

Lesson 42

Topic: **fasting**

Establishing the Beginning of the Month through five means:

1. That one **sights** the crescent [of the new moon] **himself**
2. That a **group of credible** and trustable individuals **confirm** the Sighting.
3. That **two righteous** (*'adil*) men report that they sighted the crescent at night.
4. That **thirty days** pass from the first day of the month of Sha'ban.
5. That the **Hakim al-Shar'ie** (the marja') **issues a decree** on (the citing of) the crescent of the month.

The beginning of the month is not established by the **predictions of astronomers**.

It is mandatory that the beginnings of the months are established and proven by **sighting**.

Case: If the **crescent** was confirmed in one country, this does not apply to the people of another country **unless the two countries are close**.

It is mandatory to fast on the day that one does not know whether it is the last day of Ramadan or the first day of Shawwal.

The Niyyah (Intention)

In order **to ensure** that he is fasting throughout this period, it is mandatory to **refrain from the muftirat** from shortly **before the adhan of Fajr** and break his fast shortly **after the adhan of Maghrib**.

Time of the niyyah

Case: **If one sleeps** before the morning adhan without declaring the intention of fasting, if he wakes up **before noon** and declares the intention of fasting his fast is valid.

Case: **If one does not know or forgets** that it is the month of Ramadan, and then learns before noon, if he has not committed one of the *muftirat*, then it is mandatory for him to declare the intention and his fast would be valid.

If one fasts on the last day of Sha'ban and then he learns that that day is the first day of the month of Ramadan, it is mandatory for him to change his *niyyah* (intention) to that of the month of Ramadan.

If one **hesitates** whether or not to nullify a **time-specific mandatory** fast or if one makes the **intention to nullify** his fast, then his fast is **null and void**.

Fasting in regions of abnormal horizons

If the fasting period, at any location, is more than seventeen-and-a-half hours, then the faithful has **two options**:

1. To fast according to the default times of the location

2 To break the fast after the duration equal to the fasting period of cities which have normal daylight hours.