

When to stop eating in Ramadhaan

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (*May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him*)

[al-Liqa' ash-Shahri (1/214)]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: When is it forbidden for a person to eat? Is it as they say: when the mu'addhin (the person making the call to prayer) says Laa ilaaha illaallaah? What is the ruling if he drinks deliberately after the adhaan (the call to prayer)? Is he like one who drinks after 'Asr, or does his fast count? Some people justify that by saying that dawn is not like a lamp that begins to shine quickly, and the matter is broad in scope. What is the ruling?

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (*May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him*) said: If the mu'addhin gives the adhaan when dawn becomes clear, then the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

“Eat and drink until Ibn Umm Maktoom gives the adhaan, for he does not give the adhaan until dawn breaks.”

If the mu'addhin says: I have seen the dawn and I do not give the adhaan until I see the dawn, then the individual must stop eating and drinking when he hears the adhaan, except in the case concerning which a concession has been made, which is a person has his vessel in his hand, in which case he may drink what he needs from it.

But if the adhaan is given according to a timetable, then the timetable is not actually connected to the actual visible time – as it is based on calculations. The timetables we have nowadays, such as the Umm al-Qura timetable and others, are based on calculations, because they do not actually observe the dawn, or the sun, or the zenith, or the beginning of 'Asr, or the setting of the sun.