

Muslim serving non-Muslims

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Article taken and slightly adapted from: alifta.net

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: Is it Mubah (permissible) for a Muslim to serve food to non-Muslims? If this is Mubah, is it also Mubah to do so during the daytime of Ramadhaan?

Answer: Islaam is the Deen (religion) of tolerance, easiness, and facility. At the same time, it is the Deen of justice. The ruling on Muslims serving non-Muslims differs depending on the Muslims' intention when doing so. If their intention is to create harmony between themselves and non-Muslims to call them to Islaam and save them from Kufr (disbelief) and deviation, this is considered a noble intention. It is important to mention that amongst the established principles of Sharee'ah (Islaamic law) is that the means acquires the rulings of their goals, i.e. when a goal is Waajib (obligatory), its means is also Waajib and vice versa. However, if the Muslims do not have a Shar`ee (Islaamic legal) intention in serving non-Muslims; they should not do so. The foregoing relates to serving non-Muslims with Mubah food. However, serving them unlawful types of food and drinks such as pork and wine, this is absolutely impermissible for doing so is disobedience to Allaah (*Exalted be He*), obedience to non-Muslims, and giving priority to the pleasure of non-Muslims over the rights of Allaah while it is Waajib on Muslims to adhere to their Deen.

On the other hand, serving non-Muslims food during the daytime in Ramadhaan is absolutely impermissible for doing so is tantamount to helping them to commit something which is declared Haram (prohibited) by Allaah (*Exalted be He*). It is well-established through the purified Sharee'ah that non-Muslims are also meant by the principles and branches of Islaam. Observing Sawm (Fast) in Ramadhaan is definitely one of the pillars of Islaam and doing so is Waajib on non-Muslims along with the condition of its validity, meaning, embracing Islaam. Accordingly, it is impermissible for Muslims to help non-Muslims to abandon something that Allaah (*Exalted be He*) has made Waajib on them. Similarly, it is impermissible for Muslims to serve non-Muslims in a way that humiliates and degrades the former while serving them food. May Allaah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.