
Ways of Fasting the Day of `Aashooraa

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹ in his Majmoo` Fataawaa vol. 20 pg. 37-38 was asked the following question:

Question: What do you say regarding fasting a day after `Aashooraa, as that which is legislated is fasting a day before it. (So), is fasting a day after `Aashooraa established by way of an authentic narration from the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)?

Answer: (It has been reported) in the 'Musnad' of Imaam Ahmad: "**Fast a day before it or a day after it. Differ from the Jews.**"²

And differing from the Jews is:

(a) Either by fasting the ninth day – as the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)³ said: "**If I live until the next year, I will certainly fast on the ninth day.**"⁴ Meaning: Along with the tenth day.

(b) Or by fasting a day after it; as the Jews used to single out the tenth day (with fasting).

So differing from them is achieved by fasting a day before it or a day after it.

And Ibnul-Qayyim (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) mentioned in 'Zaadul Ma`aad' that fasting the day of `Aashooraa is of four types:

(1) That he fasts the tenth day alone.

(2) Or he fasts it [the tenth day] along with the ninth day.

(3) Or he fasts it [the tenth day] along with the eleventh day.

(4) Or he fasts all three days (i.e. the ninth, tenth, and eleventh together). And in fasting all three days there is an additional benefit – and it is that he achieves fasting three days from the month.

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

² Reported by Ahmad 1/241, and Ibn Khuzaymah no. 2095, and Abdur-Razzaaq in his 'Musannaf' no. 7839, and by al-Haythamee in 'Majmauz Zawaaid' 3/191; reported by Ahmad and al Bazaar and in its chain of narration is Muhammad ibn Abee Laylaa – and there is some speech concerning him.

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

⁴ Reported by Muslim no. 1134