



The United Ruling of The Ulama (Scholars of Islam) on Subah Sadiq and The Time for Ending Suhoor

Today, Sunday 16 Sha'ban 1403Hijrah, 29th May 1983 at 10am, The Jamiat Ulama Britain have invited the Scholars of the UK under the leadership, supervision and chair of Hadhrat Moulana Mufti Mahmood Hassan Gangohi (DB), Mufti Azam Hind (Senior Khalifa of Hadhrat Shaykhul Hadith Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya Kandhlavi (RAH), to Jamia Masjid, 30 Howard Street, Bradford, England.

In this meeting there was a detailed research and debate on the establishing of Subah Sadiq in light of the fundamental Islamic principles of Islamic Jurisprudence. In respect of this there has been a unanimous agreement and verdict of the Scholars upon the information mentioned below.

Prior to this in the UK, nautical twilight of the sun being 12 degrees below the horizon was used to define Subah Sadiq, this was completely wrong. In the UK, on a night where an Islamic night is witnessed and the sun is 18 degrees below the horizon...this occurrence is referred to as Astronomical Twilight, this will also be taken as the commencement of Subah Sadiq. In reality, this is verily the correct time for the commencement of Subah Sadiq.

However, in those months where the sun does not fall below the horizon by 18 degrees in the UK and an Islamic night is not witnessed (May, June, July). It has been agreed that each locality or city will take the last occurrence of Subah Sadiq (on an Islamic night) as a guideline to establish the commencement and end of Suhoor and commencement of Fajr. This is the principle of Aqrab Al Ayyam (Nearest Day – to use the Fajr and Isha and times from the last day when it was possible to calculate these times for that location).

Prior to this meeting, 16 Sha'ban 1402H, June 1982 there was a gathering of the Scholars of the UK in Dewsbury. In this gathering the basis for the book 'Subah Sadiq Timings in the UK' was written by Hadhrat Moulana Muhammad Yaqoob Ismail Qasmi. It was explained that in those months where an Islamic night is not witnessed there were different opinions open to being followed.

From the different opinions that are able to be followed and are correct in their own right. In 'this' current meeting it has been agreed that the best opinion is Aqrab Al Ayyam. For this reason, the participants of this meeting have taken an oath that not only will we stay steadfast upon this ruling and act upon it. Further, we will also make some Scholars who were not able to participate aware of this and invite them to also accept and adopt it.

Alhamdulillah, all those Scholars who are present here in this meeting have happily accepted this decision. In the conclusion of this meeting Hadhrat Moulana Mufti Mahmood Hassan Gangohi (DB) congratulated the participating Scholars of this meeting on reaching their decision. Hadhrat Moulana Mufti Mahmood Hassan Gangohi (DB) also advised that this ruling should be firmly adopted and all should remain steadfast upon it.

Note: In this meeting, there are 70 senior Scholars and in excess of 100 representatives of Islamic Centres. This meeting was continuously conducted for 6 hours and after the issue of a unanimous verdict Hadhrat Moulana Mufti Mahmood Hassan Gangohi (DB) performed Du'aa to close the meeting.

Signed:

Hadhrat Moulana Mufti Mahmood Hassan Gangohi (DB)
Hadhrat Moulana Muhammad Yaqoob Ismail Qasmi

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Chairman Jamiat Ulama Britain

It is unfortunate and a shame that after calling such a great personality from the other side of the World to carry out a great meeting to establish a unanimous stand point for the Scholars and Masajid in the UK to adopt, we have preferred to turn away from the oath that was taken above and adopt that way which is against the way of the Shari'ah and pleasing to ourselves. It is also clear that the timetable that is currently presented by the Hizbul Ulema and Jamiat Ulema; aside from being incorrect according to the Shariah, it is also against the principle of good character. After committing an oath to a unanimous verdict to adopt 18 degrees they have reverted back to that which was labelled as completely incorrect.

It is a very big responsibility that has been placed on the responsible persons of the Masajids and Imams to ensure that the Fasts of the community are carried out correctly. How can this be overlooked and considered unimportant?

It was made clear in this meeting that with the exception of May, June and July to adopt a guideline other than the sun being 18 degrees below the horizon to establish Subah Sadiq as being completely incorrect. We should read and absorb the information above as was agreed in the presence of such great scholars of Islam.

The scholars of the Ummah, wherever they reside, have a responsibility for that area. Whether they are an Imam of a Masjid or perform some other form of work, they are scholars and have this responsibility entrusted upon them. It is not the quality of scholars to remain silent when there is a difference of opinion in a matter. The scholars should investigate and approve of the manner which is most in accordance with the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah.

The Management and responsible people of the masajid should assist in propagating the Truth. The political ideology of uniting upon the wrong path for the sake of name, fame or reputation is incorrect and against Islamic principles, this is a matter of worship of the masses and a compulsory fast of Islam, we should adopt Islamic etiquettes. When the management committees and Imams of masjids unite upon the Truth, only then will the community be united and rightly guided.

Abdullah Ibn Abbas رضي الله عنه related that the beloved Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said: 'The rectification of two groups in my Ummah is the rectification of my Ummah, the leaders and the Ulemah (scholars).'

(Kanzul A'maal, vol 6, p30 #14708)

May Allah عز وجل grant us the ability to act upon the Truth (Haq) and protect us from the Evil of ourselves and others. Ameen!

There may be minor inaccuracies in the translation of the Urdu text directly. For this reason the scanned copy of original Urdu text is attached below.

