The Virtues of Fasting on the day of Aashura

Q: Imaan-61 : Concerning the fast on the day of Aashura, Rasulullaah SAW. stated that it causes forgiveness for the sins of the previous year. Does this refer to minor sins only or major sins as well?

Answer: While this statement of Rasulullaah SAW. is certain to refer to minor sins, one may also entertain the hope that it secures forgiveness for major sins as well. However, one must never rely on Ahadeeth such as this and continue committing sins. Such deeds will be of help to a person when he expresses regret for his sins and makes a concerted effort to refrain from them.

Fatawa Rahimiyyah (Vol.1)