

makes His commands clear to humankind, that they may become pious.

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When the fast was first made obligatory, the Muslims were forbidden to eat, drink or have intercourse during the night after sleeping. This caused a great deal of hardship to some of them, so Allah (ﷻ) made it easier for them by permitting these actions – eating, drinking and intercourse – throughout the night of the fast, whether they had slept or not, because they had been betraying themselves by not being able to adhere to some of that which was enjoined upon them.

﴿but He has accepted your repentance﴾ by making something flexible for you which, if He did not do that, would lead to sin ﴿and forgiven you﴾ for your previous self-betrayal.

﴿So now﴾, after this concession and flexibility that have been granted by Allah

﴿go in unto them﴾ and be intimate with them in all ways

﴿and seek what Allah has ordained for you﴾ that is, by being intimate with your wives, you should have the intention of drawing closer to Allah and of fulfilling the greater purpose behind intercourse, which is to produce offspring, to keep yourselves and your spouses chaste, and to fulfil the purposes of marriage.

One of the things that Allah has ordained for you is *Laylat al-Qadr*, which comes during the nights of the Ramadan fast. So it is not appropriate for you to be distracted by this pleasure and thus miss out on Laylat al-Qadr, because you can catch up with physical pleasures later on, but if you miss out on Laylat al-Qadr, you cannot catch up with it later.

﴿and eat and drink, until the white thread of dawn appears to you distinct from its black thread﴾. This refers to the time when one should stop eating, drinking and having intercourse. It indicates that if a person is eating and so on, and is not sure whether dawn has come, there is no blame on him.