

Bismi Allah Ar-Rahman Ar-Rahim

FATWA

Praise be to Allah only and peace be upon this who there in no prophet after him, Mohammad and his family and companions.

Allah Almighty said:

Surah Al Baqara, Verse: 187

أَحِلَّ لَكُمْ لَيْلَةَ الصِّيَامِ الرَّفَثُ إِلَى نِسَائِكُمْ هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَهُنَّ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ أَنَّكُمْ كُنْتُمْ تَخْتَانُونَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَعَفَا عَنْكُمْ فَالآنَ بَاشِرُوهُنَّ وَابْتَغُوا مَا كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا حَتَّى يَتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمُ الْخَيْطُ الْأَبْيَضُ مِنَ الْخَيْطِ الْأَسْوَدِ مِنَ الْفَجْرِ ثُمَّ أَتُمُوا الصِّيَامَ إِلَى اللَّيْلِ

From: “It was made lawful for you to go in unto your wives on the night of fast” To: “Then complete fasting till nightfall”

And the prophet, peace be upon him said:

Bilal pronounces 'Adhan at night, so keep on eating and drinking (Suhur) till Ibn Um Maktum pronounces Adhan. He would not pronounce the Adhan unless the day had dawned.*

And he said also: If the night came from here -and he pointed towards east-, and the day left from here -and he pointed towards west- and the sun has settled then a fasting person would have broken his fast.

In this noble verse and the two Hadith from the prophet (PBUH) proven to be correct, there is an obvious clue that it is obligatory to start IMSAK (ceasing eating and drinking) from dawn to sunset anywhere regardless the length of the day, if it was in a place where there is a consequence of a day and a night within twenty four hours. This who is in a land where there is no consequence of night and day within twenty four hours, as in a land where the day lasts for two days, one week, one month or even more, or if one was in a land where it becomes too difficult to fast as in case where fasting is twenty hours or more, then one can estimate the length of the day and the night out of twenty four hours. Because the prophet (PBUH) when he told about the antichrist (AD-DAJJAL) said that he (AD-DAJJAL) will stay in the earth for forty days: one day as a year, one day as a month, one day as a week and the rest of the days as normal days. They (companions) said: O Messenger of Allah, on that day which will be as a year, would the prayers of one

day be sufficient? Prophet (PBUH) said: No, but you must make an estimate of the time (and then observe prayers). Nowadays scholars differ how to estimate the day and the night in the countries where the night and the day are longer than twenty four hours.

Some said: It can be estimated equally by making the night twelve hours and the day twelve hours because this is the case in the normal time in the normal place.

Others said: It can be estimated according to their duration in Mecca and Madina because these are the places where the WAHY (The angel Jibril) was revealed. So the day and night can be estimated as it is known there (in Mecca and Madina) if there was no known day and night special for that country.

Others said: It can be estimated according to the closest place where there is a consequence of a day and a night within twenty four hours.

What I see is that Muslims in these countries should select among these opinions what suits their conditions because every opinion has its own evidence, reasoning, and clue. And you who live in those countries know the option which fits you and enables you to perform fasting in a way it becomes easier for Muslims there, and there is nothing against you as long as you follow one of the opinions used and well known by the people of knowledge (scholars) and Allah knows best and from Him we ask guidance and upon Him we depend.

Dr. Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Almosleh
Signature

* Noen lignende Hadith som jeg fant er:

- *Volume 1, Book 11, Number 591:* Narrated Salim bin Abdullah: My father said that Allah's Apostle said, "Bilal pronounces 'Adhan at night, so keep on eating and drinking (Suhur) till Ibn Um Maktum pronounces Adhan." Salim added, "He was a blind man who would not pronounce the Adhan unless he was told that the day had dawned."

- *Volume 1, Book 11, Number 594:* Narrated 'Abdullah bin 'Umar: Allah's Apostle said, "Bilal pronounces the Adhan at night, so keep on eating and drinking (Suhur) till Ibn Um Maktum pronounces the Adhan."

- *Volume 1, Book 11, Number 596:* Narrated 'Aisha: The Prophet said, "Bilal pronounces the Adhan at night, so eat and drink (Suhur) till Ibn Um Maktum pronounces the Adhan."

This was my own translation according to my knowledge and understanding. Any comments, corrections or suggestions will be highly appreciated.

Belal Aljabri, 4 October 2007