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Abstract

In this paper we discuss the issue of lunation from Shari'a point of view. Can we rely on calculations or should we be restricted to eyesight? In Sunna, we have two confirmed Hadiths (sayings of the prophet); one commanding us to estimate, which means to make calculations, and the other commanding us to complete the thirty days of the month if the seing of the new moon is not possible. The later case were followed in the early ages of Islam for two reasons; first , the calculations were not accurate, and second, the Muslim Nation, during that period of time, were nearly illiterate in this area.

Recently, the astronomic calculations regarding the new moon, and consequently, regarding lunation are not only very accurate, but are rather precise and error free. So, our opinion, which is deduced from the sayings of the prophet, peace be upon him, is to rely on calculations to determine lunation. Finally, we state that if the lunation is proven in a certain area, it is then proven in all places at the same or, by the way, to the west of the longitude line passing through that area.

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