

There is nothing wrong with making up missed Ramadaan fasts in the
second half of Sha ' baan

I had many days owing of Ramadaan fasts because of pregnancy and giving birth, which coincided with the time of Ramadaan. I have made them up, praise be to Allaah, with the exception of the last seven days.

I fasted three of them in the second half of Sha ' baan, and I want to do the rest before Ramadaan begins.

But I read on your site that it is not permissible to fast in the second half of Sha ' baan, except for a person who habitually fasts. Please advise me, may Allaah reward you. I want to know whether I should fast the rest of these days that I owe, or not. If the answer is no, then what is the ruling on the three days that I have already fasted – do I have to make them up again or not?.

Praise be to Allaah.

It was proven that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “ When Sha ' baan is halfway through, do not fast. ” Narrated by Abu Dawood (3237); Ibn Hibaan (1651); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh al-Tirmidhi.

There are some exceptions from this prohibition, as follows:

1 –One who has a habit of fasting, such as a man who habitually fasts on Mondays and Thursdays, which he may do even after halfway through Sha ' baan. The evidence for that is the words of the Prophet

(peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), “ Do not anticipate Ramadaan by fasting one or two days before it, except a man who fasts regularly, who should observe his usual fast. ” Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 1914; Muslim, 1082.

2 – A person who started fasting before halfway through Sha ' baan, and connects what comes after the halfway point to what came before. This is not included in the prohibition either. The evidence for that is the words of ' Aa ' ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her) who said: “ The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to fast all of Sha ' baan and fast all of Sha ' baan except a little. ” Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 1970; Muslim, 1165. This version narrated by Muslim.

Al-Nawawi said: “ He used to fast all of Sha ' baan and fast all of Sha ' baan except a little. ” The second phrase is an explanation of the first, pointing out that by “ all ” what is meant is “ most ” .

This hadeeth indicates that it is permissible to fast after halfway through Sha ' baan, but only for one who joins that to what came before the halfway point.

3 – An exception from this prohibition is also made for one who is making up missed Ramadaan fasts.

Al-Nawawi (may Allaah have mercy on him) said in al-Majmoo ' (6/399):

Our companions said: it

is not correct to fast on the “ day of doubt ” just before Ramadaan, and there is no difference of scholarly opinion on this point ... But if a person fasts it to make up a missed day or to fulfil a vow, or as an expiation, that is acceptable, because if it is permissible to observe a voluntary fast on that day, it is more likely to be permissible to observe an obligatory fast... and if a person has to make up a day from Ramadaan, then he has to fast it, because the time left for him to make it up has become very short.

The “ day of doubt ” is the thirtieth of Sha ' baan if it has not been possible to sight the moon of the thirtieth because of cloud, fog, etc. It is called the “ day of doubt ” because there is some doubt concerning it – is it the last day of Sha ' baan or the first day of Ramadaan?

In conclusion:

There is nothing wrong with making up a missed Ramadaan fast in the last half of Sha ' baan. This is not included in the prohibition of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) on fasting after halfway through Sha ' baan.

So your fasting of those three days is valid, and you have to fast the remaining days before Ramadaan begins.

And Allaah knows best.