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Fiqh of Fasting: Tafsir of Surah al-Baqarah 2:183–185

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Theme Fiqh Fasting. Tafsir Surah al-Baqarah from 183 - 185

Tafsir Verse 183

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ - 2:183

O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous -

TRANSLITERATION

Ya ayyuha allatheena amanookutiba AAalaykumu assiyamu kamakutiba AAala allatheena min qablikum laAAaallakumtattaqoon

Tafsir	English meaning	words
Obligated	decreed upon you	كُتِبَ
The linguistic definition: Abstinence The Islamic definition: Abstinence from acts that nullify the fast from dawn to sunset with intention.	fasting	الصِّيَامُ

Tafsir verse 184

أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ ۚ فَمَن كَانَ مِنكُم مَّرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ وَعَلَىٰ الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ فِدْيَةٌ طَعَامُ مِسْكِينٍ ۚ فَمَن تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَهُ ۚ وَأَن تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ - 2:184

[Fasting for] a limited number of days. So whoever among you is ill or on a journey [during them] - then an equal number of days [are to be made up]. And upon those who are able - a ransom of feeding a poor person [each day]. And whoever volunteers excess - it is better for him. But to fast is best for you, if you only knew.

TRANSLITERATION

Ayyaman maAAadoodatin faman kanaminkum mareedan aw AAala safarin faAAaiddatun minayyamin okhara waAAala allatheena yuteeqoonahufidyatun taAAamu miskeenin faman tatawwaAAakhayran fahuwa khayrun lahu waan tasoomoo khayrun lakum inkuntum taAAlamoon

Tafsir	Translation of meaning	Words
29 or 30 days depending on the month of Ramadan	a limited number of days	يَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ

A person who breaks his fast due to illness or travelling is obliged to fast on other days according to the number of says he broke his fast	then an equal number of days	فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ
They can endure it with difficulty due to old age or permanent illness	those who are able	يُطِيقُونَهُ
Its wajib on the person who breaks his fast due to an excuse to feed for each day a poor person and he is not obliged to make up the day	a ransom of feeding a poor person	فِدْيَةٌ طَعَامُ مِسْكِينٍ
Does more than he owes or feeds more than poor and needy, then it is good for him	And whoever volunteers excess - it is better for him	فَمَن تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا
Fasting for the person who can, even if it means enduring hardship, it better than breaking the fast and feeding	But to fast is best for you	وَأَن تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ

Tafsir verse 185

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۖ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ - 2:185

The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.

TRANSLITERATION

Shahru ramadana allatheeonzila feehee alqur-anu hudan linnasiwabayyinatin mina alhuda walfurqanifaman shahida minkumu ashshahra falyasumhu waman kanamareedan aw AAala safarin faAAaiddatun min ayyaminokhara yureedu Allahu bikumu alyusra wala

yureedubikumu alAAusra walitukmiloo alAAiddata walitukabbiroo AllahaAAala ma hadakum walaAAallakum tashkuroon

Tafsir	English meaning	words
It's the ninth month of the lunar calendar	The month of Ramadhan	شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ
This verse shows that this month is more virtuous than other months as the Quran was revealed in this month, in the night of decree. It was revealed in one go from the preserved tablet to the lower heavens. Thereafter it was revealed in parts. Also, revelation to the Prophet began this month.	in which was revealed the Qur'an	الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ
Guides people to what completes them and gives them happiness in both worlds	a guidance for the people	هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ
What is meant is that the Quran was revealed to guide people and to illustrate the path to guidance and success that separates truth from falsehood in all aspects of life	clear proofs of guidance and criterion	وَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ
Is present when it is announced	So whoever sights the month	فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ
He is obliged to make it up according to the number of days he broke his fast due to illness or travelling	then an equal number of other days	فَعِدَّةً مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ
It is an obligation to make it up so as to complete the month, either 29 or 30 days	to complete the period	وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ
When a person completes the fast of Ramadan from witnessing the new moon until returning from eid prayer and the legislated	for that [to] which He has guided you	وَلِتُكْبِرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ

When the Prophet migrated to madinah and it became the abode of islam, the legislation and legal rulings were revealed one after the other. The biggest thing for the believer to possess was taqwa. So Allah revealed the obligation to fast in the second year of migration. Allah addressed them by their faith (Eman) saying o you who believe and then informing them that fasting is an obligation on them like it was an obligation on the previous nations and then he mentioned the reason and the effective cause being that prepares them to have taqwa which is obedience to the commands, as fasting is awareness of Allah at all times. Then by mentioning that the duration of fasting is a matter of days, not months or years, and also giving concessions on those who are ill or on a journey, to break the fast and make it up later, if it is possible but difficult. This ruling is abrogated in the following verse, where the choice to break fast is removed. In verse 185 after mentioning in the previous verse it is limited number of days, in this verse Allah mentions the actual month is Ramadan when the Quran was revealed. Whoever witnesses the month, meaning they are resident and not travelling at the time when the month is announced, then fasting it is an obligation if he is of those who are liable for actions (mukalif). Then He mentions that the ill and the travellers are excused and have to make up an equal number of days they decided to break the fast. The permission for the ill and the traveller is to facilitate ease for the ummah. As for making up the days, it is so that they complete Ramadan in the first place and secondly to glorify Allah for the guidance He has given them.

Using the transliteration to help you (if you cannot read the arabic) please find the english for the following ten words of Allah's creation:

[illegible]