

Sighting the Moon for Ramadan in Islamic Law: A Critical Evaluation of Diverse Views on Calculation and Physical Sighting

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Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar and is a month of spiritual rejuvenation with a heightened focus on devotion. Despite Ramadan being a month of high spiritual significance, Muslims face a huge predicament each year when it comes to determining the commencement and termination of Ramadan. This dilemma is solely caused due to the differences of opinions amongst Islamic scholars of the past and present on the issue of sighting the moon. The reason pertaining to this disagreement is due to the different understanding of the scholars in relation to the Prophetic statements that revolve around beginning the month of Ramadan by sighting the crescent. This thesis will look deeply into the contrasting views of scholars revolving around the topic, the historical background of these opinions and the interpretations of different scholars (past and present) on this issue. The thesis will aim to provide an insight into the type of evidence that different scholars have used to decipher in their own way thereby justifying their opinions and methodologies.

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