

The Necessity of Social Solidarity: Zakat

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا لِأَنْفُسِكُمْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ تَجِدُوهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ (١١٠))

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ قَالَ : فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ :

« إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمْ يَفْرِضِ الزَّكَاةَ إِلَّا لِيُطَيَّبَ مَا بَقِيَ مِنْ أَمْوَالِكُمْ... »

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

One of the conditions of Islam is Zakat. Zakat is a religious obligation that every Muslim who possesses wealth above the Nisab threshold, is of sound mind and has reached the age of puberty must fulfill. Our guide, the Qur'an, states: **"Establish prayer and give zakat. And whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah. Indeed, Allah of what you do, is Seeing."**¹ Zakat, which means growth, purification, praise and blessing, refers to a specific portion of wealth that must be given by Muslims considered wealthy according to Islamic criteria, and is allocated to the categories specified in the Qur'an. The process of deducting this portion from wealth is also referred to as Zakat.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We are all parts of the society within which we have developed and grown. A Muslim cannot remain indifferent to the poor and needy parts of society. As indicated by the Prophet Muhammad (saw): **"He is not one of us who sleeps with his stomach full while his neighbour is hungry."**² Allah, who created all existence from nothing, has made it compulsory for believers to give zakat as part of their social responsibilities. In a clear manner, the Quran states: **"Zakat expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed to collect [zakat] and for bringing hearts together [for Islam] and for freeing captives [or slaves] and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the [stranded] traveller - an obligation [imposed] by Allah. And Allah is Knowing and Wise."**³

Dear Jama'ah!

The act of giving zakat is, in a sense, like insurance for the protection of wealth. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, **"Protect your wealth with zakat, treat your sick with charity, and ward off calamities with supplication."**⁴

Zakat also serves as a guarantee for peace and tranquillity in societal life. In the well-being, peace, and socioeconomic balance of society, acts of worship such as zakat, sadaqah and fitrah hold significance. Through zakat, the needs of our oppressed and disadvantaged fellow believers and other individuals are met. In societies where social justice is lacking and income inequality is increasing, the emergence of fitna is certain. As the saying goes, "While one eats, another watches; calamity befalls the one who watches." Let us not forget that fitna, is a great responsibility.⁵

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

From the earnings bestowed upon us by Allah (swt), there is a right upon those who are obligated to pay zakat and charity. Failure to fulfill this right will corrupt our wealth and possessions, and the blessings of our income and earnings will diminish. Prophet Muhammad (saw), said, **"Allah made zakat obligatory only to purify the remaining wealth of your property."**⁶

Additionally, giving zakat and charity for the sake of Allah will serve as a means of purification for our souls. It will help control our attachment to wealth and possessions and contribute to the discipline of the self. Taking financial responsibility for needy individuals outside of ourselves and our families will earn us spiritual blessings.

Our organisation is collecting your zakat and sadaqah, as it does every year, to spend it in accordance with Allah's command. May Allah (swt) make us among the servants who respond to the duty of zakat and sadaqah, and who support the oppressed and disadvantaged. Ameen!

¹ Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:110

² Hâkim, Müstedrek, 4/183, H. No: 7307

³ Surah At-Tawbah, 9:60

⁴ Taberani, Mucemü'l-Kebir, H. No: 10044

⁵ Surah Al-Baqarah 2:217

⁶ Ebû Dâvûd, Zekât, 32