

Facts about Fasting¹

1. It is obligatory to fast the month of *Ramadhaan* when a trustworthy Muslim sights the crescent, or, when thirty days of *Sh'abaaan* have been completed.
2. The fast of *Ramadhaan* lasts thirty days, as long as the crescent of *Shawwaal* is not sighted before that.
3. If the crescent of *Ramadhaan* is sighted in a particular country, all other countries must begin their fasts as well.²
4. When a Muslim intends to fast [an obligatory fast], the intention to fast must be made before *Fajr*.
5. Here are some things that nullify a Muslim's fast:
 - Eating
 - Drinking
 - Intercourse
 - Intentionally Vomiting
6. It is impermissible to fast consecutive days without breaking the fast in between.
7. It is recommended to do the following:
 - To Hasten to Break the Fast
 - To Delay the Pre-Dawn Meal
8. When a Muslim misses a day of fasting, due to a valid Islamic excuse, that day must be fulfilled by a compensatory fast on another day.
9. The allowance to fast, or not, is given to the traveler and to those with similar Islamic excuses, except when it is feared that fasting will deteriorate their health [...]; in that case, they do not fast.
10. When a Muslim passes away, owing a fast³, [it is recommended] that a Muslim's heirs fast on his or her behalf.
11. An elderly or unable person, who does not have the ability to fast on its regular day, nor to fast a compensatory day, feeds a poor person for each day that they do not fast.

¹ Abridged from "Radiant Pearls of Islamic Jurisprudence" by al-Imaam ash-Shawkaanee, "Chapter of Fasting".

² This is a well-known issue of scholarly dialogue. For further discussion, see more comprehensive material. As for Muslim minorities, in non-Muslim countries, *Shaykh* al-'Uthaymeen mentions that they may refer back to their Islamic centers for announcements of when to begin fasting...[Abridged]. See *ash-Sharh al-Mumtī*, 6/312.

³ [TN]: This is if a Muslim healed, and after healing, chose to postpone the compensatory fast until death arrived.

