Hadees # 7232)

How much *Sadaqatul Fitr* should one give?

According to the aforementioned Hadees it is clear that a person should give either 1 *Saa’* of dates, 1 *Saa’* of barley or $\frac{1}{2}$ *Saa’* of wheat. Ibnu Al-Humaam says that for everything besides wheat one should give 1 *Saa’* and for wheat he should give $\frac{1}{2}$ *Saa’*. He further states that this view is shared by Mu‘aawiyah, Taaos, Sa‘eed Ibnu Musaiyyib, Ibnu Zubaiyr, Sa‘eed Ibnu Jubaiyr and all the Sahaabah and Taabi‘een (RHA). *(Fathul Qadeer, Volume 2, Page 228)*

An advice for the affluent Muslims

The prescribed amount of Sadaqatul Fitr for an individual is half a Saa' of wheat, which currently equals to \$3.00 to \$4.00, which is "nothing" for the rich folks. There such, affluent people are advised to get more and more Sawaab (reward) by paying a sum equal in value to a full Saa' (7.5lbs) of Dates or Raisins or Barley. This will earn them huge Sawaab (reward) and will surely benefit the needy immensely.

Hadees:

'Abdullaah Ibnu 'Abbaas (R.A) said in a Khutbah (in Basrah-Iraq) that Rasoolullaah (SAW) has declared Sadaqatul Fitr to be of equal to one Saa' of dates or barley or half a Saa' of wheat mandatory for all men & women whether free or slave, young or old. But when 'Ali (RA) visited Basrah and observed that wheat is really cheap in the local market, he (RA) announced that since Allaah (SWT) has made you wealthy, it would be better for you to pay Sadaqatul Fitr according to one full Saa' of everything . (Abu Daawood Hadees # 1622)

Therefore it is deduced that affluent and wealthy individuals should pay the added value for Sadaqatul Fitr.

Amount of Sadaqatul Fitr based on the New York retail market rates as of 22nd of Sha'baan 1433, corresponding to July 12, 2012:

- 1) Wheat: Half Saa' (3.75 lbs) = \$6.50/- (One Saa' will be \$13.00)
- 2) Raisins: One Saa' (7.5 lbs) = \$30.00/-
- 3) Dates: One Saa' (7.5 lbs) = \$27.50/-
- 4) Barley: One Saa' (7.5 lbs) = \$11.25/-

Commonly Asked Questions

Question:

What is wrong with giving more than the stipulated amount?

Answer:

It is incorrect to stipulate an amount which is not in-line with Sharee'ah. It is important for the committees of Masajid to state what the Sharee'ah amount is, however after knowing the Shari amount, if then people wish to give more than it is permitted.

Question:

Why do *Sadaqatul Fitr* figures vary so much in our Masaajid?

Answer:

The varying amounts show that there is a lot of ignorance in this issue. The purpose of the leaflet is to educate the masses as to how to calculate the price of *Sadaqatul Fitr*.

Question:

Is it correct to give the value of dates rather than wheat?

Answer:

It is correct to give the value of dates (and barley) according to Imaam Abu Haneefah and Imaam Abu Yoosuf. However the price of dates is very high. Therefore if the value of dates is given one will be paying in the region of \$33.00 per head.

Question:

Every year my father pays *Sadaqatul Fitr* on 'Eed day on behalf of myself, my wife and my son. Is this okay? Someone told me that I should pay from my own pocket because I am earning. Could you please clarify?

Answer:

It is true that you should pay the *Sadaqatul Fitr* yourself. However, if you requested your father to pay or your father informed you that he will pay and you consented, then that is sufficient.