

Zakat

Zakat is the 3rd pillar of Islam. It is commanded by Allah (S.W.T) on the Muslim men and women to give Zakat to the poor and needy. We give Zakat on wealth that we have owned for at least one year.

The term Zakat itself means to purify. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said, “Allah made Zakat obligatory simply to purify your wealth.” So, by giving Zakat we are purifying our wealth. Hadrat Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) related that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “Charity does not diminish wealth, Allah enhances the honor of one who forgives, and one who humbles himself for the sake of Allah, Allah exalts him in rank”. (Muslim)

In order to be able to give Zakat a person must own a minimum amount of wealth. This minimum amount is called Nisab. We give 2.5% of the wealth we possess above the Nisab. Zakat is supposed to be given once every year. It can be given in any month but it is better to either give it in the month of Ramadan or the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah because these are the best nights and days of the year.

It is important to give Zakat because it is a pillar of Islam and is mandatory for Muslims who have enough wealth, but also because we are being grateful to Allah (S.W.T) for everything He has given us. Zakat also helps remove poverty from our community.

Giving Zakat is a way to make sure that we stay humble. By giving our wealth to those who are needy, we are making sure we stay selfless and remember that Allah (S.W.T) is Dhul Jalali wal Ikram (The Lord of Majesty and Bounty) and that all wealth belongs to Him.

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