

Transferring alms of Al-Fitr

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Ferkous al-Qoobee

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

The ruling concerning transferring alms of Al-Fitr (an obligatory charity given to the poor just before 'Eed Al-Fitr)

Question: I live in France and I find it difficult to give alms of Al-Fitr in this country. Is it permissible for me to give them in another country than the country where I fasted by entrusting a brother with giving them in Algeria from my own money? May Allaah's benediction be upon you and May Allaah reward you with what is best.

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Ferkous al-Qoobee: All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till The Day of Resurrection.

Giving alms of Al-Fitr in another country than the country where we have fasted is right if the people of this country do not need these alms, or if the concerned person could not give them in the country of his residence, because he do not know the poor people that deserve them. It is correct to transfer them by himself or someone else and give them to needy Muslims in another country. In case the needy Muslims deserving alms and who live in this country cannot dispense with them, and that this person can recognise them (the needy), the alms should be given in the country where they are obligatory for him, because alms depend on the person himself who is the cause of their obligation, but if the person did the contrary and gave them in another country than the country where he must give them, these alms would have been valid if their conditions are respected, though, he went against what is best.

Remark:

It is worth noticing that it is not permissible to give the alms of Al-Fitr to the needy of other nations but for needy Muslims, in accordance to the hadeeth of the prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "...and a food for the needy"¹, since what appears from this hadeeth is that the alms of Al-Fitr should be restricted to the needy Muslims.

¹ Reported by Aboo Daawood in the chapter of "Zakaat", concerning the alms of Al-Fitr (hadeeth 1609), Ibn Maajah in the chapter of "Zakaat" on the charity of Al-Fitr (hadeeth 1827) Al-Haakim (hadeeth 1521), Ad-Daaraqutnee (hadeeth 2037), Al-Baihaqee (hadeeth 7715) and authenticated by Al-Albaanee in "Saheeh Al-Jaami'" (hadeeth 3570).

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The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

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