

Eid and end of Ramadhaan

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

The first day of the month following Ramadhaan is Eid al-Fitr, the celebration of fast-breaking. Very likely, in the last few days of Ramadhaan, your mosque will also start collecting obligatory post-Ramadhaan food (or money) due for the poor Muslims called Zakaat al-Fitr (Fast-breaking obligatory charity).

Zakaat al-Fitr

One of the companions of the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) said,

"The Messenger of Allaah made Zakaat al-Fitr obligatory to purify the fasting person from indecent words or actions, and to provide food for the needy. It is accepted as Zakaat 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 Zakaat al-Fitr:

- (a) It purifies the person who fasted Ramadhaan and cleanses him of indecent talk and minor sins performed during Ramadhaan.
- (b) This Eid is a day of eating and drinking, as the month prior to it was one of fasting. Zakaat al-Fitr ensures that even the poorest of Muslims will partake in this outward show of festivity.
- (c) Paying Zakaat al-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 organisation 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 money equivalent from you instead. You also have the option of giving the food stuff to the mosque

¹ Abou Daawood, Ibn Maajah, Daraqutnee, Haakim

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or charity organisation, paying them to take care of distributing Zakaat al-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 (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*). 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 al-Fitr

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

- (a) The yearly Eid al-Fitr
- (b) The yearly Eid al-'Adha
- (c) The weekly Friday.

Eid al-Fitr is a major festivity for the Muslims, a time for gratitude to Allaah, 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 (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) 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.

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c) Eating something in the morning: Allaah's Messenger (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) would not leave his house on the day of Fitr until he had eaten some dates.²

d) Saying Takbeer is a distinctive feature of Eid and is mentioned in the Qur'aan:

["...And that you should exclaim Allaah's greatness for having guided you, so that you may be grateful."]³

When?

The time for Eid takbeers starts from the time a person leaves his house heading towards the place of prayer. The Prophet, (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High 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.

Allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar, La ilaaha illaallaah, w'allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar, wa lillahil-Hamd.

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

The Eid Prayer

Islaam 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 rak'ah, 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-allaahu Mini wa Minkum.'⁴

² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree

³ Qur'aan [2:185]

⁴ May Allaah accept our worship.