

Charity in Islam

Source: The Qur'an (Sacred Text)

"Be steadfast in prayer, practice regular charity, and bow down your heads with those who bow down (in worship)." (2:43)

"Worship none but Allah. Treat with kindness your parents and kindred, and orphans and those in need; speak fair to the people; be steadfast in prayer; and practice regular charity." (2:83)

"Be steadfast in prayer and regular in charity. Whatever good you send forth for your souls before you, you shall find it with Allah. For Allah sees well all that you do." (2:110)

"They ask thee what they should spend in charity. Say: Whatever you spend that is good, is for parents and kindred and orphans and those in want and for wayfarers. And whatever you do that is good, Allah knows it well." (2:215)

"Charity is for those in need, who, in Allah's cause are restricted (from travel), and cannot move about in the land, seeking (For trade or work)." (2:273)

"Those who in charity spend of their goods by night and by day, in secret and in public, have their reward with their Lord: on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve." (2:274)

"Allah will deprive usury of all blessing, but will give increase for deeds of charity. For He loves not creatures ungrateful and wicked." (2:276)

"Those who believe, and do deeds of righteousness, and establish regular prayers and regular charity, will have their reward with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve." (2:277)

"If the debtor is in a difficulty, grant him time until it is easy for him to repay. But if you remit it by way of charity, that is best for you if you only knew." (2:280)

"... give the due alms (Zakat) on the day of harvest, and do not waste anything. He does not love the wasters."(6:141)

"You should eagerly race towards forgiveness from your Lord and a Paradise whose width encompasses the heavens and the earth; it awaits the righteous." (3:133)

"who give to charity during the good times, as well as the bad times." (3:134)

"Charities shall go to the poor, the needy, the workers who collect them, the new converts, to free the slaves, to those burdened by sudden expenses, in the cause of God, and to the traveling alien. Such is God's commandment. God is Omniscient, Most Wise." (9:60)

"Charity shall go to the poor who are suffering in the cause of God, and cannot emigrate. The unaware may think that they are rich, due to their dignity. But you can recognize them by certain signs; they never beg from the people persistently. Whatever charity you give, God is fully aware thereof." (2:273)

Charity in Islam

Source: Hadīth



Hadīth

Islam has two primary sources. First is the Qur'ān which is the direct word of God inspired to the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him. The second source is the Prophet's teachings. These teachings include his words, actions, and things he approved of. The Prophet's teachings are called Sunna. The Sunna is found in texts called ḥadīth. A ḥadīth is a statement of the Prophet peace be upon him which was narrated by his companions and subsequently narrated to the next generation until these sayings were compiled in ḥadīth collections

All Muslims, be they Sunni or Shia, agree that ḥadīths are essential to understanding Islam. Ḥadīth are important because without them the Qur'ān does not make sense. They provide a context to the verses in the Qur'ān. The Qur'ān is a rather concise book and therefore contains many general statements. For instance, the Qur'ān commands Muslims to pray, but it does not provide the details of how one is to perform prayer.

The Qur'ān also commands Muslims to perform pilgrimage and give charity, but it does not provide the details. These details are found in the ḥadīth where the Prophet peace be upon him explained the details and mechanics of prayer. There are dozens of verses in the Qur'ān that command Muslims to follow the Prophet. Without knowing his teachings one cannot possibly fulfill this command.

Quotes from the Founder

“Charity does not decrease wealth.”

“A kind word is a form of charity.”

“Every act of kindness is charity.”

“Spend (on charity) O Son of Adam and I shall spend on you.”

“Every good act is charity.”

“A man's true wealth hereafter is the good that he does in this world to his fellows.”

“When a Muslim plants a tree, whatever is eaten from it is charity from him and whatever is stolen is charity and whatever is subtracted from it is charity.”

“Do you know what is better than charity, fasting, and prayer? It is keeping peace and good relations between people as quarrels and bad feelings destroy mankind.”

“Removing a harmful thing from the pathway is charity.”

Charity in Islam

Zakat & Sadaqah



Zakat

The Arabic word 'zakat' means 'purification'. It is also related to the idea of a tax on wealth. Once someone can meet their family's immediate needs, their wealth will be shared with the community. Zakat is a compulsory contribution used to improve the lives of others in the community.

In Islam wealth is to be shared for the good of the whole community. Zakat means 'purification' because it limits or reduces a person's natural greed and thirst for acquisition. In turning excess wealth over to others, an individual can avoid these tendencies. Thus zakat 'purifies' a person's character, not just their wealth.

In Sunni Islam

Zakat is one of the Five Pillars of Sunni Islam; 2.5 per cent of wealth accrued from assets, savings and money earned through trade is given every year.

In Shi'a Islam

Zakat is one of the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam; 2.5 per cent of wealth accumulated from the profits of business transactions is given. Because zakat is calculated on earnings from profit rather than all transactions, Shi'a Muslims might give less zakat than Sunni Muslims. Shi'a Muslims make an additional Khums contribution

Sadaqah

Sometimes also referred to as Lillah, Sadaqah or Saddka is an Islamic term that means to voluntarily give charity out of the goodness of one's heart. This is not an Islamic obligation, but rather a practice conducted to help those in need or the deprived.

This act goes to show the strength of the believer's faith and increases it further. Sadaqa does not refer solely to money in Islam because a Sadaqa can be anything as small as a smile towards a stranger or removing an obstacle or thorn from a path. It is simply a deed that helps someone else, in any way.

