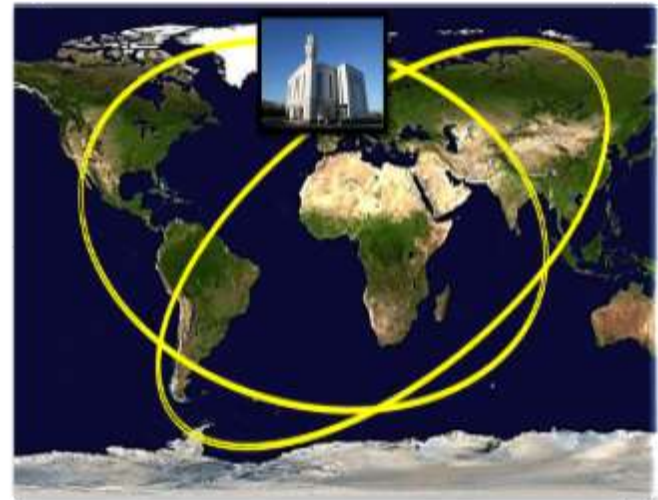


# The Advent of the blessed month of Ramadhan



**Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat  
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Muslim Community**



**relayed live all across the  
globe**

June 3rd 2016

## The Advent of the blessed month of Ramadhan

Today Huzoor elaborated on questions raised about fasting and the sayings of the Promised Messiah (as) about them.

Fasting is obligatory for all healthy adults however in certain circumstances there are concessions

In countries with 22 - 23 hours daylight , Jama'ats have fixed their Suhoor and Iftar with reference to the times in nearby countries.

For beginning Ramadhan and Eid date, "Actual (lunar) sighting has superiority over calculations. "

People should continue to eat suhoor even whilst Adhan is ongoing

Fasting in a state of sickness and travel is prohibited.

Fidya is not a replacement for fasting

For eating unknowingly by mistake there is no penalty and one can continue fasting.

Shariah has commanded children to not fast

June 3rd 2016

Fasting and climate

**In certain circumstances there are concessions**

The Arbiter

As the days are long it becomes difficult to fast, particularly in hot regions. Despite this fasting is obligatory for all healthy adults.



Lunar sighting

Concession to not fast is provided for people e.g labourers in hot regions and in some other special conditions.



Suhoor

In some countries daylight lasts for 22 - 23 hours, Hence, such Jama'ats have been told to fix their Suhoor and Iftar with reference to the Suhoor/Iftar times in nearby countries.



The traveller & The sick

If we do not grant this provision, there would be no time for Suhoor or Iftar, or to offer Tahajjud, Fajr or Isha prayers.

Fidya

Age of fasting

Taraweeh

**Fasting is one of the fundamental pillars of Islam and one has  
to fulfill this.**

The Arbiter

Some questions are raised regarding Fasting; about the time of Suhoor and Iftar, traveling, sickness etc.

Lunar sighting

Suhoor

By the Grace of Allah, hundreds of thousands join the fold of Jama'at each year from amongst Muslim sects & non-Muslims.

The traveller  
&The sick

Fidya

When these individuals join the Jama'at they require detailed explanations and answers for their questions in order to avoid confusion

Age of fasting

Taraweeh

There are also those from different faiths who join us. They are learning from scratch and it is incumbent upon us that they understand the fundamental pillars of Islam.

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The Promised Messiah (as) was sent as a “Just judge” and “arbiter”

We need to look at the Promised Messiah for answers to all the problems and issues that arise and to gain more knowledge about fundamentals of Islam.

In this era the Promised Messiah’s (as) remarks and views are the final decision with respect to issues related to Shariah.

We should remember that the foremost principle of Islam is Taqwa (righteousness).

The Promised Messiah (as) said *“Fast honestly and completely for the sake of Allah Almighty”*

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## The question as to why we start our Ramadan or celebrate Eid on different days to other Muslims?

There is no such commandment. We do not do so on purpose and it is not necessarily always on different days.

In Muslim majority countries, where the Moon sighting committees announce the sighting of the moon with witnesses (Shahadah), we Ahmadi Muslims also start and finish Ramadan accordingly

In western nations there is no particular committee nor a formal announcement by the governments, hence we depend on the crescent sighting.

Merely saying that we should start fasting with non-Ahmadis without the sighting of the crescent is incorrect.

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The Promised Messiah (as) in his book *Surma Chasham Arya* has not discounted scientific calculations but has also mentioned the importance of actual sighting of the moon.

Promised Messiah (as) says that “Allah has tried to make the commandments of religion easier by showing the general public a clear and straight way out rather than making things difficult and complicated.”

Huzoor explains further that the Promised Messiah (as) is saying that we should not solely follow calculations or hypothesis. Mistakes can occur. It is important to see the crescent too. If one tries and does not see, then one can rely on calculations. One should also be mindful that the period of fasting should not exceed 30 days.

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## The Sighting of the Moon

The Promised Messiah (as) says that “Actual sighting has superiority over calculations. The scholars in Europe deemed it better to actually witness the crescent .They have made observatories for such sightings.”



Once in a while it is possible to make a mistake. The Promised Messiah (as) was presented with this situation.



A friend from Sialkot asked the Promised Messiah (as) that Ramadan here started a day later; on Thursday whereas it should have started on Wednesday; because the moon was sighted on Wednesday rather than Tuesday. Now what should be done because one day was missed?



The Promised Messiah (as) said that we should keep one additional fast after the month of Ramadan.



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## The issue of partaking Suhoor.

It is incumbent to eat Suhoor before fasting.

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) commanded "one should eat Suhoor for fasting as there is blessings in Suhoor."

The Promised Messiah (as) ensured that suhoor was specially prepared for guests.

Munshi Zafar Ahmad sahib Kapoorthalvi ...used to come to Qadian, he would stay in the room adjacent to Masjid Mubarak.

Once he was eating Suhoor when the Promised Messiah (as) came by and asked why he was eating lentils with chappati?

The Promised Messiah (as) called the organiser and told the organiser that he should ask about the preferences and then prepare accordingly.

The organiser came back with specially prepared food and the Adhan had started. The Promised Messiah (as) said "Don't worry and eat because (Adhan) was given early today."

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## Offering Tahajjud & eating Suhoor

Hadhrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad Sahib (ra) narrates that Dr Mir Muhammad Ismail Sahib (ra) said that in 1895, I spent the whole month of Ramadhan in Qadian and I offered all my Taraweeh /Tahajjud Prayers behind the Promised Messiah (as).

The Promised Messiah (as) would offer Witr prayers in the early part of the night and would offer 8 Rakaat of Tahajjud at a later time in the night, divided in two each.

He would recite *Ayatul-Kursi* in the first Rakat and Surah *Ikhlaas* in the second Rakat.

Also he would recite *Ya Hayyo Ya Qayyum bi rahmatika astaghees* in Ruku and Sujood. He would recite in a manner that I would be able to clearly hear him:

Fasting and climate

## Offering Tahajjud & eating Suhoor

The Arbiter

He would then consume Suhoor after Tahajjud and would keep eating till the Adhan had finished .

Lunar sighting

Hadhrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad Sahib (ra) says that until daylight breaks from the horizon, it is permissible to partake of suhoor.

Suhoor

The traveller & The sick

When a common man thinks that the daylight has broken only then should he stop eating.

Fidya

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said **“The Adhan pronounced by Bilal (ra) should not stop you from taking Suhoor rather stop when you hear Ibn-e-Maktoum's (ra) Adhan,**

Age of fasting

Ibn-e-Maktoum was blind and would only say the Adhan when he would hear people making noise that the daylight had broken.

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## Offering Tahajjud & eating Suhoor

In 1903, Dr Khalifa Rashid ud Din sahib and his wife (ra) came to Qadian to stay for four days and expressed their desire to fast whilst they were in Qadian.

The Promised Messiah (as) came to them with food for Suhoor with Kashmiri Parathas and kept on serving them himself.

Then they heard the Adhan the Promised Messiah (as) said that people should continue to eat even whilst Adhan is ongoing.”

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## It is incumbent to eat Suhoor before fasting

One may enjoy good food but there should be moderation and balance.

Allah says in the Holy Quran (2:186) "Allah desires to give you facility and He desires not hardship for you."

Fasting was made obligatory to make things easier for a believer and to take away his hardship.

Real food is spiritual rather than food that is for satisfying one's nafs.

Some end up gaining weight instead of losing as their focus is on food rather than Ramadan.

**There is a commandment to eat Suhoor and Iftar as they are blessed. One should eat good food but with some moderation**

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## Fasting in a state of sickness and travel is prohibited

Mirza Yaqub Baig Sahib came from a journey at Asr time and the Promised Messiah (as) told him to break his fast.



Also when he was asked about sickness he said **we believe that we should take advantage of these concessions.**

Mohayyud din Ibn Arabi did not deem it correct to fast whilst traveling or during sickness and one has to offer that fast again later.

The Promised Messiah (as) would allow individuals to fast whilst they resided in Qadian. He did not allow fasting on the day of travel.

When Jalsa took place during Ramadhan, guests were served Suhoor.

If one plans to stay at a location for more than three days, they should fast. If it is less than three, then they are exempt.

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## Fasting in a state of sickness and travel is prohibited

Sheikh Muhammad Chaito came to Qadian, The Promised Messiah (as) asked him if he was fasting and told him that as he was travelling and was also very old he should break his fast.

The Promised Messiah (as) said **obeying the exceptions of Qur'an is also part of Taqwa.**

With respect to the sick and travellers, the Promised Messiah(as) said that it is sinful to fast.

The essence is to follow the commandments of Allah, not to make your own commentaries.

## Fasting in a state of sickness and travel is prohibited

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The Promised Messiah (as) elaborated that the Holy Quran says (2:185) *"but whoso among you is sick or is on a journey shall fast the same number of other days"*



The Holy Quran doesn't specify which journey or which sickness.



One who fasts whilst being sick/traveling is not obeying the commandments of Allah. ..just as God has commanded to fast, He has also commanded to not fast under certain conditions.



Salvation is based on Grace, not by force. God did not specify whether one has a minor ailment or large or whether the travelling distance is short or long.



## The Promised Messiah (as) would tell individuals to open their fast if they were travelling

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Once there was very little time left till Iftar, the Promised Messiah (as) told his guest to open his fast as he was travelling. He said just a little time is left. **The Promised Messiah (as) said you cannot make Allah happy by forcing Him to accept your Fasts rather you can make Allah happy with your obedience.**

Once during Ramadan, the Promised Messiah (as) visited Amritsar. During the lecture, he was presented with a cup of tea but he refused. Upon greater insistence, he sipped the tea. Opponents started abusing him that he had no respect for fasting. Some threw stones at his car. A non-Ahmadi cleric mocked and said *“today people made Mirza a Prophet.”*

Because Mufti Fazl ur Rehman sahib had presented the tea, everyone blamed him for the incident. When Promised Messiah (as) was informed about this, he said, he did nothing wrong by presenting me with a cup of tea.

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## Fasting in a state of sickness and travel is prohibited

Once the Promised Messiah (as) was in Ludhiana and he felt sick and unconscious while fasting, he opened the fast immediately. **The Promised Messiah (as) would prefer the easier path between the two permissible paths. Hadhrat Ayesha (ra) narrates the same about the Holy Prophet (PBUH).**

Sometimes Ramadan comes during the harvest time. It is a labourer's/farmer's peak time to work.

The Promised Messiah (as) said deeds are judged by their intentions thus everyone can evaluate themselves with Taqwa. If one can't find a replacement (labourer), then they are allowed to miss fasting and can fast afterwards.

Such people are counted amongst those who do not have the strength to fast..

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## The Philosophy of Fidya

The Promised Messiah (as) said “Once I thought about why Fidya is obligatory. ....It is for capability. One gives fidya so he becomes capable. This can only happen with God’s grace. If Allah wishes he can grant a weakling the strength to fast. One should pray fervently that O Lord, This is your blessed Month and I feel deprived because I cannot fast. I don’t know whether I would be capable to fast next year or not, whether I would be alive or not.. If somebody prays with such sincerity, Allah will bless such a heart with strength.”

# The Philosophy of Fidya

Fasting and climate

Fidya is not a replacement for fasting.

The Arbiter

Fidya can be divided into two categories. For short-term and permanent.

Lunar sighting

Short term entails that one has to complete the missed fasts afterwards.

Suhoor

Permanent would be that they are not required to fast later either.

The traveller & The sick

Fidya rate is one individual's food.

Fidya

The Promised Messiah (as) would offer Fidya and fast afterwards as well.

Age of fasting

Taraweeh

It is permissible to either feed a poor hungry person locally or donate in orphan fund Qadian.

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# The Age of Fasting

Fasting and climate

For eating unknowingly by mistake there is no penalty and one can continue fasting.

The Arbiter

Lunar sighting

Shariah has commanded children to not fast. They are allowed to offer some fasts closer to puberty.

Suhoor

The traveller & The sick

One should not make small children fast as it is sinful. Parents should stop young children from fasting.

Fidya

At the age of 12 to 13, they can offer (one or two) fasts and by 18 years, they should become regular in fasting. Some are not ready till 21 as per development.

Age of fasting

Hence there is no set age for fasting. It varies from individual to individual according to their physical strength.

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## The taraweeh prayer

The Promised Messiah (as) did not like children fasting consistently and once made his daughter open her fast because she was very young.

**With respect to Taraweeh**: what is the commandment with respect to 20 rakaat?

The 20+ rakaat started after the Holy Prophet's time. Sunnah was to offer 8 rakaat so it is better to offer 8 rakaat in the latter part of the night but it is permissible to offer it in the early part of the night too.

Whilst traveling, one can offer Taraweeh on their own. **Taraweeh is actually Tahajjud prayers.**

May Allah enable us to understand his commandments and benefit from the fasts and Holy month of Ramadan, Ameen