Q: 153 – Title: Can zakaat be given to son in law and syeds?

Question

1.   Please let me know if zakat can be paid to step sons if they are not sahibe nisaab.

2.   One Mufti in Pakistan gave fatwa that zakat can be paid to syeds if they are not sahibe nisab on the plea that during the period of Nabi *salallahu 'alayhi wasallam* and sahaba there were special arrangements to help syeds who are in need from Baitul Mal. But currently no such arrangement exists hence in the light of this one can pay zakat to syeds also who are not sahib nisab. Please clarify.

Thanks for your prompt response in advance.

Answer

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

As-salamu ‘alaykum wa-rahmatullahi wa-barakatuh.

1. You may give zakat to your step sons if they are not Sahib Nisaab. [1]

2. Syeds are the descendents of Nabi *salallahu 'alayhi wasallam*

from the progeny of Ali and Fatimah
 radhiyallahu anhum. **Syeds also fall within the extended family**
of Nabi *salallahu ;alayhiywasallam*
 known as Banu Hashim. The descendents of the Banu Hashim
have a lineage of high pedigree and
 nobility. Hashim was the great grandfather of Nabi *salallahu 'alay hi wasallam*
. The son of Hashim was
 Abdul Mutallib who was also the grandfather of Nabi *salallahu 'al ayhi wasallam*
.

From amongst the progeny of Abdul Mutallib the descendents of the following cannot accept zakat;

a) 'Abbas *radhiyallahu 'an* (the uncle of Nabi *salallahu ' alayhi wasallam*)

b) Harith(the uncle of Nabi *salallahu 'alayhi wasallam*)

c) Ali *radhiyallahu 'an* (the cousin of Nabi *salallahu ' alayhi wasallam*)

d) 'Aqeel *radhiyallahu 'an* (the cousin of Nabi *salallahu   alayhi wasallam*)

e) Ja'far *radhiyallahu 'an* (the cousin of Nabi *salallahu 'alayhi wasallam*)

Zakat is considered to be the filth of one's wealth. An individual offers zakat in order to purify the

rest of his wealth. It is not befitting for the family of Nabi *salallahu 'alayhi wasallam* to accept this

 wealth. Nabi *salallahu 'alayhi wasallam* had mentioned that Allah *Ta'ala* has prohibited the filth and

 dirt found in peoples' wealth (zakaat) for the Banu Hashim.

As Muslims we should exert ourselves in ensuring that the family of Nabi *salallahu   'alayhi wasallam*

is never in need of zakat. Our Iman dictates that we give preference to the family of Nabi *salallahu*

'alayhi wasallam over our own. If a Sayid family is ever in need then we should make arrangements

with *lillah* funds to try and relieve their situation. As a last resort if there is no other option an

individual could offer *sadaqat* to the Sayid family. [2]

And Allah Ta'ala Knows Best

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