

## **Markaz - Ul - Islam Society of Edmonton**

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### *Moon sighting Procedure and Policy*

The decision regarding hilal (crescent) sighting at Markaz-ul-Islam is undertaken as follows:

If the hilal is not sighted in Edmonton then the Hilal Committee of Toronto & Vicinity which comprises of more than 80 Masajid & Islamic centers in and around the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is consulted.

The reason why Markaz-ul-Islam consults the Hilal committee of Toronto is that it has appointed personnel residing in all the provinces of Canada and also in every state in the USA and Caribbean who search for the moon.

Once information is received the sighting then is confirmed and verified by large amounts of people and then the decision is declared.

#### **ASTRONOMICAL DATA**

Markaz-ul-Islam also uses astronomical data obtained from European Council for Fatwa and Research and [www.moonsighting.com](http://www.moonsighting.com) (sighting criteria developed by Br. Khalid Shaukat, USA) to assist in making its decisions, **however all decisions are based on the actual sighting of the moon in North America & the Caribbean with the naked eye and in consultation with the Hilal Committee of Toronto.** Evidence for the probability of a moon sighting occurring according to calculations is reviewed, although it is not the sole reason for determining a new month. **Islamic law has made clear the necessity of an actual visual, unaided sighting of the moon.** However, there are no restrictions to use calculations in determining the probability of a moon sighting. If astronomical data, calculation and sighting by the naked eye coincide, then Alhamdulillah.

#### **THE MOON SIGHTING OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**This is in response to many individuals who emphasize that the announcement of Saudi Arabia should be followed.**

The horizon of Saudi Arabia is different than ours here in North America. This is why the senior Muftis and Scholars (Ulama) of Saudi Arabia (Sh. Abdullah bin Baz, Sh. Saleh bin Uthaimen etc.) have also issued fatwas for the Muslims in North America that we should not follow the sighting of Saudi Arabia but rather follow our local sightings.

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It has sadly been observed that announcements of sighting in Saudi Arabia have been made even when the hilal was not sighted by the naked eye nor was it astronomically visible.

It is for these reasons that Markaz-ul-Islam does not follow the sighting announcements of Saudi Arabia.

**If Saudi Arabia announces that they have sighted the hilal and this is supported by astronomical calculation, then Markaz-ul-Islam will accept the sighting announcement of Saudi Arabia.**

### Narrations from Rasulullah (SAW) with regards to commencement of the a new month

عن ابن عمر قال سمعت رسول الله صل الله عليه و سلم يقول: «صوموا لرؤيته وأفطروا لرؤيته، فإن غمَّ عليكم فأكملوا العدة ثلاثين

Narrated Ibn Umar (RA): I heard Allah's Apostle (SAW) saying, "When you see the crescent (of the month of Ramadan), start fasting, and when you see the crescent (of the month of Shawwal), stop fasting; and if the sky is overcast (and you can't see It) then regard the crescent (month) of Ramadan (as of 30 days)".

عن ابن عمر قال قال صلى الله عليه وسلم: «إثما الشهر تسع وعشرون، فلا تصوموا حتى تروه

Narrated Abdullah bin Umar (RA): Allah's Apostle said, "The month (can be) 29 nights (i.e. days), and do not fast till you see the moon"

شرح حديث كريب عن ابن عباس من صحيح مسلم -

روى الإمام مسلم في صحيحه بسنده .. عن كُرَيْبٍ أَنَّ أُمَّ الْفَضْلِ بِنْتَ الْحَارِثِ بَعَثَتْهُ إِلَى مُعَاوِيَةَ بِالشَّامِ قَالَ فَقَدِمْتُ الشَّامَ فَقَضَيْتُ حَاجَتَهَا وَاسْتَهَلَّ عَلَيَّ رَمَضَانُ وَأَنَا بِالشَّامِ فَرَأَيْتُ الْهِلَالَ لَيْلَةَ الْجُمُعَةِ ثُمَّ قَدِمْتُ الْمَدِينَةَ فِي آخِرِ الشَّهْرِ فَسَأَلَنِي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا ثُمَّ ذَكَرَ الْهِلَالَ فَقَالَ مَتَى رَأَيْتُمُ الْهِلَالَ فَقُلْتُ رَأَيْتَاهُ لَيْلَةَ الْجُمُعَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْتَ رَأَيْتَهُ فَقُلْتُ نَعَمْ وَرَأَهُ النَّاسُ وَصَامُوا وَصَامَ مُعَاوِيَةَ فَقَالَ لَكِنَّا رَأَيْتَاهُ لَيْلَةَ السَّبْتِ فَلَا نَزَالَ نَصُومُ حَتَّى نُكْمَلَ ثَلَاثِينَ أَوْ نَرَاهُ فَقُلْتُ أَوْ لَا تَكْتَفِي بِرُؤْيَيْهِ مُعَاوِيَةَ وَصِيَامِهِ فَقَالَ هَكَذَا أَمَرَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

قال النووي: فيه حديث كُرَيْبٍ عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ ، وَهُوَ ظَاهِرُ الدَّلَالَةِ لِلتَّرْجَمَةِ ، وَالصَّحِيحُ عِنْدَ أَصْحَابِنَا أَنَّ الرُّؤْيَا لَا تَعْمُ النَّاسَ ، بَلْ تَخْتَصُّ بِمَنْ قَرِيبَ عَلَى مَسَافَةٍ لَا تُقْصَرُ فِيهَا الصَّلَاةُ ، وَقِيلَ : إِنْ اتَّفَقَ الْمَطَّلِعُ لَزِمَهُمْ ، وَقِيلَ : إِنْ اتَّفَقَ الْإِقْلِيمُ وَالْأَقْلَامُ ، وَقَالَ بَعْضُ أَصْحَابِنَا : تَعْمُ الرُّؤْيَا فِي مَوْضِعِ جَمِيعِ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ ، فَعَلَى هَذَا نَقُولُ : إِنْ لَمْ يَعْمَلِ ابْنُ عَبَّاسٍ بِخَبَرِ كُرَيْبٍ ؛ لِأَنَّهُ شَهَادَةٌ فَلَا تَنْبُتُ بِوَجَدٍ ، لَكِنَّ ظَاهِرَ حَدِيثِهِ أَنَّهُ لَمْ يَرُدَّهُ لِهَذَا ، وَإِنَّمَا رَدَّهُ لِأَنَّ الرُّؤْيَا لَمْ يَنْبُتْ حُكْمُهَا فِي حَقِّ الْبَعِيدِ .

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## **Different sightings of the Hilal (new moon) during the time of the Sahaba (RA)**

During the time of the noble companions (Sahaba) who understood and learnt the deen directly from the Holy Prophet (SAW), there were also different dates for Ramadan and Eid based upon different sightings in different countries as found in the authentic Ahadith.

“Kuraib (RA) reported that Umm Fadl (RA), daughter of Harith, sent him (Fadl, i.e. her son) to Mu'awiya (RA) in Syria. I (Fadl) arrived in Syria, and did the needful for her. It was there in Syria that the month of Ramadan commenced. I saw the new moon (of Ramadan) on Friday. I then came back to Medina at the end of the month. Abdullah bin 'Abbas (RA) asked me (about the new moon of Ramadan) and said: When did you see it? I said: We saw it on the night of Friday. He said: (Did) you see it yourself? -I said: Yes and the people also saw it and they observed fast and Mu'awiya (RA) also observed fast, whereupon he said: But we saw it on Saturday night. So we would continue to observe fast till we complete thirty (fasts) or we see it (the new moon of Shawwal). I said: Is the sighting of the moon by Mu'awiya (RA) not valid for you? He said: No; this is how the Messenger of Allah (SAW) has commanded us. “  
(Saheeh Muslim)

We at Markaz-ul-Islam aspire to adhere firmly to the Qur'an and Sunnah and do not want to create differences in the community but rather want to present the correct Deen which has been outlined in the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah.

We ask Almighty Allah to guide us towards the truth.

Ameen Ya Rabbal Aalameen.

Prepared by Imam Mohammed Iqbal Subrathi and Qari Zeeshan Qasimuddin and approved by the Board of Markaz-ul-Islam

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