

EID AND END OF RAMADAN

Rating: 4.9

Description: The month of Ramadan concludes with a festive day of celebration incorporating within it, gratitude to Allah, family bonding, merriment and aiding those less fortunate through charity. The lesson provides guidelines pertaining to this day.

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Objectives

- To identify what is *Zakat ul-Fitr*.
- To realize the wisdom and obligation of *Zakat ul-Fitr*.
- To learn basic regulations of *Zakat ul-Fitr*.
- To identify what is *Eid*.
- To appreciate the importance of *takbeer*.
- To understand some guidelines on *Eid* prayer and celebration.

Arabic Terms

- Ramadan* - The ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is the month in which the obligatory fasting has been prescribed.
- Ghusl* – ritual bath.
- Eid* - festival or celebration. Muslims celebrate two major religious holidays, known as *Eid-ul-Fitr* (which takes place after *Ramadan*) and *Eid-ul-Adha* (which occurs at the time of the *Hajj*).
- Eid ul-Fitr* – Muslim celebration at the end of *Ramadan*.
- Eid ul-Adha* – “Feast of the Sacrifice”.
- Rakah* - unit of prayer.
- Zakat ul-Fitr* - fast-breaking obligatory charity.

Your Islamic center will announce the end of *Ramadan* and the celebration of *Eid*. The first day of the month following *Ramadan* is *Eid ul-Fitr*, the celebration of fast-breaking.

Very likely, in the last few days of *Ramadan*, your mosque will also start collecting obligatory post-*Ramadan* food (or money) due for the poor Muslims called *Zakat ul-Fitr* (Fast-breaking obligatory charity).

Zakat ul-Fitr

One of the companions of the Prophet said,

"Messenger of Allah made Zakat ul-Fitr obligatory to purify the fasting person from indecent words or actions, and to provide food for the needy. It is accepted as Zakat for the person who gives it before the Eid prayer, but it is mere charity (like any other) for the one who gives it after the prayer." [\[1\]](#)

We learn three matters regarding *Zakat ul-Fitr*:

- (a) It purifies the person who fasted *Ramadan* and cleanses him of indecent talk and minor sins performed during *Ramadan*.
- (b) This *Eid* is a day of eating and drinking, as the month prior to it was one of fasting. *Zakat ul-Fitr* ensures that even the poorest of Muslims will partake in this outward show of festivity.
- (c) Paying *Zakat ul-Fitr* is required of every Muslim capable of giving for himself and on behalf of every family member under his care.

The Quantity of Food

The quantity of food to be given out per person is roughly equal to four handfuls of the two hands held together. Its weight will be different for different foodstuffs. It is allowed to give money to a charity organization or mosque so that they buy the foodstuff and distribute it to the poor on your behalf, and that is why many mosques will offer to collect its dollar equivalent from you instead. You also have the option of giving the food stuff to the mosque or charity organization, paying them to take care of distributing *Zakat ul-Fitr* on your behalf, or you can give it out on your own.

The Type of Food

The staple food of the people in your area may be given. Dates, barley, wheat, olives, raisins, wheat, and dried yogurt used to be commonly eaten food in the time of the Prophet. Today, pasta, rice, beans, potatoes, cheese, and similar foods are more common.

The Best Time to Give It

The best time for it to be given out starts from the eve of *Eid* until right before going to the prayer.

Permissible Time to Give It

You may offer it one or two days before *Eid*.

Delaying it after *Eid* Prayer

It is a sin to delay it after *Eid* prayer.

Who to Give It To?

It is given to a fellow Muslim with limited financial means, but not necessarily in complete poverty.

Eid ul-Fitr

“*Eid*” means a day of social gathering. In Islam there are only three festivals:

- (a) The yearly *Eid ul-Fitr*
- (b) The yearly *Eid ul-Adha*
- (c) The weekly Friday.

Eid ul-Fitr is a major festivity for the Muslims, a time for gratitude to Allah, family bonding, fun, and merriment. On this day people greet one another and visit relatives and friends. Elaborate dishes are prepared, new clothes are worn, presents are exchanged, and children have fun.

The following are some recommended acts to be performed on *Eid*:

- a) *Ghusl* or bathing early in the day before the *Eid* prayer.
- b) Beautifying oneself: The Prophet used to wear his best clothes to go to the *Eid* prayer. He had a cloak that he wore specifically on the two *Eids* and Friday.
- c) Saying *takbeer* (proclamation of the greatness of Allah) is a distinctive feature of *Eid* and is mentioned in the Quran:

“...And that you should exclaim Allah's greatness for having guided you, so that you may be grateful.” (Quran 2:185)

When?

The time for *Eid takbeer's* starts from the time a person leaves his house heading towards the prayer-hall. The Prophet, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, would leave his house on the day of *Eid* saying *takbeer* until he had performed the prayer. He would stop saying the *takbeer* after the prayer.

What to Say?

There are various authentic narrations about what should be said in the *takbeer*. For brevity, we will mention the one which is most common.

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akar, La ilaha ill-Allah, w'Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, wa lillahil-Hamd.^[2]

The *Eid* Prayer

Islam teaches us how to celebrate these occasions of joy. Their spirit is to remember God's gifts in our everyday life; that is why the major part of the celebration is a public prayer. The *Eid* prayer is composed of two *rakahs*, with some additions. The prayer leader will describe the method of *Eid* prayer. After the prayer he will deliver the *Eid* sermon, typically lasting for half an hour.

Afterwards, people will greet each other saying '*Taqabbal-Allahu Mini wa Minkum,*'^[3] '*Kulla aam wa antum bi-khayr,*'^[4] '*Eid mubarak,*'^[5] or simply 'Happy *Eid*.'

I will encourage you to take some time off from school or work to celebrate *Eid* with fellow Muslims. As you grow spiritually in years to come, developing friendships, and hopefully, raising a happy Muslim family, *Eid* will surely become a meaningful family festival, in which all come together and praise God for the gift of Guidance.

Footnotes:

[1] Abu Dawoud, Ibn Majah, Darqutni, Hakim

[2]

Allah is the Greatest. Allah is the Greatest. None deserves to be worshipped but Allah. Allah is the Greatest. Allah is the Greatest and all thanks and praise is for Him!

[3]

May Allah accept our worship."

[4]

May each year see you prosperous.

[5]

Have a blessed *Eid*.

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