

98579 - Can I Say Du`a before Giving Charity?

the question

Is it permissible for the one who wants to give charity to pray for what he wants before giving charity, then give charity after that? What is the ruling on doing this action as a regular practice?

Summary of answer

There is no Du`a in the Sunnah to say before giving Sadaqah. However, it is permissible for a Muslim to ask Allah to accept the charity or to enable one to spend more in the future. Giving charity before Du`a is considered a form of seeking closeness to Allah through good deeds—and is mentioned by scholars in cases like the rain prayer (Istisqa’).

Detailed answer

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Du`a When Giving Sadaqah: Is It Permissible in Islam?

We do not know of anything in the Sunnah that suggests that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to say Du`a and give charity after that, or that he advised his Ummah to do that, unless it is a Du`a asking Allah to accept the charity or to enable him to give more.

Giving Charity Before Du`a: A Form of Tawassul

The Muslim can give charity so that he may say Du`a if he needs a specific thing, and this comes under the heading of drawing closer to Allah ([Tawassul](#)) by virtue of righteous deeds, as is

mentioned in the Hadith about the blind man who asked the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to pray to Allah to restore his sight, so the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) told him to say Du`a, and he told him to do Wudu and pray (Salah) before calling upon Allah in Du`a, and the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also prayed for him. This comes under the heading of drawing closer to Allah ([Tawassul](#)) by virtue of righteous deeds.

Scholarly Views on Charity Before Istisqa` (Rain Prayer)

It says in *Kashshaf Al-Qina`* (1/368), which is a Hanbali book:

Before he says Du`a he should give charity. (End quote)

This may also include what many scholars regard as recommended of giving charity before [praying for rain \(Istisqa`\)](#), either so that the charity will bring divine mercy or as a means of drawing closer to Allah by virtue of righteous deeds, before praying for rain.

In *Al-Mawsu`ah Al-Fiqhiyyah* (3/310) it says:

The Schools of Fiqh agreed that it is recommended to give charity before praying for rain, but they differed as to whether the imam should enjoin that. The Shafa`is, Hanbalis and Hanafis said, and it is the official view of the Malikis, that the Imam should enjoin them to give charity within the limits of what they can afford. Some of the Malikis said that he should not enjoin them to do that, rather he should leave it up to the people without ordering them to do it, because there is more hope of reward, as their charity will come from themselves rather than on the command of the imam. (End quote)

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Salih Al-`Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

Sadaqah—i.e., his instruction to give charity before praying for rain—may be considered appropriate, because charity is an act of kindness toward others, and doing good is a means of attaining mercy, as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

{Surely, Allah's Mercy is (ever) near unto the good-doers.} [Al-A`raf 7:56]

And rain is a form of mercy, as Allah also says (interpretation of the meaning):

{And He it is Who sends down the rain after they have despaired, and spreads His Mercy.} [Ash-Shura 42:28]

Charity here does not refer not to the obligatory charity (Zakah) but rather to the recommended optional charity. As for obligatory charity, withholding it is a cause of rain being withheld, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “No people withhold the Zakah of their wealth but rain will be withheld from the sky.” (End quote from *Ash-Sharh Al-Mumti`* 5/209)

If the Muslim needs to be relieved of distress or for things to be made easy for him, or it is a matter of general concern such as praying for rain, then giving charity before praying comes under the heading of seeking to draw closer to Allah by virtue of righteous deeds. But if this is ongoing and a person does that every time he gives charity, that is subject to further discussion, because that is not prescribed for us and our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not encourage us to do that. This indicates that it is not prescribed. As for what the brother is doing – may Allah guide him – of saying Du`a before giving charity, we do not know of any basis for this apart from what we have mentioned about the Du`a being connected to the acceptance of the charity and asking Allah for more.

Recommended Dua after Giving Sadaqah

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Salih Al-`Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

The one who is giving Zakah should say what is narrated in the reports of Du`as, such as: Allahumma taqabbal minni innaka anta As-Sami` Al-`Alim (O Allah, accept from me, for You are the All-Hearing, All-Knowing) and Allahumma aj`alha maghnaman wa la taj`alha maghraman (O Allah make a cause a gain, and do not make it a cause of loss). (End quote from *Ash-Sharh Al-Mumti`*, 6/270)

For more in-depth analysis, consider the following answers: ([36783](#), [42384](#), [171013](#), [190097](#), [89705](#), [195085](#))

And Allah knows best.