

49750 - Can You Have Intercourse With Your Wife In Ramadan?

the question

Is it permissible to have intercourse with one's wife during the month of Ramadan?

Summary of answer

Intercourse at night in Ramadan is permissible. Night lasts from when the sun first sets until (true) dawn comes. It is haram to have intercourse with your wife during the day in Ramadan and it is one of the things that invalidates the fast.

Detailed answer

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Types of intercourse in Ramadan

Intercourse with one's wife in Ramadan may mean one of two things, either at night or during the day.

Intercourse at night in Ramadan

[Intercourse](#) at night is permissible. Night lasts from when the sun first sets until dawn comes.

The ruling at the beginning of Islam was that intercourse was permissible during the nights of Ramadan so long as one had not yet gone to sleep. If a person went to sleep it became

haram for him to have intercourse after that, even if he woke up before dawn came. Then Allah made the ruling easier and allowed intercourse at any time during the night in Ramadan. This is indicated by the words of Allah (interpretation of the meaning):

“It is made lawful for you to have sexual relations with your wives on the night of As-Sawm (the fasts). They are Libas [i.e. body-cover, or screen, or Sakan (i.e. you enjoy the pleasure of living with them)] for you and you are the same for them. Allah knows that you used to deceive yourselves, so He turned to you (accepted your repentance) and forgave you. So now have sexual relations with them and seek that which Allah has ordained for you (offspring), and eat and drink until the white thread (light) of dawn appears to you distinct from the black thread (darkness of night), then complete your Sawm (fast) till the nightfall.” [al-Baqarah 2:187]

Al-Sa’di (p. 87) said:

“When the fast was first enjoined, it was haram for the Muslims to eat, drink or have intercourse at night after having slept, but that caused hardship for some of them, so Allah made it easier for them and allowed them to eat, drink and have intercourse at any time during the nights of the fast, whether they had slept or not, because they were deceiving themselves.

“so He turned to you” means that He made something easier for you that would have caused you to fall into sin otherwise; “and forgave you” for what is past. “So now” means, after this concession and ease that has been granted by Allaah, “have sexual relations with them” means intercourse, kissing, touching, etc.

“and seek that which Allah has ordained for you” means intend, when you have relations with your wives, to obey Allah thereby and to achieve the greater purpose of intercourse, which is to have children, keep oneself and one’s wife chaste, and to achieve the purposes of marriage.”

Al-Jassas said in Ahkam al-Quran (1/265):

“Intercourse, eating and drinking are permitted during the nights of the fast from the beginning (of the night) until dawn comes.”

Al-Bukhari (4508) narrated from al-Bara (may Allah be pleased with him) that when the obligation of fasting was first revealed, they would not come near to their wives for the whole of Ramadan, and some men deceived themselves, then Allah revealed “Allah knows that you used to deceive yourselves, so He turned to you (accepted your repentance) and forgave you”.

Al-Hafiz said:

“With regard to the phrase, “when the obligation of fasting was first revealed, they would not come near to their wives for the whole of Ramadan” – it appears from the context of this report that intercourse was forbidden both night and day, unlike eating and drinking which were allowed at night so long as one had not slept. But the rest of the hadiths narrated on this topic indicate that no such distinction was made, so the words “they would not come near to their wives” may be understood as referring to what most of the people did, so as to reconcile between the reports.”

“You used to deceive yourselves” means that they had intercourse with their wives and ate and drank at the time when it was forbidden to them. This was mentioned by al-Tabari. And it was narrated from Mujahid that “you used to deceive yourselves” means that they wronged themselves.” (‘Awn al-Ma’bud)

Intercourse during the day in Ramadan

With regard to [intercourse during the day in Ramadan](#) on the part of one who is obliged to fast, the scholars agree that it is haram and is one of the things that invalidate the fast.

It says in al-Mughni (4/372):

“We do not know of any differing opinion among the scholars with regard to the fact that whoever has [intercourse](#) in the vagina, whether he ejaculates or not, or ejaculates outside

the vagina, has broken his fast if he did that deliberately. This is indicated by the sahih reports.”

Expiation for having intercourse during the day in Ramadan

Indeed [intercourse](#) is the most serious of the things that break the fast, and [expiation must be offered for that](#) .

Al-Bukhari (2600) and Muslim (111) narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and said, “O Messenger of Allah, I am doomed!” He said: “Why is that?” He said, “I had intercourse with my wife when I was fasting.” The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Do you have a slave whom you can set free?” He said, “No.” He said: “Can you fast for two consecutive months?” He said, “No.” He said, “Can you afford to feed sixty poor persons?” He said, “No.” Then a man from among the Ansar brought a basket of dates. He said: ‘Take this and give it in charity.’ The man said: “To someone poorer than us? O Messenger of Allah, by the One Who sent you with the truth, there is no family between the two lava fields (i.e., in Madinah) poorer than us.” The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Go and feed it to your family.”

And Allah knows best.