

Fruits for the Week

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Making up missed days of Ramadhan

Allah (SWT) says: *“O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may (learn) self-restraint. For a fixed number of days; but if any of you is ill or on a journey, the prescribed number (should be made up) from days later...”* (Al-Baqarah:183-184)

Making up the missed days of Ramadhan is an obligation that needs not be fulfilled immediately and one may perform it any time. This is also the case with the fast of expiation. It has been authentically reported that ‘Aishah would make up her missed days during the month of Sha’ban (the month preceding Ramadhan) and that she did not perform them immediately even if she had the ability to do so.

Observing the fast of Ramadhan and making up the days are the same with respect to the fact that if one day of Ramadhan is missed, then only one day needs to be made up. There is no additional penalty. When a person makes up the missed days, he needs not do so on consecutive days. This is because Allah (SWT) says: *“For him who is sick or on a journey, (the same) number of other days”*, that is, whoever is sick or travelling and breaks the fast must fast the same number of days that he

missed, consecutively or non-consecutively.

Allah (SWT) has ordered the fast in a general manner without any restricting clause. As for making up the missed days of Ramadhan, ad-Daraqutni recorded from Ibn Umar that the Prophet (SAW) said: *“If you wish, make them on non-consecutive days and, if you wish, on consecutive days.”*

If one delays performing the missed days of fasting until the next Ramadhan comes, he is to fast the present Ramadhan and then make up the days from the previous Ramadhan. There is no ransom payment to be made, regardless of whether the person delayed the fasting due to some acceptable reason or not.

For whoever dies and still had some days of Ramadhan to make up, the scholars of Fiqh agree that if an individual dies and has missed some prayers during his life, his guardian or heir is not to perform those prayers on his behalf. Similarly, if one does not have the ability to fast while he is alive, no one is to fast for him after his death. Wallahu A’lam.

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