

A MUSLIM'S E-GUIDE TO

ECLIPSE



BY GLAD TIDINGS & AAFREEN ACADEMY

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SHADOWS AND ECLIPSES

A SHADOW IS FORMED WHEN AN OBJECT OBSTRUCTS THE PATH OF LIGHT.

Shadows refer to the areas where one celestial body casts its shadow on another. There are two primary types of shadows involved in eclipses: umbra and penumbra.

01

UMBRA

The darkest part of a shadow where the light source is completely blocked.

02

PENUMBRA

The penumbra can be seen as the partially shaded area surrounding the umbra.



TYPES OF ECLIPSE

SOLAR ECLIPSE

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, blocking or partially blocking the Sun's light.

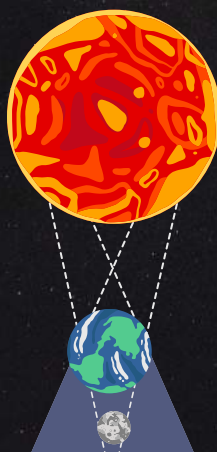
This can result in a partial or total obscuration of the Sun.



LUNAR ECLIPSE

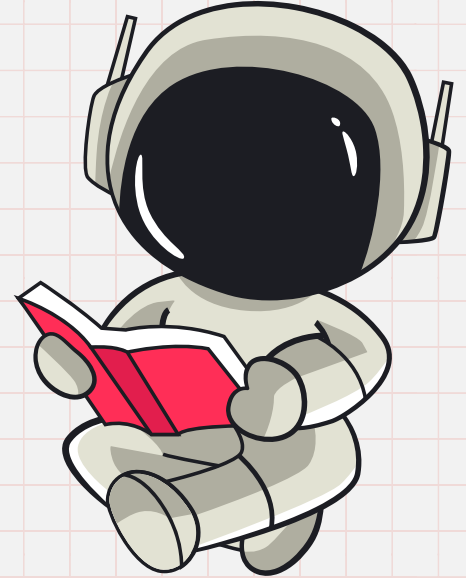
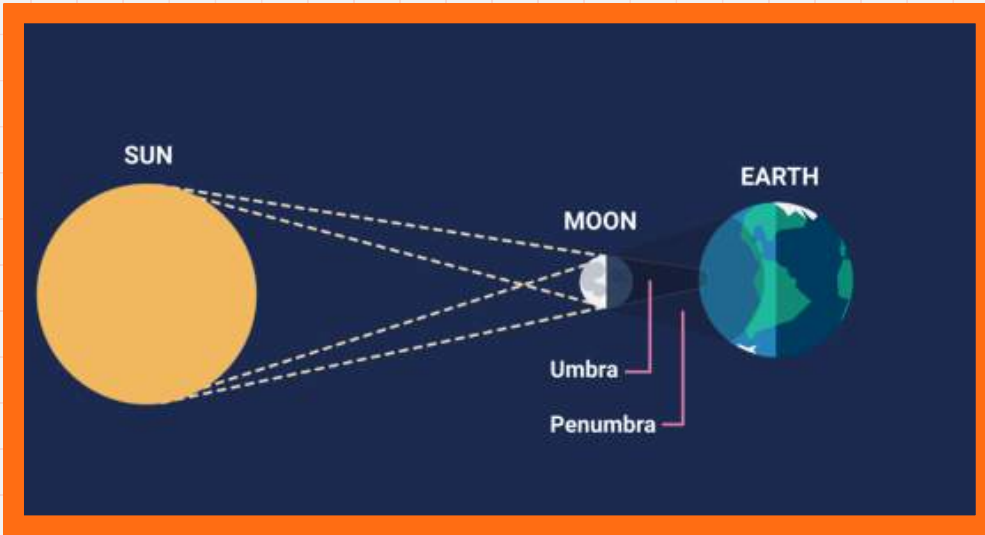
A lunar eclipse takes place when Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon, causing Earth's shadow to be cast on the lunar surface.

This results in a darkening or reddening of the Moon.



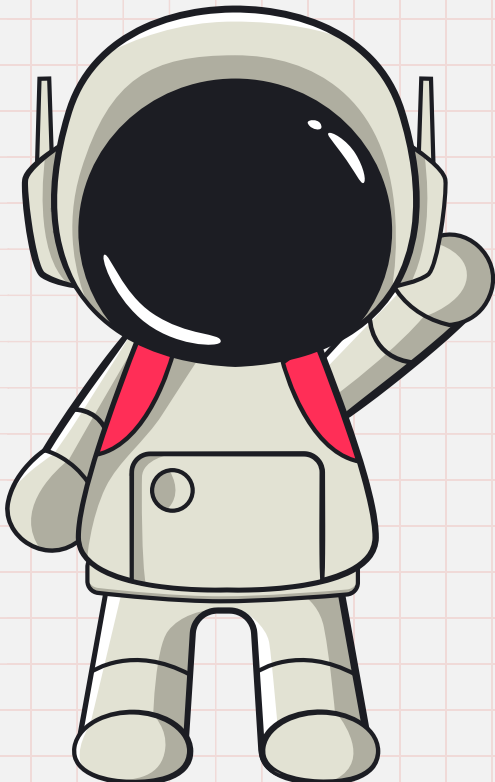
SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

WHAT IS A SOLAR ECLIPSE?

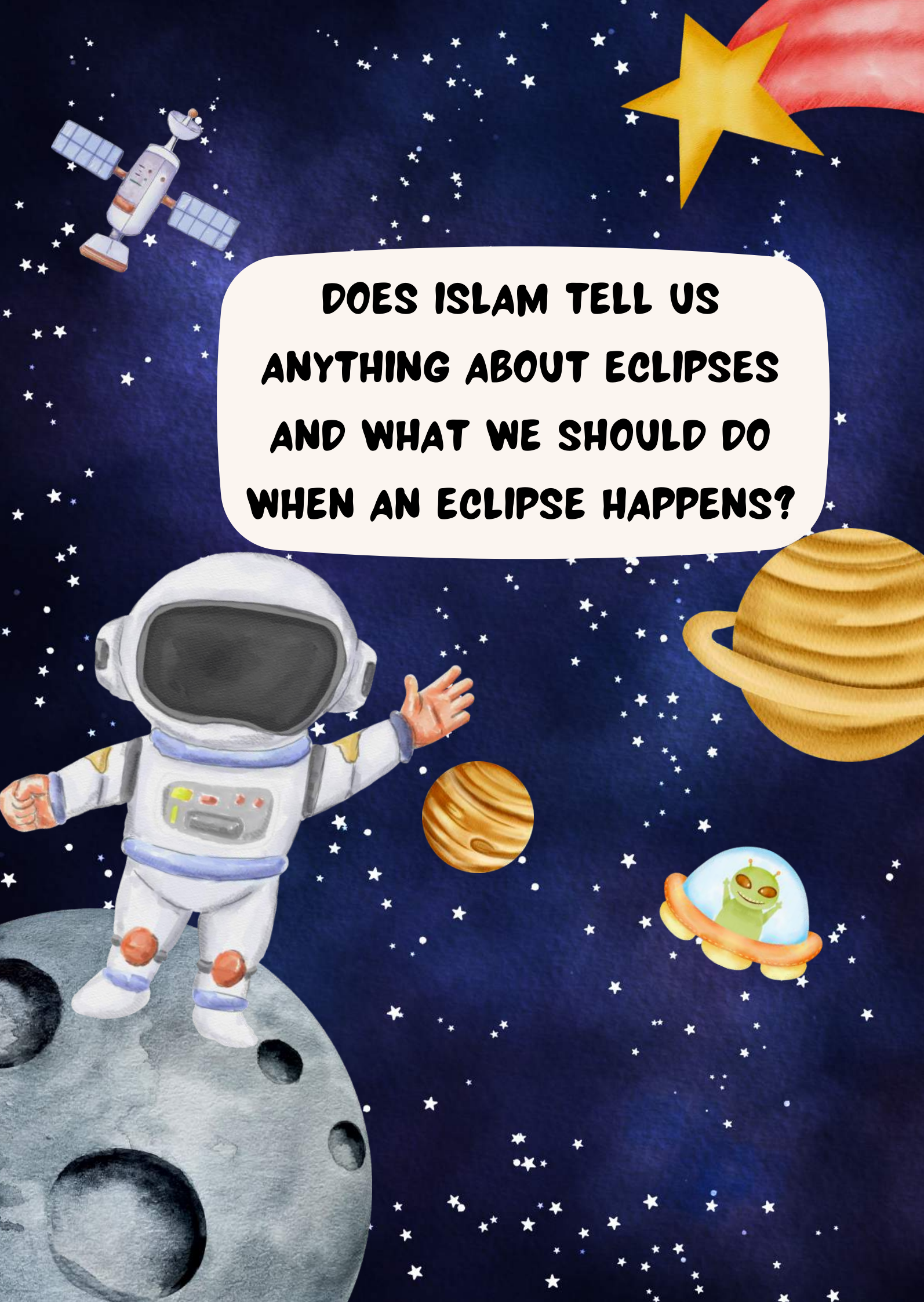


A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. People located in the center of the Moon's shadow when it hits Earth will experience a total eclipse.

EYE SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSES



- View the Sun through eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer during the partial eclipse phases before and after totality.
- You can view the eclipse directly without proper eye protection only when the Moon completely obscures the Sun's bright face – during the brief and spectacular period known as totality.
- If you do not have access to eclipse glasses or solar viewers, it is recommended to watch the eclipse through the live news coverage



**DOES ISLAM TELL US
ANYTHING ABOUT ECLIPSES
AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO
WHEN AN ECLIPSE HAPPENS?**



NO SUPERSTITION

A Muslim is not superstitious. We do not believe in bizarre rituals and mythology. We are the people who believe in Allah ﷻ and the power of Allah ﷻ. All superstitions associated with eclipses such as shutting yourself inside the home, or that eclipses cause birth defects in babies, or harm to pregnant women, etc. are baseless and have no proof.



إِنَّ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ آيَاتَانِ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَا يَنْكَسِفَانِ لِمَوْتِ أَحَدٍ وَلَا لِحَيَاتِهِ

The sun and the moon are two of Allah's signs; they are not eclipsed due to the death or the life of anyone.

Narrated Abu Bakra RA:

We were with Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) when the sun eclipsed. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) stood up dragging his cloak till he entered the Mosque. He led us in a two-rakat prayer till the sun (eclipse) had cleared. Then the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The sun and the moon do not eclipse because of someone's death. So whenever you see these eclipses pray and invoke (Allah) till the eclipse is over."

Sahih al-Bukhari 1040

Narrated Al-Mughira bin Shu`ba RA:

On the day of Ibrahim's death, the sun eclipsed and the people said that the eclipse was due to the death of Ibrahim (the son of the Prophet). Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "The sun and the moon are two signs amongst the signs of Allah. They do not eclipse because of someone's death or life. So when you see them, invoke Allah and pray till the eclipse is clear."

Sahih al-Bukhari 1060

Sun and moon are the creations of Allah ﷻ and any phenomenon related to them are independent of the life and death of anybody on this earth.



AWE OF ALLAH ﷻ

As Muslims we embrace, learn and benefit from natural phenomenon and science, but we do not limit ourselves to the worldly scientific explanations. We are impressed and amazed by the awesome phenomenon too, but in a different way. We go further and strive to understand the reminder of Allah ﷻ and of the Hereafter that they bring. Modern science does not make us lose the awe that we have when it comes to the creation of Allah ﷻ, rather it increases us in it.



Allah ﷻ says in Surah Fussilat,

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ ۚ لَا تَسْجُدُوا لِلشَّمْسِ
وَلَا لِلْقَمَرِ وَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُنَّ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ

And of His signs are the night and day and the sun and moon.
Do not prostrate to the sun or to the moon, but prostrate to
Allah , who created them, if it should be Him that you
worship. (41:37)

Even if we know a lot about the sun and the moon, there is still more than 90% of the universe that is completely unknown to us. We might have a 100,000 pictures, we might know on YouTube and our iPhones exactly the times of sunrise, sunset, and stages of moon, we might know exactly when an eclipse is going to begin and end, we might understand many things about them, but it does not diminish or take away from the majesty, the beauty, the splendor, and the absolute amazement, the awe and the respect we have for the creations of Allah ﷻ. The sun and moon, and the night and the day, are miraculous creation of Allah ﷻ. It is mindboggling that this massive object, this ball of fire and gas and helium is hurling through space at tens of thousands of km per hour and going round on its own axis and around it are going so many planets, and around the planets are going so many moons, yet their co-ordination is so precise that we do not time the sun and the moon, but rather time comes from their precise movement. It is through them that Allah ﷻ gives us 24 hours, the night, the day, the seconds!



Allah ﷻ says in Surah Yasin,

لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنْبَغِي لَهَا أَنْ تُدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ وَلَا اللَّيْلُ سَابِقُ النَّهَارِ
وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ

It is not allowable for the sun to reach the moon, nor does the night overtake the day, but each, in an orbit, is swimming.
(36:40)

The sun will not overtake the moon, nor will the day overtake the night. Who has the power to control these magnificent huge creations, Who has the power to co-ordinate these structures such that we know their exact timing, and we extract our day, our month and our year from the precision of their movements.

Sun and the moon are from the signs and miracles of Allah ﷻ.

They remind us that Allah ﷻ is **Al-Khaliq, Al-Aleem, Al-Qadeer, He is alaa kulli shayin Qadeer**. These creations should bring us in awe of Allah ﷻ and remind us how small and insignificant we are in comparison to many of the other creation of Allah ﷻ. How powerful is the One who can subjugate His creation such as the sun and the moon to serve Him and obey Him! How mighty is the One who controls these humongous creations of His and how great is His command! SubhanAllah. Alhamdulillah. La ilaha illa Allah. Allahu Akbar.



REMINDS US OF OUR PURPOSE

Muslims believe that we as human beings may do things without prior arrangement or without realizing or planning it, but everything is known to Allah ﷻ and everything is decreed by Him. He does not create anything in jest and without purpose, including me and you. This is important because it means we will be assessed whether we met our purpose or not.



Allah ﷻ tells us about the mindset of believers in
Surah Ale-Imran,

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ
وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ
هَذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

Who remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying]
on their sides and give thought to the creation of the
heavens and the earth, [saying], "Our Lord, You did not
create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a
thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire.
(3:191)

All these signs of Allah ﷻ around us are there so that we
know that Allah ﷻ is true, His signs are true, the Quran is
true, Day of Judgement is true, Heaven and Hell is true
and therefore death and life are true. It is a time to
remember how insignificant we are in the grand scheme
of things. These creations are here for millions of years
and are going to be here for a millions of years. It is our
lifespan that is short. Let us take advantage of the time
we have. we can make our lives eternal in the eyes of
Allah ﷻ if we take advantage of them.

FEAR OF ALLAH ﷻ & THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

Before the advent of modern science, many people did not know when an eclipse is coming. People did not understand what is going on and they felt that it might be the Day of Judgement, the impending doom, or a punishment from Allah ﷻ. There is nothing wrong with this fear, because this fear connects us with Allah ﷻ and we become conscious of our own mortality and minuscule existence in front to Allah ﷻ and His many majestic creations.



Solar and Lunar eclipses are the signs of Allah ﷻ with which He reminds us of some things that will happen on the Day of Judgement. Mankind would have to face a day when the sun would really lose its light and the moon would be eclipsed, the stars would fall and there will be no place to flee. In Surah At-Takwir Allah ﷻ tells us, “When the sun is wrapped up [in darkness], And when the stars fall, dispersing, And when the mountains are removed” (81:1-3). And in Surah Al-Qiyamah, “He asks, "When is the Day of Resurrection?" So when vision is dazzled, And the moon darkens, And the sun and the moon are joined,” (75:7-9).

The Prophet ﷺ used to fear Allah ﷻ very much. One day when eclipse happened, even though he was in deep personal pain because of the death of his son Ibrahim, he ﷺ came out to the mosque in an agitated state thinking that the Hour had begun. This shows the extent to which he ﷺ kept the hour in mind and feared it.

Allah ﷻ tells us in Surah Al-Israa

وَمَا نُرْسِلُ بِالْآيَاتِ إِلَّا تَخْوِيفًا

And We send not the signs except as a warning.
(17:59)

Eclipses might be a natural phenomenon but the Prophet ﷺ and the Sahabas RA understood the seriousness of the issue of eclipses. They knew it is no time for fun and games. It is a time to remind ourselves and reflect.

They remind us of the Day when the sun will be extinguished and the moon will be eclipsed once again - but this time it will end in a few hours, and at that time ... it won't!



ATTESTS TO THE TRUTH OF THE PROPHET

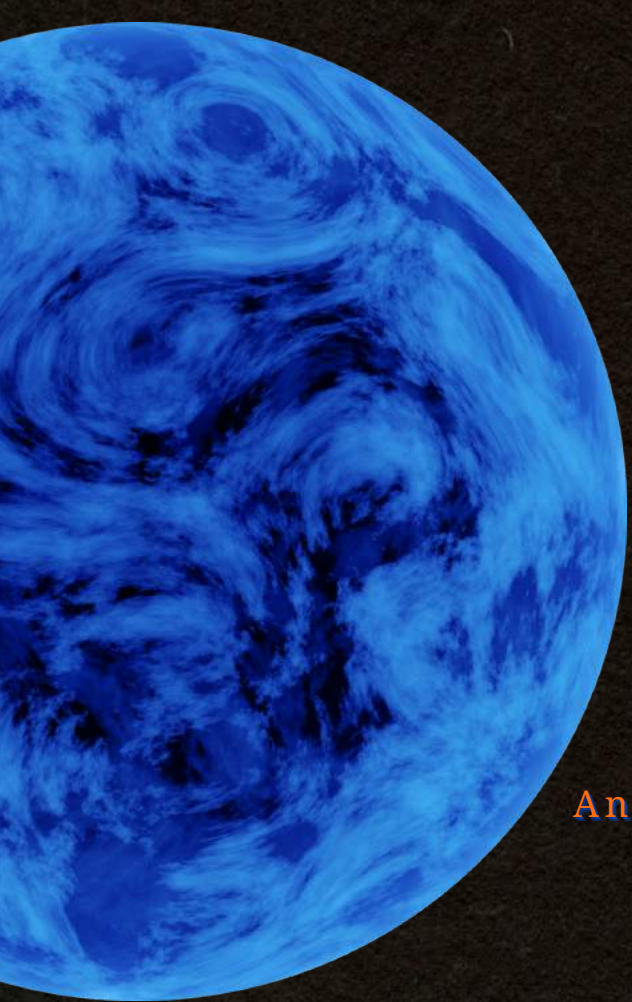
صَلَّى اللهُ
عَلَيْهِ
وَسَلَّمَ

Had any person been in his shoes who was a false prophet, he would have used this incident to concoct an amazing story and mythology. Let the people spread the rumour that even the skies are sad because I am sad. But no. Our Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was a true prophet and he was as-sadiq al-ameen, the Truthful. He always spoke the truth. He called the people and reminded them that the eclipse had nothing to do with the life and death of anyone.

ACTION STEPS FOR US



With the increased consciousness of our own mortality and sins, awe of Allah ﷻ and His creations and fear of Allah ﷻ and the Day of Judgement, resort to sincere remembrance of Allah ﷻ, takbir, dua (supplication), istighfaar (seeking forgiveness from Allah ﷻ), being thankful for what we have, being generous to those who do not have as much as we have, giving charity, the emancipation of slaves, acts of righteousness and kindness to one's relatives. We also pray the special eclipse prayer. These are the things that cleanse our sins away and remove the anger of Allah ﷻ.



SALAT AL KHUSOOF AND KUSUF

(Lunar and Solar Eclipse Prayers)

Allah ﷻ tells us in Surah Al-Baqarah,

وَاسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ

And seek help through patience and prayer
(2:45)

When the Prophet ﷺ experienced any difficulty or sorrow, he used to occupy himself in salah. If we fear that it is a warning of a disaster that might strike us, then we turn to Allah ﷻ to ward off that which we fear. If some fear or calamity is experienced, it is preferable to offer salah. For example, if there is a severe hurricane, an earthquake, lightening, thunder storms, diseases like cholera become rife or there is a fear of a certain enemy. These salahs are not offered in congregation, rather they can be offered by people individually in their homes.

The Eclipse prayer is an emphasized Sunnah for both men and women. It is sunnah to pray Salat al-Kusuf (Solar Eclipse prayer) in congregation, because this is what the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did, but it is permissible to pray it individually, as with all other nafl prayers. However, praying it in congregation is better.

When we stand to pray the eclipse prayer, we believe that if the Hour has come, then we would not be counted negligent of our prayer, and if the eclipse had nothing to do with the Hour, then too we still earn the reward of following a sunnah in sha Allah.

Time of the prayer



There is no specific time for the prayer, as it is performed when eclipse starts till it ends, usually for solar eclipse it is held during the day and lunar eclipse during the night. If you are done early before the eclipse ends, then keep yourself busy with dhikr, istighfaar, etc.



Announcement of the Prayer

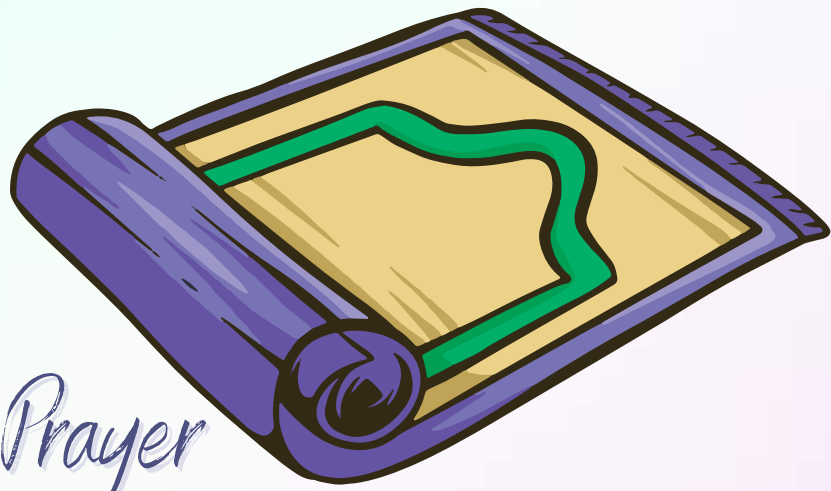
For the congregational prayer, people gather in the masjid without adhan or iqamah. The adhaan is only given for the five daily prayers. People can be called for other prayers using the words - "Assemble for the prayer" - As-salaatu jaami'ah (prayer is about to begin). For the eclipse prayer, the Muadhin says in Arabic:

صلاة الجمعة ، صلاة الجمعة ، صلاة الخسوف ير حمكمله

As-salaatu jaami'ah, as-salaatu jaami'ah, as-sallatul khusoof (or kusuf), ya rahimakumullah

Congregation Prayer, Congregation Prayer, Lunar or Solar Eclipse Prayer, May Allah Bless you

Method of the Prayer



The prayer consists of two rakat (units).

According to Hanafi madhab, the prayer is performed like any other prayer of two rakat. It is sunnah to recite lengthy surahs such as Surah Baqarah in Salat al-Kusuf and also to lengthen the ruku and sajdah. The qirat is made silently. After the salah, the imam occupies himself in dua and the congregation should continue saying ameen to his duas.

According to Maliki, Shafii and Hanbali madhabs - In each Rakah, the Imam reads the Quran two times, one normally after Surah Al Fatiha and one after Standing up from Ruku. The Imam then concludes the prayer normally. Both the qiyams and ruku are lengthened, but the second ones are not as long as the first one. After the Salah, according to Shafii and Hanbali madhabs, Imam delivers a short sermon regarding the importance of prayer and addresses the current situation of the Muslim Ummah and asks for Forgiveness from Allah. However, according to the Malikis, there is no khutbah, but there is no harm in the imam taking the opportunity to admonish and remind the people.

We ask Allah ﷻ to make us of those who fear Him and who are afraid of the Hour. We ask Him to gather us under His shade on the Day when there will be no shade except His shade, and we ask Him to make us of the blessed ones who shall drink from the fountain of the Prophet

Muhammad ﷺ.

Ameen



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