

Chapter – 15

Obligatory Charity

(زكوة)

Quran:

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ

{And keep the (obligatory) prayer established, and pay the charity.
(02:43, 83, 110, 04:77, 24:56, 73:20)}

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلزَّكَاةِ فَاعِلُونَ

{And who pay the (obligatory) charity. (23:04)}

خُذْ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ صَدَقَةً تُطَهِّرُهُمْ وَتُزَكِّيهِمْ بِهَا

{O dear Prophet! take the obligatory charity from their wealth, by which you may cleanse them and make them pure. (09:103)}

Hadith:

Narrated Ibn Abbas:

When Allah's Prophet sent Muad to Yemen, he said to him, "When you reach there, invite them to testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Messenger. And if they obey you in that, tell them that Allah has ordered Zakat as an obligation. It is to be taken from the rich amongst them and given to the poor amongst them. (Sahih Bukhari: 1311)

Narrated Abu Ayyub Ansari and Abu Zar 'a:

A Bedouin came to the Prophet and said, "Tell me of such a deed as will make me enter Paradise, if I do it." The Prophet said, "Worship Allah, and worship none along with Him, offer the (five) prescribed compulsory prayers perfectly, pay the compulsory Zakat, fast in the month of Ramadan, and help others." The Bedouin said, "By God! I will not do more than this." When the Bedouin left, the Prophet said, "Whoever likes to see a man of Paradise, then he may look at this man." (Sahih Bukhari: 1312 to 1314)

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

The Prophet said, "If anyone who had not paid their Zakat in this world, (on the Day of Resurrection) camels will come to their owner in the best state of health and they would trample on him with their feet; and similarly, sheep will come to their owner in the best of health and they would trample on him with their hooves and would butt him with their horns." The Prophet added, "I do not want anyone of you to come to me for help. I will say to him. I can't help you, as I had already conveyed Allah's Message to you." (Sahih Bukhari: 1318)

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

When Allah's Prophet passed away and Abu Bakr became the Caliph some Arabs reverted to disbelief. Abu Bakr decided to declare war against them., 'Umar, said to Abu Bakr, "How can you fight with these people although Allah's Prophet said, 'I have been ordered by Allah to fight the people till they say لا اله الا الله (None has the right to be worshipped but Allah), and whoever said لا اله الا الله then he has saved his life and property, except on trespassing the law (rights and conditions for which he will be punished justly), and his accounts will be with Allah.' " Abu Bakr said, "By God! I will fight those who differentiate between the prayer and the Zakat as Zakat is the compulsory right to be taken from the property. By God! If they refuse to pay me even a she-kid which they used to pay at the time of Allah's Prophet, then. I would fight with them for withholding it" Then 'Umar said, "I came to know that his decision was right." (Sahih Bukhari: 1316)

Important Aspects of Islamic Doctrine

Preconditions (شروط):

(1) Zakat is obligatory to the rich persons only. (2) Rich person is that person who has 87 grams gold or 612 grams of silver or equivalent property, wealth and animals. (3) Wealth should also increase by the time, like profit in business or property etc. (4) it is also a condition that the owner should hold that wealth or property for a period of one year. (5) This wealth should be in access to the normal yearly expenditures of the owner and his dependents. Zakat is due only on the saved or access gold, silver, property, animals and wealth.

Obligatory (فرض):

(1) Zakat is an obligatory item because it is an Order of Allah SWT. Therefore, in the language of "Fatawa Aalamgiri" paying Zakat is an "Absolute Obligation" (فرض محكم).

Essential (واجب):

(1) On completion of one year, paying Zakat is essential. (2) It is important that it is ensured that money should reach to the right persons (poor & deprived). (3) One Tenth (عشر) of the income is due as Zakat from the crop yield through canal water, whereas One Twentieth of the income is due as Zakat from the crop yield through the water carried out from far distance.

Sunnah (سنة):

(1) While paying Zakat its intension is required.

Desirable (مستحب):

(1) Paying Zakat is preferable to the closed relatives, like real brothers and sisters. (2) Then Zakat is paid to the far relatives who are poor. (3) Then Zakat is to be paid to the neighbors.

Miscellaneous (متفرق)

(1) According to the hadith of Thamama Bin Abdullah quoted in Sahih Bukhari: N0. 1368, the details of the Zakat imposed by the first Caliph Abu Bakr Siddique is given as below:

On 4 camels or less	No Zakat (however owner may pay on his own)
On 5 camels	Zakat of one goat
On 24 camels or less	On each 5 camels Zakat of one goat
From 25 to 35 camels	Zakat of one year old camel
From 36 to 45 camels	Zakat of two years old camel
From 46 to 60 camels	Zakat of four years old camel
From 61 to 75 camels	Zakat of five years old camel
From 76 to 90 camels	Zakat of two years old camel - 2 nos.
From 91 to 120 camels	Zakat of four years old camel - 2 nos.
On more than 120 camels	On each 40 camels Zakat of two years old camel - 1 number, and On each 50 camels Zakat of four years old camel - 1 number
On 40 goats or less	No Zakat (however owner may pay on his own)
From 41 to 120 goats	Zakat of one goat
From 121 to 200 goats	Zakat of two goats
From 201 to 300 goats	Zakat of three goats
On more than 300 goats	On each 100 goats Zakat of one goat
On 90 Dirham	No Zakat (however owner may pay on his own)
On Silver, Gold or Rupees	Zakat @ of 2.5%

(2) Collection of Zakat is the responsibility of Government of the State. (3) However, if there is no Islamic State, then Muslims are supposed to collect Zakat. For this they should choose sincere persons who should collect and distribute Zakat. (4) Authentic list of needy persons must be prepared so that Zakat may reach to the right place. (5) For this purpose a proper committee should be formed.

