

## Hearing adhaan of Fajr but carrying on eating and drinking

Shaykh ibn Baaz

[Fataawa Ramadhaan, compiled by Ashraf 'Abd al-Maqsood (p. 201)]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

**Question:** What is the Islaamic ruling on the fast of someone who hears the adhaan of Fajr but carries on eating and drinking?

**Shaykh ibn Baaz** (*May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him*): What is required of the believer is to refrain from things that break the fast – eating, drinking and so on – when it becomes clear to him that dawn has broken, if the fast is obligatory, such as in Ramadhaan, fasts observed in fulfilment of vows, and expiatory fasts, because Allaah, may He be glorified and exalted, says (interpretation of the meaning):

**[“and eat and drink until the white thread (light) of dawn appears to you distinct from the black thread (darkness of night)”]<sup>1</sup>**

If he hears the adhaan and knows that the adhaan is usually given at the time of dawn, then he must stop eating and drinking.

If the mu’addhin gives the adhaan before dawn breaks, then he does not have to stop eating and drinking; it is permissible for him to eat and drink until it becomes clear to him that dawn has broken.

If he does not know whether the mu’addhin gives the adhaan before or after dawn breaks, then to be on the safe side it is better for him to stop eating and drinking when he hears the adhaan, and it will not matter if he eats or drinks something at the time of the adhaan, because he does not know whether dawn has broken. It is well-known that those who live in cities where there are electric lights cannot know whether dawn has broken from looking, but to be on the safe side they should follow the adhaan and timetables which state the time of dawn in hours and minutes, acting in accordance with the words of the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*):

**“Leave that which makes you doubt for that which does not make you doubt”**

And

**“Whoever guards against the doubtful matters will protect his religious commitment from shortcomings and will protect his honour from slander.”**

And Allaah is the source of strength.

<sup>1</sup> Soorah al-Baqarah [2:187]