

**(Fatwaa - 5) A question from South Africa and the confirmation by Shaikhul Islam of the sighting in Saudi Arabia being based on the Teachings of Rasoolullah ﷺ**

Shaikhul Islam, Moulana Hussein Ahmad Madani رَحِمَهُ اللهُ states in his Fatwaa that the sighting of the moon in Hijaaz is based on physical observation and not on the new-moon theory of astronomy!

*(Readers should pay attention to the interpretation on abandoning the statutory texts of Shari'ah in this question from South Africa)*

**Question:**

What is the opinion of the learned Mufti Scholars regarding the fact that in South Africa many of the graduates of secular education are insisting that we should determine our Ramadhaan and Eid based on the new research relating to the hypothetical theoretically calculated birth of the moon? It was necessary to practice on the Hadith which instructs us to begin and end our fasting days upon sighting of the moon until this new research was discovered. However that Hadith will be abandoned now and the birth of the moon must be followed since if can never go wrong. Is this claim correct?

**Answer:**

This is no new research and ideology. This was researched by science in the past as well. However (Islamic) laws are not based on the birth of the moon but rather on the physical sighting of it. Fasting, Hajj, Zakaah etc are all based on the physical sighting of the moon not on its birth. (*Durrul Mukhtaar Vol.2/Pg.387*)

According to my opinion Egypt, Hijaaz etc all practice the physical sighting of the moon and not on the hypothetical theoretically calculated birth of the moon; otherwise the system of testimony would not have remained. The basis is not on new research. (*Fataawaa Shaikhul Islam*)

(Hilal Judgment on Moon Sighting According To Sharia`h p100)