
Combining missed Ramadhaan fast with fast of 'Aashoora' or 'A'rafah

[Fataawa as-Siyaam (438)]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: Can I observe a Sunnah fast with the intention of making up days that I owe from Ramadhaan? Can I do the same with the intention of observing a voluntary fast (such as the day of 'Aashoora')?

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹: If a person fasts the day of 'A'rafah or the day of 'Aashoora', and he still owes fasts from Ramadhaan, his fast will be valid, but if he intended to fast that day to make up for a missed Ramadhaan fast, he will have two rewards: the reward of the day of 'A'rafah or the day of 'Aashoora', and the reward for making up the missed fast. This applies to voluntary fasts in general, that have nothing to do with Ramadhaan. But with regard to the six days of Shawwaal, they are connected to Ramadhaan, and can only be done after making it up. If a person fasts these days before making up missed Ramadhaan fasts, he will not attain the reward for them, because the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)² said: **"Whoever fasts Ramadhaan then follows it with six days of Shawwaal, it will be as if he fasted for a lifetime."** And it is well known that if a person owes missed fasts, then he cannot be regarded as having fasted Ramadhaan until he completes the days that he owes.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him