

The entire month of Shawwāl is a time for fasting the six days



In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The entire month of Shawwāl is a time for fasting the six days.

Question : Is it permissible for a person to choose any six days to observe Ṣawm (Fasting) in Shawwāl, or is there a fixed time for them? If we observe Ṣawm on them, will it become a Fard (obligation) on us?

Answer : It was authentically reported that the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) said: ***Anyone who fasts Ramaḍān and then follows it with six days of Shawwāl it is as if they fasted the whole year.*** (Related by Imām Muslim in his Ṣaḥīḥ [Authentic Ḥadīth Book]) These days are not fixed in the month. A Mu'min (believer) can choose to observe them at any time throughout the month, whether in the beginning, middle, or end of the month, and whether on separate or consecutive days. There is flexibility in this matter, praise be to Allāh. If a person observes them in the beginning of the month, it will be even better, as this is a form of hastening to do good deeds. It is not thus, considered a Fard; a person can leave them in any year. However, it is better and more perfect to continue observing Ṣawm on these days every year, acting on the saying of

the Prophet (ﷺ) : *The deed liked most by Allāh is one to which the doer adheres constantly, even if it is small.*

May Allāh (ﷻ) grant us success. May Allāh (ﷻ)'s Praise and Peace descend upon our Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), his family, and Companions.

**Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'
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