

## Not fasting on the Day of 'Arafah or 'Aashooraa that coincides with Saturday is not a loss, but two gains

By Amaturrahmaan [silsilatul-hudaa wa-nnoor 211/6 / asaheeha translations]

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Question:** "What is the ruling of fasting on the Day of 'Aashooraa or 'Arafah if it coincides with Saturday?"

**Shaykh al-Albaanee** (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)<sup>1</sup>:

"With regard to (the hadeeth) '**Don't fast on Saturday,**' some people are under the false impression that if we leave off fasting on Saturday due to it coinciding with the Day of 'Aashooraa or the Day of 'Arafah or the like, then we would lose the excellence of fasting on one of these two days that coincided with Saturday. No, we would not lose, (rather) we would make two gains.

The first gain is that we have submitted our hearts and souls to the statement of our Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)<sup>2</sup>: '**Don't fast on Saturday unless it is obligated upon you, and even if you don't find anything but a bark of a tree, chew on it**'<sup>3</sup>. Hence we have followed this hadeeth because fasting on the Day of 'Arafah and fasting on the Day of 'Aashooraa are not obligatory. The Messenger (عليه السلام)<sup>4</sup> only made obligatory fasts an exception – if they coincide with Saturday, it is allowed to fast them, (but) those fasts other than the obligatory ones, we were prohibited from fasting them (if they coincide with Saturday).

The second gain is that we are included in the likes of his (عليه السلام) statement: '**Whoever leaves something for Allaah's Sake, Allaah will replace it for him with something better**'<sup>5</sup>. So we have left fasting on the Day of 'Arafah due to it coinciding with Saturday. We have not lost the fast of the Day of 'Arafah. Why? Because we have left it for the sake of Allaah, so Allaah will replace it for us with something better. The same thing is said even more so regarding the fast of the Day of 'Aashooraa."

<sup>1</sup> (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

<sup>2</sup> (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

<sup>3</sup> Saheeh at-Tirmidhee 744, Saheeh Ibn Maajah 1413

<sup>4</sup> (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him

<sup>5</sup> Shaykh al-Albaanee graded it authentic in Hijaabul-Mar.ah p.49