

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

34780 - Is fasting six days of Shawwaal makrooh, as some scholars say?

the question

What do you think of fasting six days after Ramadaan in the month of Shawwaal? It says in Muwatta' Maalik that Imam Maalik ibn Anas said concerning fasting six days after breaking the Ramadaan fast that he had not seen any scholar or faqeeh fasting these days, and he had not heard of any of the Salaf doing that, and that the scholars regarded that as makrooh and feared that it was a bid'ah, and that this is joining to Ramadaan something that is not part of it. This appears in al-Muwatta', no. 228, part one.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allaah.

It was proven from Abu Ayyoob (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Whoever fasts Ramadaan then follows it with six days of Shawwaal, that is the fasting of a lifetime." Narrated by Ahmad, 5/417; Muslim, 2/822; Abu Dawood, 2433; al-Tirmidhi, 1164.

This is a saheeh hadeeth which indicates that fasting six days of Shawwaal is Sunnah. Al-Shaafa'i, Ahmad and a number of leading scholars followed this. It is not correct to oppose this hadeeth with the reasons that some scholars cite for this fast being makrooh, such as the fear that an ignorant person might think that this is part of Ramadaan, or the fear that people may think this is obligatory, or that he did not hear that one of the earlier scholars used to fast these days, because this is all speculation, which cannot be used to oppose the saheeh Sunnah. If something is known, this is evidence against those who do not know.

And Allaah is the Source of strength.