



Fatwa no. 4198

Q: Today, Tuesday, is the fourth day of my fasting for the six days of Shawwal. (This morning) I woke up annoyed and looked at the clock; it was 04:15 a.m. The Adhan (call to Prayer) for the Fajr (Dawn) Prayer is called at 04:35 a.m. So I smoked a cigarette and drank some water and then went to the Masjid (mosque). I found someone sleeping in there, so I woke him to lighten the Masjid in preparation for the Fajr Prayer. The man told me that they had offered the Fajr Prayer at its due time, i.e. at 4:55 a.m. I looked at my watch and saw that it was 5:30 a.m. and not 4:30 a.m. as I had first thought. However, I continued my Sawm (Fast) and here I am. Can you tell me the ruling on this? May Allah forgive you and me!

A: If the reality is as you mentioned, then your Sawm on that day is not counted as valid by Shari'ah (Islamic law). Your Sawm became Fasid (void) because you drank water after the Fajr Prayer in error, neglecting to find out the exact time.

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You are not required to fast another day in its place, as fasting the six days of Shawwal is Sunnah (supererogatory act of worship following the example of the Prophet) but it is not Wajib (obligatory). As Shawwal is now over, you cannot make up for that day that was missed. And we advise you to seek Allah's Forgiveness for smoking, as it is Haram (prohibited).

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee