

How do you Calculate Sadaqatul Fitr (Fitra)?

What is Sadaqatul Fitr? (Zakât ul fitr)

Ibn Abbâs RA has narrated that Rasûlullâh SAW prescribed *Sadaqatul Fitr* as an obligatory duty in order to purify those who fast from useless and obscene activities and to provide food for the poor. (*Abû Dawûd*)

Sadaqatul Fitr has been stipulated by Rasûlullâh SAW in authentic Ahâdîth. The Sahâbah RA and later the Jurists adapted the stipulations according to the needs of the time.

Abdullah Ibn Umar RA is reported to have said; Rasûlullâh SAW instructed us to give Sadaqatul Fitr; 1 *Sa'* (a measure used at the time of Rasûlullâh SAW) of dates or 1 *Sa'* of Barley. Abdullâh Ibn Umar RA mentions that the Sahabâh RA later gave 2 *Mud* ($\frac{1}{2}$ *Sa'*) of wheat in place of dates and barley. (*Bukhari 1511 and Muslim 7232*)

How much Sadaqatul Fitr should one give?

According to the aforementioned Hadîth it is clear that a person should give either 1 *Sa'* of dates, 1 *Sa'* of barley or $\frac{1}{2}$ *sa'* of wheat. Ibn Al-Humâm says that for everything besides wheat one should give 1 *sa'* and for wheat he should give $\frac{1}{2}$ *sa'*. He further states that this view is shared by Mu'âwiyah, Tâ'us, Sa'îd Ibn Musayyab, Ibn Zubair, Sa'îd Ibn Jubair and all the Sahabâh and Tabi'în (RHA). (*Fathul Qadîr Volume 2, Page 228*)

What happens if one wants to give the value of the stipulation?

Today it is not always convenient to give wheat, barley or dates so a person should give the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ *Sa'* wheat.

In Fatawâh Shâmi it is mentioned that if one intends to give cash then according to Imam Muhammed Ibn Hasan As-Shaybâni only the **value of wheat** should be considered (not the value of barley or dates). (*Shâmi Volume 2, page 366*)

So how much is $\frac{1}{2}$ *Sa'*?

Mufti Shafi' has mentioned in his book *Auzân Shar'iyah* that the most cautious approach equates $\frac{1}{2}$ *Sa'* to 1.75 *ser* (1.63296 Kg)

Ta'mîr Hayât mentions that ($\frac{1}{2}$ *sa'*) equals 1.648 Kg.

Maulana Abrârul Haq (Hardoi) rounds up the above figure to 1.7Kg of wheat or its value in cash.

Calculating Sadaqatul Fitr

The purpose of this pamphlet is to educate people into calculating *Sadaqatul Fitr*. *Sadaqatul Fitr* has been stipulated by Rasûlullâh SAW and nobody should over or undervalue this amount. In the same way that we don't ever stipulate that the Zakât is more than 2.5%, we should not change this amount too.

An example of how to calculate *Sadaqatul Fitr* (prices are correct for 16/07/2010)

A 25kg bag of Gold Star cleansed wheat (not flour) costs £12.99

1kg is £12.99 divided by 25kg = £0.51/kilo

£0.51 x 1.648 kg ($\frac{1}{2}$ *Sa'*) = 85p.

People should be advised that this is the price of *Sadaqatul Fitr*. This is also the amount that a person who cannot fast and has no hope of recovering must give to compensate for missed fasts (*Fidyah*).

Commonly Asked Questions

Question: What is wrong with giving more than the stipulated amount?

Answer: It is incorrect to stipulate an amount which is not inline with Shari'ah. It is important for the committees of Masâjid to state what the Shari'ah amount is, however after knowing the Shar'î amount if then people wish to give more then it is permitted.

Question: Why do Sadaqatul Fitr figures vary so much in our Masâjid?

Answer: The varying amounts show that there is a lot of ignorance in this issue. The purpose of the leaflet is to educate the masses as to how to calculate the price of *Sadaqatul Fitr*.

Question: Is it correct to give the value of dates rather than wheat?

Answer: It is correct to give the value of dates (and barley) according to Imâm Abû Hanîfa and Imâm Abû Yûsuf. However the price of dates is very high. Therefore if the value of dates is given one will be paying in the region of £16 per head.

Example calculation

1kg of dates is equivalent to £4.99

1 Sa' = 3.2 Kg

3.2 Kg dates = £16

A person who has 5 members in his family (remember that *Sadaqatul Fitr* is payable for both adults and children) will be $5 \times £16 = £80$.

Question: Is this amount only for those of the Hanafi School of thought?

Answer: Yes according to the Hanafi Fiqh $\frac{1}{2}$ Sa' is equivalent to about 1.648 Kg. According to the other 3 schools of thought the value of 1 sa' of wheat will be given. This is equivalent to about 2.175 Kg which would equate *Sadaqatul Fitr* to £1.13.

N.B . The value of the Sa' according to the four Mazâhib vary slightly. Both are based on authentic narrations. According to the Hanafi Fiqh, *Sadaqatul Fitr* of wheat is $\frac{1}{2}$ Sa'. According to the other schools of thought *Sadaqatul Fitr* of Wheat will be 1 Sa'. There is also a slight difference with regards to the calculation of a Sa'. According to the Hanafi Fiqh, a Sa' is equivalent to approximately 3.2 Kg. According to the other schools of thought, a Sa' is equivalent to 2.175 Kg.

Question: Every year my father pays Sadaqatul Fitr on Eid day on behalf of myself, my wife and my son. Is this okay? Someone told me that I should pay from my own pocket because I am earning. Could you please clarify?

Answer: It is true that you should pay the *Sadaqatul Fitr* yourself. However, if you requested your father to pay or your father informed you that he will pay and you consented, then that is sufficient.