
Fasting on Arafat if it coincides with Friday

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Question: The day of Arafat came on Friday, and I fasted on Friday which was the day of Arafat, but I did not fast on Thursday; so is there any sin upon me?

Shaykh bin Baaz (رَجَمَهُ اللَّهُ)¹: We hope there is no sin upon you. This is because you did not intend to single out this day for fasting; rather you only fasted this day because it was the day of Arafat. **But if you would have fasted Thursday along with it, it would have been safer and less doubtful.**

This is because the Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)² prohibited singling out Friday for fasting as it relates to the one observing an optional fast. And you were observing an optional fast. Therefore if you would have fasted Thursday along with it, it would have been safer and less doubtful even if your intention was to fast because it was Arafat. But for the believer to investigate so he can be in agreement with the commands of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is safer and less doubtful. As for fasting (Friday) intending to do so because it is a virtuous day, then this is not permissible because the Messenger prohibited that. But if you fast this day because it is the day of Arafat then we hope there will be nothing upon you. **But if the person takes precaution and fast on Thursday along with Friday, this will be safer.**

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

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