

Eating out of forgetfulness in Ramadhaan

[Majmoo' Fataawa al-Shaykh Ibn Baaz, vol. 4, p. 193.]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: What is the ruling on one who eats or drinks out of forgetfulness during Ramadhaan?

Shaykh ibn Baaz (رَجَمَهُ اللَّهُ)¹: Praise be to Allaah.

That does not matter and his fast is valid, because Allaah says at the end of Soorat al-Baqarah (interpretation of the meaning):

["Our Lord! Punish us not if we forget or fall into error"]²

It was narrated in a Saheeh report from the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)³ that Allaah said, **"I have done that."** And it was narrated from Aboo Hurairah (رضي الله عنه)⁴ that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **"Whoever forgets that he is fasting and eats or drinks, let him complete his fast, for the One Who fed him and gave him to drink was Allaah."**⁵

The same applies if he has intercourse because of forgetfulness; his fast is still valid according to the more correct of the two scholarly opinions, because of this aayah and this hadeeth, and because the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **"Whoever breaks his fast in Ramadaan out of forgetfulness, he does not have to make that day up and he does not have to offer any expiation (kafaarah)."**⁶ This wording includes intercourse and other things that break the fast, if the fasting person does them because of forgetfulness. This is from the mercy, bounty and kindness of Allaah, for which we praise and thank Him.

¹ (رَجَمَهُ اللَّهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² سورة البقرة - Soorah al-Baqarah [2:286]

³ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

⁴ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

⁵ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim

⁶ Narrated and classed as Saheeh by al-Haakim