
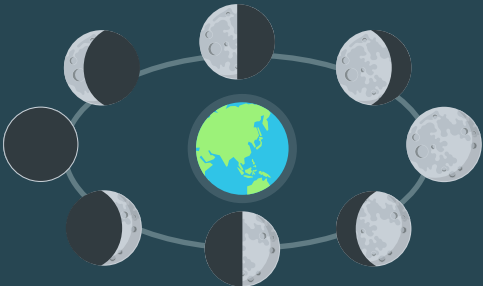



# THE LUNAR MONTH & MOON SIGHTING


## THE LUNAR MONTH

is the period in which the moon orbits around the earth once.

 During its orbit the moon reflects the light of the sun and based on its position; exhibits different shapes.



 At this stage the moon disappears completely in the shadow of the earth. This stage is called Al-Muhāq in arabic or wane.

 Once the moon is out of this stage and sunlight shines on it, it appears as a very fine crescent which marks the beginning of a new lunar month.

# DISPUTE?

over the beginning of the month

Our jurists have different views on two main Fiqhi issues

By sighting the moon only with the **naked eye**.



Not by sighting but by undeniable **possibility** of sighting the moon, if there's a physical barrier like dust or clouds.



### 1. The method of sighting the moon



By sighting the moon, even by using **magnifying devices** like telescopes.



Not by sighting but through the astronomical **calculations** that prove that the new moon is born.

### 2. The issue of Horizons

If the beginning of the month is confirmed in one place, does this mean it's confirmed around the world?



It only confirms it in other places if they share the **same horizon** or if their horizons are very close to each other.



It is confirmed in every other place that shares with it a **portion of the night**.



It's confirmed in the countries of the **Old World** which is Asia, Africa & Europe.

## is it compulsory to follow a jurist?

**YES** for the principle  
The method of determining the beginning of the month should be followed.

**NOT** necessarily for the result!  
& Applying Jurist's principles and determining the beginning of the month is the duty of the follower.

this section is based on the principles & the views of Grand Ayatullah al-Sistani

# PROVING THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH



1. By sighting the moon with the naked eye.

You are allowed to use magnifying devices to determine the position of the crescent but then, you have to see it with the naked eye.

OR

2. By becoming assured about the possibility of seeing the moon with the naked eye.

This happens if there is convincing evidence that the moon exists & seeing it with the naked eye is possible, however it has been covered with clouds, dust, etc.

OR

3. by proving the new moon in other regions

This method requires some geographical & astronomical conditions between the two regions, and they should be united or very close in their horizons.

OR

4. By widespread news of confirmation that the new month has started which gives one certainty.

OR

5. By the testimony of two just men that the month has started according to one's jurist's view.

OR

6. By passing thirty days, the current month ends and the new month begins.

