

English translation:

- How do you fast?

- Fasting... We wake up early in the morning.... Umm.... We eat at 4:00 AM, and then all day, from morning until 8:00PM, we do not drink anything, not even water; nor eat anything, not even bread, nothing. We do not put anything into our mouths. With God in mind, we declare our intentions, we fast. We wait through it with different foods, just like a guest. Our beautiful Ramadan is the queen of the other eleven months. We celebrate it beautifully. During the other months we cannot wait for it [Ramadan] to come; we prepare ourselves for Ramadan. We are doing everything for it. We are preparing, we are decorating all the tables, [and] we say that our Ramadan is here -- have a holy Ramadan. Fasting is a duty of every Muslim, and so is praying, and following God's path. It's a duty for us to lead God's business and follow God's path. When the time comes, at the time of sunset prayer at 7:30PM, we break our fast ... we eat. And we do that with the date-palm fruit that comes from Africa, with the fruit that our prophet loves, we break our fast.

- Why with date palm fruit? Does date-palm fruit have a special meaning?

- The date-palm fruit... Our Mehmet [Mohammed] prophet, *alayhi wa sallam* [May Allah bless him], planted it, and the fruit grew the moment he planted it. We break our fast with that date-palm he planted. There are many reasons why we use the date-palm fruit...reasons from there...they make wands from the branches of the date-palm tree. Even though there is no food in Mecca, with one date-palm fruit they could go for a day in battle. Date-palm fruit is that strong, that nourishing, and has such a high status.

- Does the mosque let you know... umm... what time to break?

- Oh yeah, the mosque calls for the prayer. The mosque lets us know when there will be a feast, when we will break our fast. We have our mullahs, they let us know. Therefore, with that we break our fast, [and] we start our fast.

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