

## Not fasting in Ramadhan due to excuse with inability to pay Al-Fidya

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Article taken and slightly adapted from: ferkous.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

### The ruling concerning not observing fasting in Ramadhan due to an excuse with inability to pay Al-Fidya

**Question:** There is a single woman living in a very poor family. She has a serious disease that allows her not to observe fasting during Ramadhan, and she cannot pay Al-Fidya<sup>1</sup>. So, what is the ruling regarding her. Thank you, and may Allaah reward you.

**Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee** (May Allaah the Most High preserve him): All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

If the disease that affected this woman is temporary, she should fast later, because Allaah (Mighty and Majestic is He) says:

﴿فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْكُمْ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ﴾

The meaning of the verse:

﴿...but if any of you is ill or on a journey, the same number (should be made up) from other days﴾

[Al-Baqarah (The Cow): 184]

However, if her disease is chronic, then she should pay Al-Fidya for every non-fasted day. She should give it to the poor. The amount of Al-Fidya is half Saa<sup>2</sup> of wheat, which is the equivalent of one kilogram of semolina.

If she could not pay Al-Fidya, and someone else takes care of paying it on behalf of her by feeding the poor, it would be valid. In fact, representation in terms of money is allowed.

If she could not find someone to pay Al-Fidya on behalf of her, the obligation of paying it persists until she becomes able to do it.

<sup>1</sup> Al-Fidya: feed a poor person for each day not fasted.

<sup>2</sup> Saa: a volume unit of measurement equivalent to about 2,75 litres (2000 grams of semolina), translator's note.

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If she dies without being able to pay Al-Fidya, she will not be sinful, because Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*) says:

﴿لَا يَكْفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا﴾

The meaning of the verse:

﴿Allaah burdens not a person beyond his scope﴾

[Al-Baqarah (The Cow): 286]

He says also:

﴿لَا يَكْفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا مَا آتَاهَا﴾

The meaning of the verse:

﴿Allaah puts no burden on any person beyond what He has given him﴾

[At-Tahreem (The Interdiction): 7]

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*), his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers, Ramadhan 4th, 1424 H.

Corresponding to: October 11th, 2003.