

Verifying prayer calendars

Explained by Shaykh Rabee

Question: What is the correct position for working according to the calendar times for the prayers and that which is printed and circulated among many of the people especially in the West? Is it simply according to the entrance of the time specified on the calendar or is it better to wait a little to be on the safe side? We would like from you noble Shaykh some instruction for those in charge on the Masjids. And if differing occurs amongst the people concerning this matter what do you advise them with?

Shaykh Rabee: This requires precise experimenting and testing of these calendars by way of study from the Muslims 'on the ground' as they say.

They look at the time of Fajr on the calendar to see what hour and minute the calendar says, then they go **outside of the city** to a place that has **no lights** and they look for the light of Fajr in real time; as it has been described by the Messenger peace be upon him. If they see that it agrees with the calendar, they affirm it. If it differs then say to the Muslims, this differs from the actual time therefore wait this amount of time.

This problem is found in the Muslim countries now; in Morocco and other places; in Algeria and other places unfortunately. The Muslims have become careless with regards to their prayer. Some people have complained that they set the time for Fajr about fifteen minutes before it enters. And Allah knows best.

We said to the Salafis; 'experiment'. **Go outside of the cities** and look at the time of Fajr in **a place that is far from lights**. Fajr will become clear to you upon its reality. If it agrees (with the calendar) all praises belong to Allah. We will be relieved from the suspicions, problems and delusions, and confusion of the people. If it does not agree (with the calendar) then we present this to the responsible authority at the ministry. We say to them, we have experimented, and we would like to go out with you all for a second experiment. We found this time while the calendar contradicts the real time. This is my view on issue.

فتاوى فقهية متنوعة (الحلقة الأولى)

<http://www.rabee.net/ar/questions.php?cat=42&id=386>

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