

## The Traveler Has the Choice to Fast or Break Fast

On the authority of Aa'ishah (Radiya-llahu 'an-haa), that Hamzah ibn 'Amr al-Aslamee (Radiya-llahu 'an-hu) said to the Prophet (Salla-llaahu alayhi wa Sallam): 'Shall I fast while traveling?' - and he used to fast frequently! He (the Prophet, Salla-llaahu alayhi wa Sallam) said: '*If you will, then **fast**, and if you will, then, **break fast**.*' [al-Bukhaaree, no. 1943]

### Rulings Derived from this Hadeeth

1. The allowance (**Ar-Rukh-sah**) to break the fast while *traveling*, since it (traveling) is a situation where it is *expected* to find some **difficulty** (even if one were *not* fasting).

**Note:** *Each day* of fasting *missed* while traveling, must be made up after Ramadaan - *before* the Ramadaan of the coming year. Allah, the Most High, says: "... (Fasting) is for a fixed number of days (29 or 30). So, whoever is sick or on a journey (and breaks the fast), then *he must make up the missed days* (after Ramadaan)..." [Al-Qur'aan 2:184]

2. The choice (**at-Takh-yeer**) between fasting (*as-Siyaam*) and breaking the fast (*al-Fitr*) is for whoever has the *strength* to fast (in spite of being on a journey). What is intended here is the fast of *Ramadaan*, as is made clear in a Hadeeth reported by Abu Daawood and al-Haakim.

On the authority of Hamzah al-Aslamee (Radiya-llahu 'an-hu) who said: I said: 'O Messenger of Allah (Salla-llaahu alayhi wa Sallam). I own a riding animal which I use (regularly). I (sometimes) travel upon it and (sometimes) rent it out. Perhaps this month, i.e. Ramadaan, will come upon me unexpectedly [while I am traveling]; yet, I find myself to be *strong* and I am *young*, and I feel that fasting [while traveling] - O Messenger of Allah (Salla-llaahu alayhi wa Sallam) - is *easier* for me than *delaying* it, in which case it will become a debt (which I owe). So, O Messenger of Allah (Salla-llaahu alayhi wa Sallam), will my reward be greater if I fast (while traveling) or break the fast (and make up the days later)?'

He (Salla-llaahu alayhi wa Sallam) said: '[Do] **which ever one you wish**, O Hamzah! [Abu Daawood, 2/659, no. 2397. It was mentioned by al-Haafith ibn Hajar al-'Asqalaanee in '*Fath al-Baaree*', 4/689. However, this narration is **weak**. See: **Da'eef** Abu Daawood, no. 2403]

'*Umdah al-Ahkaam*', by al-Imaam Abdul-Ghaneeb ibn Abdul-Waahid al-Maqdisee, along with its *Sharh* (Explanation) '*Tayseer al-'Allaam*', by Shaykh Abdullah ibn Abdur-Rahmaan ibn Saalih Aali Bassaam. Hadeeth No. 181 [p. 424]