Why is the Salah timetable circulated by Hizb ul Ulama incorrect?

18 Degrees Subh Sadiq Times FAQ's by Imam Muhammad Shoyaib

The issue of the correct time of Subh Sadiq has become particularly prominent this Ramadhan, as there is a difference of around one hour between our Masjid's Subh Sadiq time and that of the surrounding Masajid. Many people have approached me with their concerns which I have Alhamdulillah addressed. I have recorded these Q&A's on paper for distribution, with the hope that it removes any doubt for many people and results in their keeping of their fast at the correct time. First of all, one should be aware that once a person is conscious of the truth then he must not hide it for fear of backlash from the community or anyone else. Suppression of the truth was the reason behind the destruction of many nations before us. The Holy Qur'aan warns of hiding or withholding the truth:

"Who can be more unjust than the one who conceals the testimony he has from Allah?" (2:140)

In the Hadith a very clear warning can be found: "Those who conceal something (a religious truth) that they know when asked about it will have a bridle of fire put on them on the Day of Resurrection." (Abu Dawood/ Tirmidhi) In light of the above verses and the Hadith one can understand the consequences of suppressing the truth. My respected brothers and sisters, the truth has to be told and people must be guided on the correct method, whether it pleases or displeases someone. Now, let me get to the FAQ's on this issue:

Question: It is common belief that we should follow our local Masajid or Marakiz. Is this way of thinking correct? **Answer:** No, it is not correct, as there are only four forms of evidences accepted by our Holy Shariah:

1) The Holy Qur'aan 2) Ahadith 3) Ijmaa e Ummat 4) Qiyaas

Masajid are not part of these FOUR principles. We need to follow what is right in light of the four principles.

Question: The majority of the Masajid are following the Hizb ul Ulama 'Mushahadah' time, so why are we as a minority following a different time?

Answer: I will come on to the Mushahadah timetable later on, but let me tell you: Our Holy Shariah has not deemed the minority or the majority as a criterion for determining truth or falsehood. Rather if one looks at the Qur'aan and Hadith one will clearly see that on many occasions it is the minority that are on the correct path. Let me quote examples of each:

The Holy Qur'aan states: "But few (Qaleelum) of my slaves are grateful." (Surah 34 Verse 13)

"And many of them were 'Fasiqun'." (Katheerum) (Surah 57 Verse 16)

A Hadith of Prophet (sallahu alayhi wassallam) states: "There will always be a 'Taa'ifah' (group) from my Ummah that will be helped on the truth, their enemies will not be able to harm them, until the order of Allah arrives, (meaning Qiyamah)." Sahih Bukhari/Muslim

Those familiar with the Arabic language are aware that 'Taa'ifah' means a small group. Therefore, this Hadith clarifies that a minority group, even if it is one individual, can be on the path of truth, even if the whole world is opposed to them. Through the Qur'aanic verses and the Hadith one can conclude that the self made criterion that, 'the majority is Haq, whereas the minority is wrong and Baatil', is indeed false and incorrect.

Question: Why can't we follow the Hizb ul Ulama 'Mushahadah' timetable like the rest, so our Suhoor can also be one hour later?

Answer: It is not correct to follow that time for many reasons. Let me explain:

The Holy Qur'aan has declared the time of Subh Sadiq thus:

"Eat and drink until the white thread of dawn becomes distinct to you from the black thread". (Al Baqarah 2:187) The time for Subh Sadiq is at the crack of dawn or the first speck of light on the eastern horizon, after which darkness ends and the light of morning spreads. The majority of the Fuqaha/Jurists have preferred the crack of dawn to be the time of Subh Sadiq. The fatwa given in the Hanafi Madhab is also on this opinion. (Fataawa Shaami 1:357) All the scholars of the past and present have practised this opinion.

The Hizb ul Ulama timetable, in which Suhoor ends one hour after our time table, is claimed to be based on the time when the light of Subh Sadiq spreads and covers the horizon. This is known as 'Tabyeen'. Acting upon Tabyeen is bad enough as it is against caution. In matters of obligatory Ibaadat, caution is of great importance. Further, I use the word 'claimed' as in reality there are many problems attached with the so called 'Mushahadah'; Mushahadah means 'visual observation'. People have been led to believe that the Hizb ul Ulama times have been set after a year long observation of Subh Sadiq. This is far from the truth. According to their own writings only fifty days of observation were carried out and out of fifty, only ELEVEN days are recorded. There were NO observations for the months of January, April and July.

Can a timetable in which 315 days of observation, including THREE whole months, were missed out, be deemed a timetable of Mushahadah? How and according to what criteria were the other Subh Sadiq times fixed? No satisfactory, Shariah compliant, explanation has been provided by Hizb ul Ulama on this issue to date. Correspondence on this issue is available upon request.

Another problem with the Hizb ul Ulama times are that they themselves are not following their own observed times! As I said earlier, only 11 observations are recorded. Out of the 11 observations, the observations carried out on May 15th, May 21st, May 25th, 6th June, 13th June, 7th August and 16th August DO NOT match the times they have given to the Masajid to announce. If the Hizb ul Ulama do not have confidence in their own observations, how can they expect the learned Ulama to go against the Subh Sadiq times agreed upon and observed by the majority of Ulama and astronomers throughout the centuries?

The conclusion is that we are not following the claimed Hizb ul Ulama 'Mushahadah' timetable because:

- A) It contradicts its own observations
- B) There were no observations made throughout the majority of the year
- C) The times have been set according to a formula not acceptable in our Holy Shariah
- D) The observations of Blackburn, Lancashire cannot be used to fix the Subh Sadiq times throughout the UK

Let me end this question on the conclusion of an answer given by Chief justice Hadhrat Mufti Taqi Uthmani Saheb DB when he was sent this Hizb ul Ulama 'Mushahadah' timetable for approval/endorsement:

- 1. Shafaq e Abyadh occurs when the sun is 18 degrees below the horizon as does Subh Sadiq. This is the opinion of (Quote) the majority of Ulama and those acquainted with the knowledge of astronomy. There are some who hold the opinion that Shafaq e Abyadh occurs when the Sun is 15 degrees below the horizon.
- 2. The Mushahadah times you have sent are even BEFORE the time of 15 degrees. Hence (quote) THIS CAN NEVER BE CORRECT. Subh Sadig occurs before your Mushahadah times.
- 3. An explanation is given as to why this mistake has occurred in the Mushahadah (visual observations). (Quote) "The changing of seasons, not having the experience of doing Mushahadah and not having the full knowledge of Subh Sadiq has led to this mistake. Hence PREPARE A TIMETABLE ACCORDING TO 18 Degrees and follow that".
- 4. "Yes, it is correct that the time span between Subh Sadiq and Sunrise is the same as the time span between sunset and Shafaq e Abyadh." (Original Fatwa available on request)

Question: So what about the times you are following; where did you get them from and what makes them correct? Answer: The Subh Sadig time adopted by Masjid e Umer is based on the research of hundreds of years. First of all, let me quote Allamah Shaami RA, the authority in the field of Fatawa whom every Mufti quotes to authenticate their Fatwa. He has advocated 18 degrees to 19 Degrees as the time of Subh Sadiq. (See Radd ul Mukhtaar, Vol 2, Pg 93) Various institutes that are referred to for the Fajr and Isha times currently in use in many countries consider 18 degrees as the minimum degree for calculating Fajr time. For example, Muslim World League (MWL), Umm al-Qura, Makkah, and the University of Islamic Sciences, Karachi. The present day timetable of Darul Uloom Deoband is based on 18 degrees. It is a known fact that the majority of the Muslim World have based their Subh Sadiq times on 18 Degrees. Apart from this, great scholars such as the likes of Sheikh ul Hind, Hadhrat Maulana Mufti Mahmud ul Hasan Saheb RA, Hadhrat Maulana Khalil Ahmad Saharanpuri Saheb RA, Hadhrat Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi Saheb RA, Allamah Yusuf Binnori RA and many other renowned Ulama have endorsed the Subh Sadiq time based on the sun being 18 degrees below the horizon. The fatwa above shows that one of the most authentic authorities of this era, Hadhrat Mufti Taqi Uthmani Saheb DB, is also of this view. In 1983, in front of many Ulama, a unanimous decision was reached in a gathering headed by the late Mufti e Aazam Hind Hadhrat Mufti Mahmood ul Hasan Saheb Gangohi RA that Shafaq e Abyadh occurs when the sun is 18 degrees below the horizon, as does Subh Sadiq. This agreement was countersigned by the late Hadhrat Mufti Maqbool Ahmad Saheb of Glasgow, who was one of the most senior Muftis of the UK at the time.

Question: My knowledge tells me that Mushahadah takes precedent over an Astronomy based time. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes this is correct. This is the reason why Ulama over the years have undertaken the task of Mushahadah/ visual observation throughout the world. Their observations have matched the times of 18 Degrees. Such observations have been carried out here in the UK in places such as Glasgow, London, Batley and Preston.

And Allah knows best.

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امسال رمضان المبارک میں میجے صبح صادق کامعاملہ ہر جگہ نمایاں اور متازر ہا۔ متجد عمر کے اوردیگر مساحد کے وقت میں تقریباً ایک گھنتہ کافرق تھا بہت ہے لوگوں نے اس سلسلہ میں مجھ سے سوالات کئے اور راقم نے ان کوجوابات ویکر مصمئن کرویا ان سوالات اور جوابات کوافا وہُ عام کی غرض بٹائع کیا جارہا ہے تا کہ کی کوکوئی شہنہ

سب سے پہلے ایک بات ہجھنا ضروری ہے کرفن بات واضح ہوجانے کے بعد اس کوٹو ام کے ڈرسے چھپانا شریعت کی نظر میں انتہائی علین بُرم ہے جس پر سابقہ استوں پر سابقہ استوں ہوگا ہوں ہے ہوں اللہ کی طرف سے آجھکی تھی۔ (البقر ق ہم ا) اور نبی اکرم علی کا ارشا و ہے کہ جس سے کوئی و بی بات پوچھی گئی اور اس نے جائے کے باوجوداس چھپایا اللہ تعالی قیامت کے دن اس کے مند میں آگ کی لگام ڈالیگا۔ (ابوداؤو پر زندی) اس سے معلوم ہوگیا کر حق بات کے چھپانے کا دبال کیا ہے۔ حق بات کوچھے طور پر واضح کرنا جا ہے جائے لوگ راضی ہوں یا ناراض ۔ اب آپئے سوال جواب کی طرف ۔۔۔۔

سول۔ الوکوں کاعام خیال میے ہمیں کہ مقامی مجدیا مرکز کی اتباع کرنی جائے ۔ کیا بیخیال سیجے ہے؟ مول۔ الوکوں کاعام خیال میے ہمیں کہ مقامی مجدیا مرکز کی اتباع کرنی جائے ۔ کیا بیخیال سیجے ہے؟

جواب نہیں یہ خیال می تیم نیس میں مقام کے دلائل جار ہیں اقر آن مجید ۲۔احادیث رسول ۱۰۔اجماع امت اور۱۲ قیاس مقامی مجدیا مرکز اس میں شام نہیں جمیں اس بات کی اتباع کرنی ہے جوان جاروں کی روشن میں تابت ہوں۔

سول جزب العلماء كاتياركردونائم تيبل اكثر مساحدين بيجبه مارا (متجدعم كا)بهت كم مساحدين ب-

جواب حزب العلماء كيائم ليبل كے بارے ميں تفصيلي تُفتكوآ كي آرى ہے ايك بات يا در هيں كثر بيت نے فق اور باطل كو پيچائے كامعيارا كثريت اور اقليت پر نہيں ركھا بلكر قران وحديث كے مطالعہ سے معلوم ہوتا اكثر اوقات راوق پر چلنے والے اقليت على ميں تھے۔ار شادِ البي ہے: اور مير سے شكر گذار بندے كم ہيں۔ (سبا ۱۳) جب كر وہرى جگدار شاوہے: اور ان ميں سے اكثر فاسق ہيں۔ (حديد ٢٦) اور حديث ميں ہے كہ نبى اكرم عليظ نے فرمايا كرميرى امت ميں ہميشدا يك مختصر جماعت (طائعة) باقى دميكى جوابي كى فق بات ميں مدوكرتى رہے كى ان كوشن ان كوكوئى اقصال نہيں پہونچا كيس گے

حتیٰ کہ للد کا علم (قیامت) آجا بُیل ۔ (بخاری مسلم) سول الا۔ دومروں کی طرح ہم تز ب العلماء کے نائم میل کی اتباث کیوں نہیں کر سکتے نا کہ ہماری بھی ایک گھنٹر منا خبر سے ہو سکے۔

سوں عدو مرون ک سرع ہم حرب اسلماء کے مام میں کا اباع میں عرب کیوں میں سر جواب ۔ حزب العلماء کے مائم میل کی اتباع میچے ندھونے کی چندوجہ ہیں۔

، برب المجارت میں تر ان مجید کا ارشاد ہے: کھا وَاور بیوتی کہ فیدنا گیکا لےنا کے ہمتاز ہوجائے۔ (البقرۃ ۱۸۷)اور شح صاوق شرقی اُنٹی بر پُو پھٹنا مراد ہے جس کے بعد رات کی تاریخی نتم ہوجاتی ہے اور شح کی روشن پھیلتی ہے۔

جمبور فلہا وکرام اور مظلیانِ عظام کو چھنے عی کو جسادق قرارد ہے ہیں اوراحناف کے بیبال ای پر نتوی ہے (شامی ج اس سام

اسلاف أمت اورمو جود وعلاء كرام كا أى يرهمل ب-

حزب العلماء كما تم طیبل میں جو ہمارے مائم طینل ہے ایک گھند کی ختم سحرى كا وقت ویا ہے جن كا بدو و كا ہے كہ ال كى بنیا و تبیانِ فجر ہے لین حق صاوق كی سفیدى كا أفق بر تبیل جانا جس كی خرابی كے لئے بہى كافی ہے كہ بیا صنیا طرح كفلاف ہے۔ اور فرض عبادات میں احتیا طائبتائی ضرورى ہے۔ مزید ہم آن میں نے وع كا لفظ استعال كيا بد حقیقت ہے اللہ كے كہ شاہد و كا كيا جا رہا ہے مشاہد و كا معنی التھوں ہے د كھنا عوام كو يد يقين اور با وركر ايا جا رہا ہے كہ زب العلماء نے بیائم طیبل سال جر كے طوبل مشاہد و كہ بعد تياركيا ہے۔ جبكہ بي خلا ف حقیقت ہے ۔خودان كی تحرير كے مطابق صرف من و دن مشاہد و كيا كيا اور ان من من سے صرف اور صرف اور من كا من منظم من من اللہ من اللہ من اللہ من اللہ من اللہ و اللہ منظم من اللہ من اللہ من اللہ من اللہ و اللہ منظم من اللہ منظم اللہ علی اللہ منظم اللہ منظم اللہ منظم اللہ علی اللہ منظم اللہ منظم اللہ علی اللہ منظم اللہ منظم اللہ منظم اللہ علی اللہ منظم ا

حز بالعلماء كمائم ليبل ميں ايك اور فامى يہ بے ك خود انہوں نے اپنے مشاہد دكى اتباع نہيں كى صرف المشاہد بريكا رؤك گئے اور ان گيار دميں ۱۵-۲۱-اور ۲۵مئن ۱۸ راور ۱۳ اور ۱۱ برخود المبنال نہيں کہ اور ۱۳ ميان کائم کچھاور ہے داور نائم ليبل ميں کچھاور نائم ويا گيا ہے ۔ اگر حزب العلماء كواپنے مشاہد در خود المبنال نہيں ہے تو ود ماہر علاء ہے كہ مير منابد در كھتے ہيں كدود اس متفقدا تم ليبل كى مخالفت كريں جوصد يوں سے جمہور علا اور ماہر بن فلكيات كے مشاہد در مين ہے ۔ خلاصد و كلام يہ كرت كرت بالعلماء كروى ومشاہد در بين مشاہد در بين مسابد در بين مشاہد در بين مشاہد در بين مشاہد در بين مسابد در بين مسا