

The Reward for Feeding the Fasting Person

By Shaykh Bandar ibn Sulaymān al-Khaybarī (حفظه الله)

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Shaykh Bandar al-Khaybarī was asked via whatsapp on 1st Ramaḍān 1439 (17th May, 2018):

Question: Dear *Shaykh*, may **Allāh** bless you. We are brothers from the administration of the *Masjid*. We distribute dates and drinks to the people in the *Masjid* during *iftār*, hoping for the reward of [feeding] the fasting person by giving them something to break their fast with. Also, we provide meals after the *Maghrib* prayer; however, concerning the reward mentioned in the *ḥadīth*, is it specific to the one who gives the fasting person dates and water or something similar to break his fast with at the *adhān* of the *Maghrib* prayer? Or is it for the one who gives him enough food for him to eat until he is full. This is customary in our place; we break our fast with something light after the *adhān* and then after the *Maghrib* prayer we have a large meal. The reason for this question is that some brothers feel that if the reward is attained by merely providing water and dates, then the administration should suffice with just this and not provide a meal after the *Maghrib* prayer.

Answer: The reality is that the reward is for the one who provides the fasting person with something to break his fast, even if it is a date or a glass of water. Hence the one who breaks his fast with this and the one who provided it will be given the reward (mentioned in the *ḥadīth*) if the person has the correct intention for doing so *in shā’Allāh*. What is intended here is that if the individual gives his fasting brother something to break his fast with even if it is just a drink of water, a date or something similar then he is rewarded. If he gives more food to the extent that it is enough to fill the person up, then this is also good. However, the reward is attained by simply providing him with something to break his fast with. And this was the opinion that *Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymīn* (May **Allāh** have mercy on him) deemed as the strongest and **Allāh** knows best.

