

## Respected Board members of Islam Channel

I hope this letter reaches you in the best of health and Imaan.

الحمد لله it is through the grace and bounty of Allah Ta'ala that he is taking great work of Deen from you.

It is only our responsibility in the light of Qura'an and Sunnah that whatever shortcomings we have with regards to the matters of Deen we need to remind each other of these shortcomings so that we can rectify them and practice on the Deen like how Allah and his Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم wants us to.

With reference to the above one of our greatest shortcomings is regarding the sighting of the moon for the holy month of Ramadhaan and the two Eids.

From the blessed era of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم right until present day it has been the practice of the Muslim Ummah at large that they have been commencing their lunar calendar upon the sighting of the crescent moon, and the scholars of every era have been unanimously agreeing upon this practice. From the blessed era till today one will not find anyone who has regarded the New Moon to be the Crescent Moon.

In the blessed era of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم once his beloved companions sighted the moon two days after the first possible sighting date. The moon was so big in size that they presumed it to be two or three days old, despite this the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said, "the night you have seen the moon regard that to be the beginning of the month and not from before that." (Sahih Muslim Page 348)

We can deduce from the above as to the importance of beginning the month with the sighting of the moon and not from the birth of the new moon.

It has been reported on the authority of Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه that the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said, "If you cannot sight the moon due to cloudiness then complete the month of Ramadhaan with thirty days of fasting." (Sahih Muslim Page 347) They are many narrations of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم which can be found in Bukhaari and Muslim with regards to the month of Shabaan, that if you cannot sight the moon of Ramadhaan due to cloudiness then complete the month of Shabaan with thirty days.

We are very unfortunate that despite having so many Ahaadeeth on this subject and in today's world of civilization and technology with science being at our disposal it is crystal clear to us that we have been beginning the Holy month Ramadhaan and celebrating the Eids by following the birth of the new moon and not the sighting of the crescent moon, which is in total contradiction to the teachings and injunctions of Islam.

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I will quote one verse of the Holy Quran which has been revealed specifically with regards to this aspect. **انما النسي زيادة في الكفر** (Sura Taubah, Ayah no.37) The following verse was revealed with regards to those Disbelievers who use to change the dates for their benefit and Allah Ta'ala has referred to this action of theirs as Kufr. Unfortunately today we are following in their very footsteps.

In Sura Al Rahmaan, Ayah No. 5 Allah Ta'ala mentions **الشمس والقمر بحسبان** (Translation, The sun and the moon have been placed upon precise calculation) We have been using these very calculations of Allah Ta'ala with the means provided by Allah Ta'ala through the tools of science and technology to work out the times of sunset, sunrise to such an extent that we are dependant on these very calculations for the ending time of Suhoor, etc. Despite having the calculations of the moon in place the Muslim Ummah is unaware because we have not been educating them rather we have been misguiding them.

It is our earnest appeal to you if you could kindly refrain from making any announcements that are without any verification just to support any organisation or group by means of which we are openly breaking the laws of Allah and his Prophet **صلي الله عليه وسلم**

Muhammad Ashraf Hansrot

Imam of Croydon Musjid