

## THE AUSPICIOUS MONTH OF RAMADHAAN

Ramadhaan is a month of immense blessing and mercy and is among the greatest bounties of Allah Ta'ala upon this Ummah. Nabi صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ fervently explained the greatness of this month and the countless blessings which it brings. Nabi صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: "Had my Ummah only known the great virtues and abundant blessings of Ramadhaan, they would have desired that the entire year be Ramadhaan" (Saheeh Ibn Khuzaimah #1886). Approximately two months prior to Ramadhaan, Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ would begin eagerly anticipating the arrival of Ramadhaan. Upon witnessing the crescent of Rajab, Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ would recite the following dua:

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَ شَعْبَانَ وَ بَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ (شعب الامان رقم ٣٨١٥)

*"O Allah! Bless us in the months of Rajab and Sha'baan and make us reach the month of Ramadhaan."*

### Striving in Ibaadat during the month of Ramadhaan

Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ informed the Sahaabah regarding the abundant virtues of Ramadhaan prior to the month of Ramadhaan dawning upon them. In this way, he motivated and encouraged them to prepare themselves mentally, physically and spiritually for the month in order that they may be able to acquire the maximum blessings of this month.

Hazrat Salmaan Faarsi رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ reports that Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ addressed us on the last day of Sha'baan saying: "O people, a great and blessed month is soon to dawn upon you, in which lies a night greater in virtue than a thousand months. It is a month in which Allah Ta'ala has made fasting compulsory by day and has made Taraweeh Salaah sunnah by night. Whoever draws near to Allah Ta'ala by performing any nafl deed, for such a person shall be the reward like the reward of one who performs a fardh deed at any other time. Whoever performs a fardh deed during this month shall be blessed with the reward of the one who performs seventy faraaidh at any other time. This is indeed the month of patience and the reward for true patience is Jannah" (Saheeh Ibn Khuzaimah #1887).

### Making Dua for the Acceptance of One's Ibaadat

Apart from striving in ibaadat during this blessed month, Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ had taught us to make dua for the acceptance of our ibaadat. Hazrat Ubaadah bin Saamit رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ reports that when the month of Ramadhaan would arrive, Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ would teach us the following dua (to secure the blessings of Ramadhaan):

اللَّهُمَّ سَلِّمْ لِي رَمَضَانَ وَ سَلِّمْ رَمَضَانَ لِي وَ سَلِّمْهُ لِي مُتَقَبِلًا

(رواه الطبراني والديلمي وسنده حسن - كنز العمال رقم ٢٤٢٧٧)

*O Allah! Safeguard me for the month of Ramadhaan (by keeping me healthy and fit so that I can take maximum benefit from it), and safeguard the month of Ramadhaan for me (by preserving the blessings of the month in my life) and accept it from me.*

### Being Deprived of the Blessings of Ramadhaan

While it is essential for us to fast, be punctual on our Salaah, perform Taraweeh, engage in tilaawat and strive to acquire the maximum blessings of the month of Ramadhaan, it is incumbent upon us to preserve our good deeds through refraining from committing sins. Committing sins and evil deeds deprives one of the blessings of Ramadhaan and destroys the noor of one's ibaadat.

Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: "There are many who fast during the day yet receive nothing but hunger, and there are many who stand up during the night in Salaah yet receive nothing but sleeplessness" (i.e. on account of their sinning, they do not receive the reward of the fast and of standing up at night in ibaadat) (Ibn Maajah #1690).

### The Most Unfortunate Person

Hazrat Ubaadah bin Saamit رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ reports that Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: "In the month of Ramadhaan, Allah Ta'ala turns His special mercies towards you, forgives your sins and accepts your duas and supplications. He looks at your vying with each other in carrying out good deeds (to please Allah Ta'ala) and boasts to His angels about you. Hence, show Allah Ta'ala your works of piety and righteousness. For certainly the most unfortunate one is he who is deprived of the mercy of Allah Ta'ala in this blessed month" (Targheeb #1490).

The blessed month of Ramadhaan affords one the golden opportunity to reform oneself and correct one's relationship with Allah Ta'ala. One of the main purposes of fasting is to acquire piety and self discipline. Allah Ta'ala says: "Fasting has been ordained upon you as it had been ordained upon the people before you so that you may learn self restraint" (Surah Baqarah, Aayah 183). Hence we should endeavour to fulfil the rights of this auspicious month by fulfilling the commandments of Allah Ta'ala and restraining ourselves from committing sins or anything displeasing to Allah Ta'ala in order that we may be blessed with the true spirit and noor of Ramadhaan until the end of our lives.

# FASTING MASAAIL

## *Eating and Drinking Openly in Ramadhaan*

**Q:** What is the ruling regarding the person who without a valid excuse, does not fast during the month of Ramadhaan and eats openly?

**A:** Fasting is a salient feature of Islam. To openly eat and drink during the month of Ramadhaan is tantamount to showing disregard to the salient feature of Islam and is thus a major sin. If the one who does not fast and openly eats and drinks regards it as a sin but does so due to weakness of Imaan, he will be guilty of a major sin but will not come out of the fold of Islam. If he believes that there is no sin in what he is doing, then he has regarded this salient feature of Islam to be insignificant. This will render him out of the fold of Islam. (Shaami 2/413 ; Ahsanul Fataawa 1/37)

## *Eating and Drinking forgetfully in Ramadhaan*

**Q:** If a person forgetfully eats whilst fasting, does his fast break?

**A:** The fast will not break by forgetfully eating or drinking. (Shaami 2/394 ; Aalamgiri 1/202)

**Q:** After eating forgetfully, a fasting person intentionally ate assuming that his fast had already broken. Does the fast now become nullified? If so, will both qadha and kaffarah be waajib or only qadha?

**A:** The fast will now become nullified. Only qadha will be waajib. (Shaami 2/401,402 ; Aalamgiri 1/206)

## *Factors that Break or do not Break the Fast*

**Q:** If the gums begin to bleed while fasting and the blood flows down the throat, will the fast break? If so, will both qadha and kaffarah be waajib or only qadha?

**A:** If the blood which was swallowed with the saliva was more than the saliva or equal to it then the fast will break and only qadha will be waajib. If the blood was less than the saliva then the fast will not break. (Shaami 2/396 ; Aalamgiri 1/203)

**Q:** If water goes down the throat of the person fasting while gargling the mouth or rinsing the nose in wudhu or ghusal, will the fast break?

**A:** If one was aware that he was fasting at the time the water seeped down the throat or nostril, the fast will break. If one was unaware that he was in the state of fasting, the fast will not break. (Aalamgiri 1/202)

**Q:** Is it permissible to use eye-drops, ear-drops and nose-drops whilst fasting and will they nullify the fast?

**A:** It is permissible to use eye-drops whilst fasting. The fast will not be nullified. However, using ear-drops and nose-drops whilst fasting is impermissible and will nullify the fast. (Shaami 2/395,402 ; Aalamgiri 1/203,204)

**Q:** Does smoking invalidate the fast? If so, will both qadha and kaffarah be waajib or only qadha?

**A:** Smoking nullifies the fast. Both qadha and kaffarah become waajib. (Shaami 2/395, 2/410 ; Tahtaawi Pg. 660)

**Q:** If one swallows a food particle stuck between one's teeth while fasting, will the fast break?

**A:** If the food particle that one swallows is the size of a chana seed (chickpea) or bigger, then the fast will break. However, if it is smaller than a chana seed, the fast will not break. (Shaami 2/396)

## *Fasting while travelling*

**Q:** Is it compulsory for a musaafir to fast whilst on a journey?

**A:** It is not compulsory for a musaafir to fast whilst on a journey. Shari'ah has granted him the concession of not fasting and making up for the missed fast upon returning home after the month of Ramadhaan. However, if the musaafir is able to fast during the journey then this is more rewarding. (Shaami 2/423 ; Tahtaawi Pg. 685)

**Q:** A person intends travelling during the course of the day and at the time of subah saadiq (when the fast commences) he is still in his hometown. Is it permissible for him not to fast?

**A:** It is compulsory for a person who is present in his hometown at the time of subah saadiq to fast. Since he only intends travelling during the course of the day, the concession of not fasting does not apply to him. Hence, he will be sinful if he does not keep the fast. (Aalamgiri 1/206; Tahtaawi Pg. 686)

## *Undergoing Medical Treatment while Fasting*

**Q:** If a person undergoes cupping whilst fasting, does the fast become nullified?

**A:** Undergoing cupping whilst fasting does not nullify the fast. However, if through past experiences one knows that cupping causes physical weakness then in that case it will be makrooh to undergo cupping whilst fasting. (Shaami 2/395,396 ; Tahtaawi Pg. 659)

**Q:** What is the Shar'ee ruling regarding a woman who goes to the gynaecologist for a check-up whilst fasting? Does the fast become nullified through the gynaecologist inserting medication into the private organ?

**A:** If medication or any moist substance is inserted into the private organ of a fasting woman, the fast will be nullified. However, if a dry object is inserted during the medical examination, the fast will not be nullified. If a dry object was inserted and removed and thereafter re-inserted whilst moist, the fast will be nullified. (Shaami 2/397 ; Aalamgiri 1/204)

**Q:** Is it permissible for an asthma patient to use an inhaler (pump) whilst fasting? The inhaler contains salbutamol (liquid medication). Will qadha and kaffarah become waajib or only qadha?

**A:** Using the pump whilst fasting will break the fast since it contains medication. Only qadha will be waajib. (Bada'i 2/93)

**Q:** Does the use of a drip whilst fasting nullify the fast?

**A:** Using a drip whilst fasting does not nullify the fast. (Shaami 2/395 ; Bada'i 2/93)

**Q:** Is it permissible for a person to take an injection whilst fasting and will the fast be nullified?

**A:** It is permissible for a person to take an injection whilst fasting. The injection does not nullify the fast. However, in the case where the injection is administered directly into the stomach or brain, the fast will be nullified. (Shaami 2/395,410 ; Bada'i 2/93)

**Q:** Is it permissible for a diabetic to take an insulin injection whilst fasting and will it nullify the fast?

**A:** Taking an insulin injection whilst fasting is permissible. The insulin does not nullify the fast. (Shaami 2/395 ; Bada'i 2/93)

### **Being Unable to Fast due to Illness**

**Q:** Due to illness a person is unable to fast. How does he compensate for the missed fasts?

**A:** A person who is terminally ill and is unable to fast will compensate by giving one fidyah for each missed fast. The amount of fidyah is equal to sadaqatul fitr. If the person recovers from the illness then even if he had given fidyah, it will be obligatory on him to make qadha of the missed fasts. (Shaami 2/407,72,427 ; Ahsanul Fataawa 4/442)

### **Miscellaneous Masaail**

**Q:** What duas should one recite at the time of iftaar?

**A:** The following two duas have been reported in the Hadith to be recited at the time of iftaar: (Abu Dawood #2359, 2360; Majma'uz Zawaaid #4893)

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ صُمْتُ وَ عَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

*O Allah, I have kept this fast solely for You, and with Your sustenance have I broken my fast. Accept this fast from me.*

*Indeed You are All hearing and All knowing.*

ذَهَبَ الظَّمَأُ وَابْتَلَّتِ الْعُرُوقُ وَتَبَّتْ الْأَجْرُ إِِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

*(My) thirst has been quenched, and the veins have been moistened and the reward has been obtained (by Allah Ta'ala) Insha Allah.*

**Q:** If a person masturbates while fasting, will the fast break? If so, will both qadha and kaffarah be waajib or only qadha?

**A:** If one masturbates whilst fasting the fast will be nullified. Only qadha will be waajib. (Shaami 2/399; Aalamgiri 1/205)

**NB:** It is impermissible for a person to take enjoyment through masturbation or any haraam activity.

**Q:** If a fasting person ejaculates due to fantasizing or looking at pornography, will his fast be nullified?

**A:** Whilst fasting, just as it is impermissible to indulge in sexual activities, similarly it is impermissible to fantasize about sexual activities. As far as looking at pornography is concerned, then it is totally prohibited in Shari'ah. Committing these major sins in the state of fasting completely destroys the reward of the fast. However, if a person ejaculates due to fantasizing or looking at pornography, the fast will not break. (Shaami 2/396 ; Tahtaawi Pg. 658)

**Q:** A person had fallen ill whilst fasting. The doctor advised him to break his fast. Is he sinful for doing so and will both qadha and kaffarah be waajib or only qadha?

**A:** If he is unable to continue with the fast, it will be permissible for him to break the fast and only qadha will be waajib. (Shaami 2/422 ; Aalamgiri 1/207)

**Q:** During the month of Ramadhaan, I once broke my fast through eating. What is the Shar'ee ruling in such a case?

**A:** You should sincerely repent to Allah Ta'ala for the major sin you had committed and make a firm resolve that you will never repeat this sin in the future. For the fast you had broken, you will have to keep qadha and kaffarah. The kaffarah for a fast that was broken in the month of Ramadhaan is that one fasts for two lunar months consecutively. If one commenced the fast on the 1st of the lunar month, then upon the completion of two lunar months (irrespective of whether the lunar months were 29 days or 30 days), the kaffarah will be discharged and if one commenced the fast from the 2nd of the lunar month or anytime thereafter, then fasting for sixty days will be compulsory. (Shaami 2/409,403)

**Q:** Our school exams are coinciding with the month of Ramadhaan. I have decided not to fast during the exam days (due to studying for the exam) and to make up for the missed fasts after the month of Ramadhaan. Is this permissible for me?

**A:** It is not permissible to leave out fasting on account of the exams. For such a miserable worldly excuse, how can one ever omit one of the greatest faraa'idh (obligations) of Islam? (Surah Baqarah, Aayah 185)

**Q:** Is there any concession for the mother of a new born baby not to fast during Ramadhaan due to weakness and due to breastfeeding if she is unable to satisfy her baby's hunger?

**A:** If she can manage to keep the fast as well as breastfeed the child, then she should do so. However, if she cannot manage due to weakness and fear over the child, then she is allowed to postpone the fast for after Ramadhaan. (Shaami 2/421 ; Aalamgiri 1/207)

# Sunnats and Aadaab of Ramadhaan

1. Start preparing for the month of Ramadhaan well in advance. Some of the pious elders would begin preparing as much as six months in advance.
2. Make a programme for yourself regarding how you will spend your time and utilise the valuable moments of Ramadhaan.
3. If a person has any outstanding rights in relation to the Creator (e.g. qadha Salaah, qadha fasts, unpaid zakaat, etc.) or the creation (e.g. one has oppressed someone or hurt anyone in any way or has any unsettled debts), then before the month of Ramadhaan enters, he should settle his affairs and fulfil all outstanding obligations. Only when these rights and obligations are fulfilled will one be able to derive the full blessings of the month of Ramadhaan.
4. Try to gradually increase your ibaadat from before Ramadhaan and get into a set routine of making ibaadat so that it will be easy to carry out ibaadat during the month of Ramadhaan.
5. Engage in plenty of istighfaar and dua from before Ramadhaan.
6. Any nafl (voluntary good deed) carried out in the month of Ramadhaan fetches the reward of a fardh act and the reward of a fardh act carried out in Ramadhaan is multiplied 70 fold. (Targheeb #1483)
7. Refrain from anything that is doubtful or haraam, whether doubtful food, actions, etc.
8. Increase four actions in Ramadhaan:
  - (a) The recitation of the kalimah 'laa ilaaha illallah'
  - (b) Istighfaar
  - (c) Seeking entrance into Jannah
  - (d) Seeking protection from Jahannum (Targheeb #1483)
9. Make abundant dua during Ramadhaan. The dua of a fasting person is readily accepted, especially the dua that is made before iftaar. (Tirmizi #3598, Shu'abul Imaan #3624)
10. The month of Ramadhaan is known as the month of the Qur'an. Hence one should recite as much Qur'an as possible. Huffaaz should recite much more than non-huffaaz.
11. Fasting is a great ibaadat. Hence during the fast, one should ensure that he does not involve himself in any action which will cause the reward of the fast to be lost. One should exercise caution in refraining from all types of 'la yani' (vain talk and futile activities etc.). (Ibnu Maajah #1690, Bukhaari #1903)
12. While fasting, one should refrain from quarrelling, fighting and entering into arguments. If someone wishes to engage the fasting person in an argument, he should respectfully say to him: 'I am a fasting person' (i.e. it does not behove a fasting person to enter into quarrels, fights and arguments). (Bukhaari #1904)
13. Ramadhaan grants one a good opportunity to perform tahajjud as one is awake at the time of sehri.
14. Try to complete all commitments and necessary duties before Ramadhaan so that all one's time can be dedicated and devoted to ibaadat. (Targheeb #1490)
15. Spend time in the company of the pious servants of Allah Ta'ala in order to derive maximum benefit from this month.
16. There is a lot of barakah (blessings) in waking up for sehri. Hence, one should fulfil the sunnah of sehri before commencing the fast. (Targheeb #1623, Muslim #1096)
17. It is preferable to have sehri during the last portion of the night (i.e. a little before subah saadiq). (Bukhaari #576)
18. One should have iftaar immediately after sunset. (Tirmizi #699,700)
19. It is best to break one's fast with dates and water. (Tirmizi #658,696)
20. Be generous in the month of Ramadhaan. Nabi ﷺ would express the most generosity in the month of Ramadhaan compared to the other months of the year. (Bukhaari #6)
21. If it is possible, provide iftaar for a fasting person, even if it be a date. (Targheeb #1483)
22. Ensure that you perform the twenty rakaat Taraweeh Salaah every night. The Taraweeh Salaah is an emphasised sunnah. In the era of Hazrat Umar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, all the Sahaabah had consensus on performing twenty rakaat Taraweeh. At least try to complete one khatam of the Qur'an in the Taraweeh Salaah. (Abu Dawood #1373, Nasaa'i #2210, Bayhaqi #4805, Umdatul Qaari 127/11)
23. Form the habit of performing good deeds in the month of Ramadhaan and shun the habit of committing evil deeds and vices. (Tirmizi #682)
24. Sit for i'tikaaf during the last ten days of Ramadhaan if you are able to. (Ibnu Maajah #2108, Targheeb #1650)
25. Search for Laylat-ul-Qadr during the odd nights of the last ten nights of Ramadhaan. (Ibnu Maajah #1644)
26. On the night of Qadr recite the following du'aa: (Tirmizi #3513)

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

*O Allah, Indeed You are most forgiving, You love to forgive, so please forgive me.*
27. The one who performs Esha and Fajr Salaah with jamaat and also performs twenty rakaats of the Taraweeh Salaah with the Imaam, Allah Ta'ala will grant him the reward of standing throughout the night in ibaadat, and if the night was Laylatul Qadr, Allah Ta'ala will grant him the reward of Laylatul Qadr. (Muslim #656, Tirmizi #806)

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