



On Friday 27th July 2018 a lunar eclipse is going to occur. In the UK, the eclipse will begin before Maghrib and last until 12:28am; the total eclipse being from 9:21pm until 10:13pm. To understand the Islamic viewpoint of an eclipse and what to do when it occurs, please read the following article written by Shaykh-ul-Ḥadīth, Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muhammad Saleem Dhorat ḥafīzahullāh.

**Sayyidunā Abū Bakrah ؓ relates:** “We were with Rasūlullāh ؐ when the sun eclipsed. The Prophet ؐ stood up dragging his cloak<sup>1</sup> till he entered the masjid. We also entered. He ؐ led us in a two raka’āt ṣalāh till the eclipse cleared. Then the Prophet ؐ said, ‘The sun and the moon do not eclipse because of anyone’s death.<sup>2</sup> So whenever you see these (eclipses), perform ṣalāh and make du’ā until the eclipse is cleared.’” (Al-Bukhārī)

**Sayyidah Ā’ishah ؓ relates:** “The sun eclipsed during the time of Rasūlullāh ؐ... The Prophet ؐ said, ‘The sun and the moon are signs from the signs of Allāh; they do not eclipse because of anyone’s death or life.’” (Al-Bukhārī)

<sup>1</sup> This indicated urgency.

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



## WHAT TO DO AT THE TIME OF A LUNAR 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 ؐ) 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 ؐ; and
- 4) give charity in causes that bring the Pleasure of Allāh ؐ.

**Mas’alah:** Two raka’āt ṣalāh are Sunnah at the time of a lunar eclipse. However, congregation is not Sunnah for this ṣalāh. The people should offer this ṣalāh individually and engage in du’ā and the remembrance of Allāh ؐ.

**Mas’alah:** If whilst engaged in ṣalāh or du’ā the time for a farḍ ṣalāh commences, then one should conclude and perform the farḍ ṣalāh.

**Note:** 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 Nabī ؐ.

May Allāh ؐ grant us the tawfīq to turn to Him during such moments according to the teachings of our beloved Nabī ؐ.