

# LUNAR ECLIPSE

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ḥafīzahullāh

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

On [Friday 10th January 2020](#) a lunar eclipse is going to occur. In the UK, the eclipse will begin at approximately 5:07pm and last until around 9:12pm. 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. He ؐ then said, ‘These signs which Allāh sends do not occur because of the death or life of someone, but Allāh makes His servants afraid through them. So when you see anything from this then hasten towards remembering Him, making du’ā to Him and seeking His Forgiveness.’ (Al-Bukhārī)

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

- 1) ṣalāh;
- 2) remembrance of Allāh ؐ;
- 3) du’ā;
- 4) istighfār; and
- 5) giving 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 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 ؐ.

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