

SOLAR ECLIPSE

By Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muhammad Saleem Dhorat ḥafīzahullāh

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Today (Monday 21st August 2017) a solar eclipse is going to occur. In the UK, the partial eclipse will begin around 7.37pm BST and last until Maghrib. To understand the Islamic viewpoint of a solar eclipse and what to do when it occurs, please read the following article of the respected Shaykh-ul-Ḥadīth, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muhammad Saleem Dhorat ḥafīzahullāh.

Note: In the UK, as the eclipse will be occurring between ‘Aṣr and Maghrib, the ṣalāh at the time of an eclipse will not be performed however, everyone is encouraged to engage in the other a‘māl mentioned below.

Sayyidunā Abū Bakrah رضي الله عنه relates: “We were with Rasūlullāh ﷺ when the sun eclipsed. The Prophet ﷺ stood up dragging his cloak¹ till he entered the masjid. We also entered. He ﷺ led us in a two raka‘āt ṣalāh till the eclipse cleared. Then the Prophet ﷺ said, ‘The sun and the moon do not eclipse because of anyone’s death.² So whenever you see these (eclipses), perform ṣalāh and make du‘ā until the eclipse is cleared.’” (Al-Bukhārī)

¹ This indicated urgency.

² Prior to the advent of Islām, it was a widely held belief in Arab society that eclipse would occur upon the death of a great personality. The Prophet ﷺ had a son named Ibrāhīm رضي الله عنه who passed away in infancy, on the same day as a solar eclipse. The Prophet ﷺ dispelled this false notion.

WHAT TO DO AT THE TIME OF SOLAR ECLIPSE

...So whenever you see these (eclipses), offer ṣalāh and make du‘ā till the eclipse has cleared. (Al-Bukhārī)

...So when you see the eclipse, make du‘ā to Allāh and say takbīr, perform ṣalāh and give ṣadaqah... (Al-Bukhārī)

...He (the Prophet ﷺ) went to the Masjid (on the occasion of solar eclipse) and offered the ṣalāh with the longest qiyām, rukū‘ and sujūd that I had ever seen him doing. (Al-Bukhārī)

From the aḥādīth above we learn that we should engage in:

- 1) ṣalāh;
- 2) du‘ā;
- 3) remembrance of Allāh ﷻ; and
- 4) spend in causes that bring the Pleasure of Allāh ﷻ.

It is sunnah to perform two raka‘āt ṣalāh with congregation which is to be led by the imām of jumu‘ah ṣalāh or any imām of the masjid. It is sunnah to perform this ṣalāh with qiyām, rukū‘ and sujūd that are long.

After the ṣalāh the congregation should engage in du‘ā which should last until the eclipse clears.

Mas‘alah: Adhān or iqāmah will not be called for this ṣalāh. Announcements can be made to gather the people.

Mas‘alah: If whilst engaged in du‘ā the time for a farḍ ṣalāh commences, then du‘ā should be concluded and farḍ ṣalāh should be performed.

During such occasions we must not remain neglectful. Many people are more keen to witness the eclipse, rather than following the teachings of our beloved Prophet ﷺ.

May Allāh ﷻ grant us the tawfīq to turn to Him during such moments in light of the teachings of our Prophet ﷺ.

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