



IS THERE SOMETHING CALLED “GLOBAL MOONSIGHTING”?

Facts vs. Fiction

HADITH ON LOCAL SIGHTING

Kurayb said: Umm Fadl, daughter of Harith, sent him (Fadl, i.e. her son) to Mu'awiyah 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 ibn Abbas asked me (about the new moon of Ramadan) and said: When did you see it? I said: We saw it on Friday night. He said: (Did) you see it yourself? I said: Yes, and the people also saw it so they observed fast and Mu'awiyah also observed fast. Thereupon he said: But we saw it on Saturday night. So we shall continue to observe the fast until we complete thirty (fasts) or we see it (the new moon of Shawwal). I said: Is the sighting of the moon by Mu'awiyah not valid for you? He said: No; this is how the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) has commanded us.**

(Sahih Muslim:2391)

**AS UNDERSTOOD FROM THE HADITH
OF KURAYB, IT WAS THE PRACTICE
OF THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH
(PEACE BE UPON HIM) AND HIS
BLESSED COMPANIONS (MAY ALLAH
BE PLEASED WITH THEM) TO LOOK
FOR THE HILAL IN THEIR OWN
VICINITY.**



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هلال

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WHILE IN MADINAH, THE
MESSENGER OF ALLAH ﷺ
AND SAHABAH NEVER
SOUGHT TO FIND OUT WHEN
THE HILAL WAS SIGHTED IN
MAKKAH.

THERE IS NO RECORDED
INCIDENT OF THE SAHABAH,
TABIEEN, OR THE MANY
GENERATIONS AFTERWARDS
LOOKING TO FIND OUT WHEN
THE HILAL WAS SIGHTED IN
MAKKAH OR ANYWHERE ELSE
OUTSIDE OF THEIR VICINITY.



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WHAT THEY DID THEN

Although it is a fact that:

‘أقام رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم بالمدينة عشر سنين يضحي’

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, resided in Madinah for ten years and performed *Udhiyyah*.

(Tirmizhi, 1507)

Never once is it found that he attempted to unify the moons of Makkah and Madinah.

SHAYKH AL-ISLAM IBN TAYMIYYAH (R) SAYS:

الرؤية تختلف باختلاف التشريق والتغريب فإنه متى رئي في
المشرق وجب أن يرى في المغرب ولا ينعكس ؛ لأنه يتأخر
غروب الشمس بالمغرب عن وقت غروبها بالمشرق فإذا كان
قد رئي ازداد بالمغرب نورا وبعدا عن الشمس وشعاعها وقت
غروبها فيكون أحق بالرؤية وليس كذلك إذا رئي بالمغرب
لأنه قد يكون سبب الرؤية تأخر غروب الشمس عندهم فازداد
بعدا وضوءا ولما غربت بالمشرق كان قريبا منها .

(مجموع فتاوى ابن تيمية : ج ٢٥ ص ٩٨)

SHAYKH AL-ISLAM IBN TAYMIYYAH (R) SAYS:

“The sighting [of the hilal] differs according to the difference in east and west. **Undoubtedly, when it is sighted in the East, it MUST be sighted in the West, but not vice versa** because the sunset is delayed further in the West than the East. Thus, when it is sighted, it increases in light and distance from the Sun and its rays during the sunset [of the West]. It is then more likely to be sighted. This is not necessarily the case however if it was sighted in the West, because the reason it was sighted could have been the delay in sunset in their (the Westerners’) [area] and thus it increased in distance and illumination, whereas during the sunset in the East, it was closer.”

(Majmoo’ Fatawa Ibn Taymiyyah, vol. 25, pg. 98)

SOME LOGICAL QUESTIONS

1. If everyone follows global moon sighting and depends on other countries to sight the moon as a general practice, no one will take part in an effort to sight the moon locally. Everyone will depend on someone else, thus moon sighting efforts will end forever. How will we have any moon sighting reports then?

SOME LOGICAL QUESTIONS

2. If everyone follows global moon sighting and the moon is sighted in the West, how will the Muslims of East act upon it since they won't get the news until it is the day after already?

SOME LOGICAL QUESTIONS

3. We have heard from the ‘Ulama and Mashaikh that sighting the moon is *fardh kifayah* (*fardh* upon all, sufficient if some do it). So what do we do about the rest of the Islamic months?



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**4. DO WE SIMPLY RELY ON
PRE-CALCULATED DATES
FOR THE OTHER NINE
MONTHS OF THE ISLAMIC
CALENDAR?**



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5. DO WE RELY ON JUST HEARSAY AND INTERNET POSTINGS BY UNKNOWN OR QUESTIONABLE SOURCES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR *DEEN*, WHICH IS RELATED TO MANY ESSENTIAL *IBADAAT* IN ISLAM?

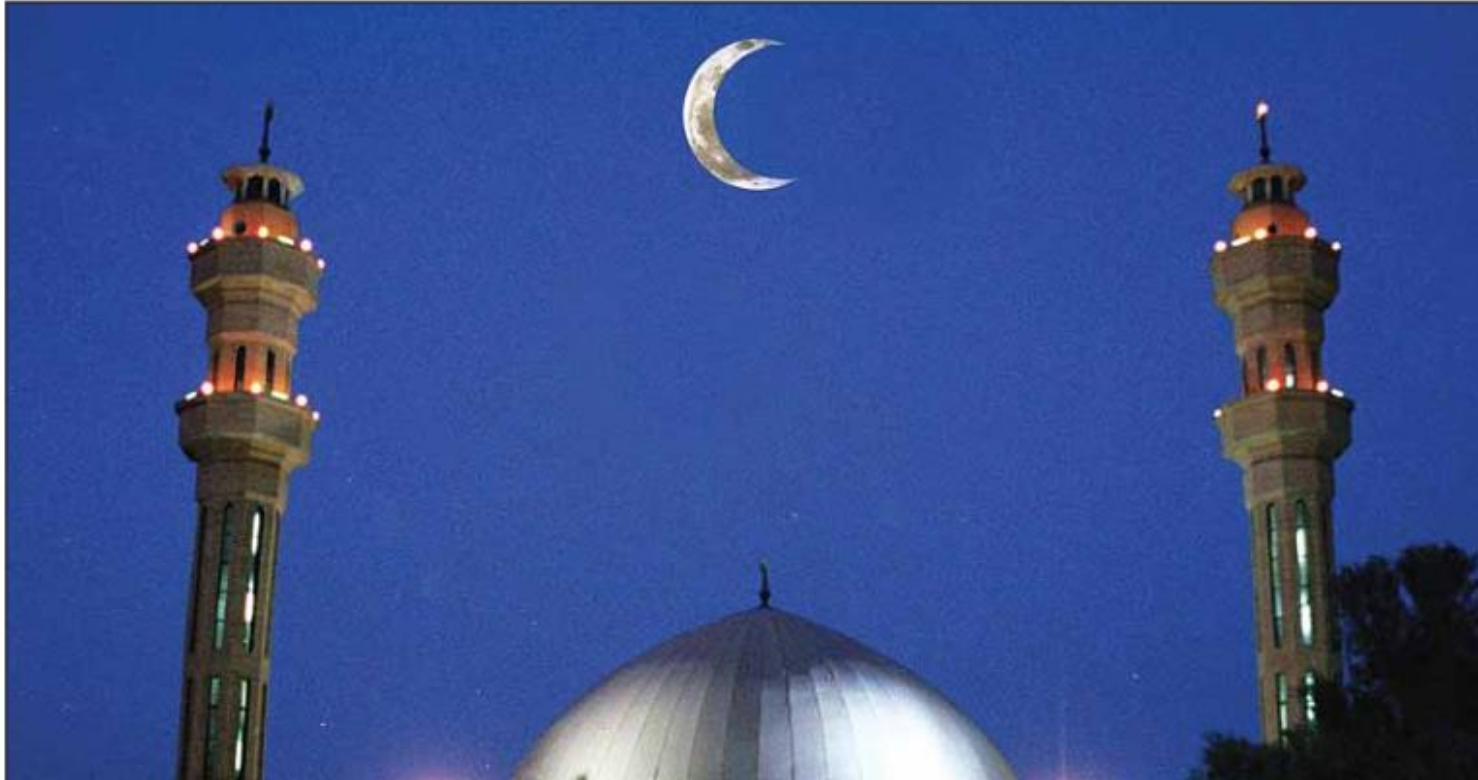


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**SHOULD WE FEEL
CONTENT IN DOING SO?**

TAWHEED AL-AHILLAH WA AL-A'YAD (UNIFIED HILAL AND EID)

مجمع الفقه الإسلامي: الدعوة إلى توحيد الصيام والأعياد تخالف الشرع والعقل



أكد مجمع الفقه الإسلامي التابع لرابطة العالم الإسلامي في مكة المكرمة أن الدعوة إلى توحيد الصيام والأعياد تخالف الشرع والعقل، موضحة أن الدعوة إلى ذلك لا تكفل وحدة المسلمين، وأن الذي يكفل وحدتهم هو عملهم بكتاب الله وسنة رسوله، صلى الله عليه وسلم، جاء ذلك في قرار أصدره المجمع لبيان حكم اختلاف المطالع والدعوة إلى توحيد الرؤية وإثبات الأهلة في العالم الإسلامي، ودعا المجمع إلى أن تترك قضية إثبات الأهلة للقضاء ودور الافتاء في البلدان الإسلامية، وقال المجمع أن الإسلام ربط الصوم والافطار بالرؤية البصرية وأن اختلاف المطالع معتبر عند كثير من الفقهاء، وفيما يلي نص قرار المجمع:

درس المجمع الفقهي الإسلامي المنبثق عن رابطة العالم الإسلامي بمكة المكرمة مسألة اختلاف المطالع في بناء الرؤية عليها، فرأى أن الإسلام بني على أنه دين يسر وسماحة، تقبله الفطرة السليمة، والعقول المستقيمة، لموافقته للمصالح، ففي مسألة الأهلة، ذهب إلى إثباتها بالرؤية البصرية لا إلى اعتمادها على الحساب، كما تشهد

**TAWHEED AL-
AHILLAH WA
AL-A'YAD
(UNIFIED HILAL
AND EID)**

The Islamic Fiqh Council, an international board of Islamic scholars, had a seminar on this topic

It was decided that:

“The claim of unified Hilal and Eid is AGAINST the Shariah and common sense”



FOLLOWING SAUDI

Branching off Unified
Sightings

SOME QUESTIONS

1. As Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah (r) was quoted, which is also an established principle in astronomy, it is an undeniable natural fact that if the moon is sighted at any point in the East it **MUST** be sighted in the West. How is it possible the Saudi Arabia sees the Hilal first every year and the dozens of Muslim nations and millions looking for the Hilal to west are not to see it?

**ONE HIJRI BUT
DIFFERENT
GREGORIAN?**

**2. Must there be only ONE
Hijri date everywhere
simultaneously whereas the
Gregorian calendar differs
in dates as we speak?**

WHAT DID OUR SALAF DO?

3. Did the Sahabah and Taabi'een of Madinah, Egypt, Sham, etc. follow Makkah for the moon sighting?

WHAT ABOUT SIGHTINGS PRIOR TO SAUDI?

4. What if a sighting is established in another country before Saudi? Should we follow it? (This happened quite a few times. We remember clearly in the last few Ramadan beginnings, official announcements from several African countries came before Saudi and Saudi did not start according to it. Those who say they follow global moon sighting also did not do so. Did they do something wrong?)



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**THE SAUDI ULAMA SAY THEY
FOLLOW THE LOCAL MOON
SIGHTING AND DO NOT ACCEPT
SIGHTINGS FROM ANY OTHER
COUNTRY. WHY SHOULD WE
THEN FOLLOW THEM, AS WE ARE
IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY?**



UNITY

WHAT ABOUT UNITY?

Allah (swt) says: “Hold fast, all of you, to the rope of Allah, and be not divided.” (3:103)

But unity upon what?

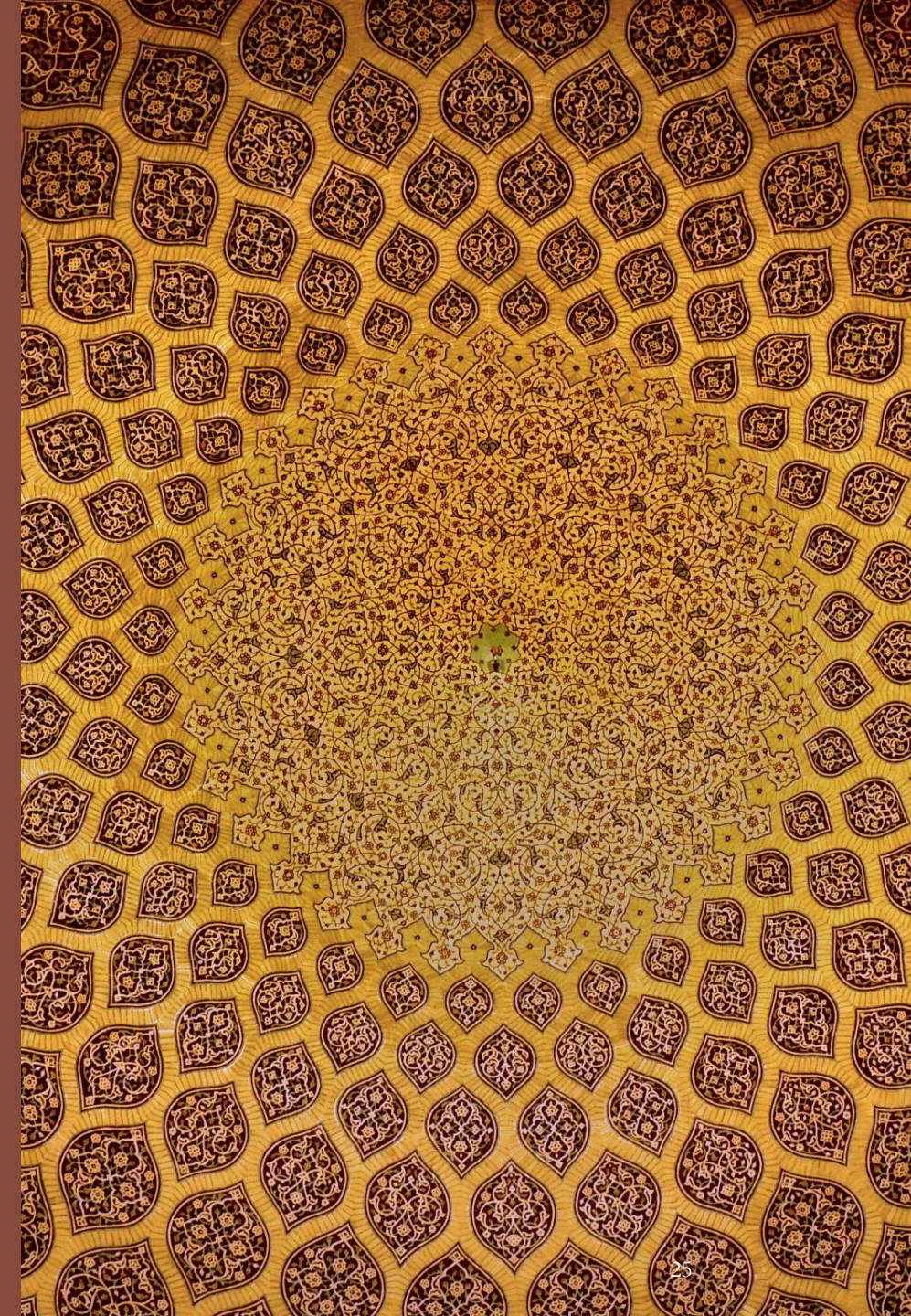
If unity is attained but we let go of the ‘rope of Allah’ (His Deen and regulations), there is no benefit in that unity

WHAT ABOUT UNITY?

Allah (swt) says:

﴿وَإِنْ تُطِيعَ أَكْثَرُ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يُضِلُّوكَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ إِنْ يَتَّبِعُونَ
إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ﴾

“If you obey the majority of those on earth, they will make you lose the way of Allah. They follow nothing but whims, and they do nothing but make conjectures.” (6:116)



WHAT ABOUT UNITY?

Allah (swt) says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ
فَإِنْ تَنَزَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ
وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا﴾

“O you who believe, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. **Then, if you quarrel about something, return it back to Allah and the Messenger**, if you believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is good, and the best at the end. ”
(4:59)

WHAT ABOUT UNITY?

Unfortunately, there is a major lack of discipline

There are only two ways to attain unity in this matter:

1. The government announces the Hilal sighting
2. There is a central authority accepted by all

