



Fatwa no. 10551

Q: I used to masturbate during the daytime in Ramadan when I was fourteen and fifteen years old. I do not remember how many days I did that. At that time I was not aware that this is Haram (prohibited); whether in Ramadan or at any other time. I even did not realize that this is what is known as the secret habit (masturbation). I would then perform Wudu' (ablution) and offer Salah (Prayer) without Ghusl (full ritual bath) following major ritual impurity. What is the religious ruling on my Salah and Sawm (Fasting)? Do I have to repeat them, taking into consideration that I do not know how many days that I committed this act? What should I do?

A: First, practicing masturbation is Haram (prohibited) and it is even more sinful during the day in Ramadan. Second, it is obligatory to make up for the days on which you broke your Sawm because masturbation invalidates Sawm. You should try to estimate how many days this occurred. Third, it is also obligatory to pay Kaffarah (expiation) which is giving a needy person half a Sa' (1 Sa' = 2.172 kg) of wheat and the like of the staple food of your area for each day that you missed if you delay making up for it until the next Ramadan arrives.

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Fourth, it is obligatory to take Ghusl after masturbation and it is insufficient to perform Wudu' (ablution) if you have experienced ejaculation. Fifth, it is compulsory to make up for the Salahs which you offered without taking Ghusl, because minor ritual purification (Wudu' and the like) does not suffice in place of major ritual purification (Ghusl).

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee