

# Eclipse Prayers

Monthly Taleem Focus Slides  
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صلاة كسوف و خسوف

# Solar and Lunar Eclipse

- Solar eclipse occurs when the light of the sun is blocked by moon and lunar eclipse occurs when the light of the sun is blocked by earth from a full moon
- In Arabic solar eclipse is called Kusūf كسوف and lunar eclipse is called Khusūf خسوف
- This visual change in the heavenly bodies reminds the faithful that just as the sun and the moon appear to have lost their light to a considerable extent during the eclipses, so can various kinds of spiritual ills result in a reduction of the spiritual light that illuminates the believer's heart. Only God's mercy can protect one from such a spiritual eclipse. Hence a two Rak'ah Prayer is prescribed on the occasion of solar or lunar eclipses as a reminder to believers that they should seek God's blessings and God's mercy if they want to scale spiritual heights.
- Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup> explained, “in today’s world people consider an eclipse to be a mere spectacle and travel great distances for a good view of the eclipse, however it does not befit a true believer to act in this manner” (Address, 20 Mar 2015)

# A Sign for People

- In pre-Islamic times people believed that eclipses occurred when someone important died. When the Hazrat Ibrahim, son of Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ, died he explained to people that eclipse had nothing to do with a death  

Narrated Abu Mas'ud, the Prophet ﷺ said, "The sun and the moon do not eclipse because of the death of someone from the people but they are two signs amongst the signs of Allah. When you see them stand up and pray." (Sahih Bukhari, Kitabul Kusūf)
- Holy Prophet ﷺ is reported to have said  

For Our Mahdi there are two Signs which have never appeared before since the creation of the heavens and the earth, namely, the moon will be eclipsed on the first night in Ramadhan (i.e. on the first of the nights on which a lunar eclipse can occur) and the sun will be eclipsed on the middle day (i.e.; on the middle one of the days on which a solar eclipse can occur), and these Signs have not appeared since God created the heavens and the earth." (Sunan Darqutni, Kitabul Eidain, Bad Salat-ul-Kasūf-ul-khasūf wa Haitahuma)
- Indeed, these signs appeared for Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in the Ramadhan of 1894 in the East and then again in 1895 in the West

# Eclipse Prayer

- Holy `Aisha reported, Prophet ﷺ is reported to have said

On the day when the sun Khasafat (eclipsed) Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) prayed; he stood up and said Takbir and recited a prolonged recitation, then he performed a prolonged bowing, then he raised his head and said, "Sami` Allahu Lyman Hamidah," and then remained standing and recited a prolonged recitation which was shorter than the first. Then he performed a prolonged bowing which was shorter than the first. Then he prostrated and prolonged the prostration and he did the same in the second Rak'ah as in the first and then finished the prayer with Taslim. By that time the sun (eclipse) had cleared He addressed the people and said, "The sun and the moon are two of the signs of Allah; they do not eclipse (Yakhsifan) because of the death or the life (i.e. birth) of someone. So when you see them make haste for the prayer." (Sahih Bukhari, Kitabul Kusūf)

# Eclipse Prayer

- Eclipse prayer can be offered alone or in congregation but offering in congregation is preferred for more blessing
- Prayer can be offered inside a mosque or outdoors in an open field
- The recitation, the Ruk'u and the Sajadah (prostration) should be very long
- Two Ruk'u ركوع are performed in each Rak'ah. First a long recitation is performed followed by Takbir تَكْبِيرُ اللهُ أَكْبَرُ to go in to a long Ruk'u then the imam says Sami` Allahu Lyman Hamidah سَمِعَ اللهُ لِمَنْ حَمِدَهُ and the followers stand up. Again a long recitation is performed but shorter than the first. Then a second Ruk'u is performed and the rest of the Rak'ah as usual
- The same steps are repeated in the second Rak'ah
- At the end of the Prayer, the Imam should deliver a sermon, in which he should draw the attention of people to the subject of asking forgiveness from God Almighty and he should discuss ways and means of reforming society