

رَمَضانُ

Eating or drinking deliberately.
Intercourse — the gravest, and the only one carrying expiation by agreement.
Deliberately inducing vomiting.
Ejaculation brought about deliberately.
The onset of ḥayḍ or nifās, at any hour of the day.
Anything nutritive taken into the body, including feeding by drip.

WHAT DOES NOT BREAK IT

Eating or drinking in forgetfulness — continue, and it is a provision from Allah.

Involuntary vomiting; a nosebleed; blood taken for testing.

Rinsing the mouth and nose, without exaggeration.

Bathing, swimming, applying kohl or perfume.

Injections that carry no nourishment; inhalers, per the majority of contemporary rulings.

Waking in a state of janābah and bathing after Fajr.

Tasting food on the tongue without swallowing.

- 2 · What breaks the fast
- 3 · Qaḍā', fidyah & kaffārah
- 4 · Suḥūr, ifṭār & their du'ās
- 5 · Tarāwīḥ & the night prayer
- 6 · I'tikāf & Laylat al-Qadr
- 7 · Zakāt al-Fiṭr
- 8 · The thirty days

H = Ḥanafī · M = Mālīkī · S = Shāfi'ī · Ḥb = Hanbalī.

QADĀ' – MAKING UP THE DAY

FIDYAH – FEEDING INSTEAD

Q 2:184; Bukhārī · the ruling of Ibn 'Abbās^{رضي الله عنه}

KAFFĀRAH – THE EXPIATION

- 1 Free a slave.
- 2 Fast sixty consecutive days.
- 3 Feed sixty poor people.

The day itself is also made up. **H** and **M** extend kaffārah to deliberate eating and drinking; **S** and **Hb** confine it to intercourse.

Bukhārī, Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ – the ḥadīth of the man who came saying “I am ruined.”

THE INTENTION

SUHŪR

Bukhārī, Muslim • şaḥīḥ

IFTĀR

ذَهَبَ الظَّمَاُ وَابْتَلَّتِ الْعُرُوقُ وَثَبَتَ الْأَجْرُ
إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

Dhahaba-ṣ-ẓama'u wabtallatil-'urūqu wa thabatal-ajru
in shā'Allāh

The thirst has gone, the veins are moistened, and the reward is assured, if Allah wills.

Abū Dāwūd · ḥasan. The widely quoted *Allāhumma laka ṣumtu* is weak – this is the established wording.

If provoked, say: *innī ṣā'im* — I am fasting. One who does not abandon false speech has given Allah no need of his hunger.

Bukhārī · ṣaḥīḥ

05 Tarāwīḥ

Prayed after ‘ishā’ in pairs of two, ending with witr. A confirmed sunnah, not an obligation — and praying it behind an imam until he finishes is written as a whole night in prayer.

Tirmidhī, Abū Dāwūd · ṣaḥīḥ

THE NUMBER

Twenty rak’ahs — the position of all four madhāhib, on the practice settled under ‘Umarؓ and unbroken in both Ḥaramayn.

Eleven rak’ahs — eight and three of witr, on the report of ‘Ā’ishahؓ that he never exceeded it in or out of Ramaḍān.

M records thirty-six, the practice of Madīnah.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ; Muwaṭṭa’ · the report of Yazīd ibn Rūmān.

Both are established practice and neither is censured. Length of standing outweighs count of rak’ahs.

WITR

Wājib per H, three joined without a salām between; a sunnah mu’akkadah per the other three, prayed one, three, five or more. Do not repeat it if you rise again to pray.

Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ – “Make the last of your night prayer witr.”

06 The last ten

I’TIKĀF

Seclusion in the masjid for worship. The Prophet ﷺ kept it every Ramaḍān, and twenty days in the year he died. Entered before sunset on the 20th, left at the ‘īd. Leave only for necessity — the washroom, or food if none is brought.

H and M require fasting alongside it; S and Hb do not. A woman may observe it with her husband’s consent, in a partitioned space.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ

LAYLAT AL-QADR

Better than a thousand months. Sought in the odd nights of the last ten — the 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th — and most often found on the 27th.

Q 97:3; Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ تُجِيبُ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

Allāhumma innaka ‘afuwwun tuḥibbul-‘afwa fa’fu ‘anni

O Allah, You are Pardoning and love to pardon, so pardon me.

Tirmidhī, Ibn Mājah · ṣaḥīḥ – taught to ‘Ā’ishahؓ when she asked what to say if she found it.

07 Zakāt al-Fiṭr

Obligatory on every Muslim who has food beyond his need for the day — for himself and all he supports, including a child born before the ‘īd dawn.

THE AMOUNT

One ṣā’ of the staple food of the land — dates, barley, raisins, rice or wheat.

1 ṣā’ = 4 mudd ≈ 3.0 litres
≈ 2.04 kg wheat · ≈ 2.4 kg rice
Give by volume, not weight, where you can.

IN CASH?

H permits its value in money, and this is the practice of most institutions today. M, S and Hb require food, as the text specifies it.

WHEN

Best on the morning of ‘īd before the prayer; permitted a day or two earlier. Given after the prayer it is ordinary charity, and the obligation remains.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ – the ḥadīth of Ibn ‘Umarؓ; Abū Dāwūd · ḥasan

Its purpose: to purify the fast of idle and indecent speech, and to feed the poor so that they need not ask on the day of ‘īd.

08 The thirty days

Mark the fast kept, the night prayer stood, and the portion read.

	S	Q	J		S	Q	J
01				16			
02				17			
03				18			
04				19			
05				20			
06				21			
07				22			
08				23			
09				24			
10				25			
11				26			
12				27			
13				28			
14				29			
15				30			

S fast · Q night prayer · J daily portion. Heavy rules mark the odd nights of the last ten.