

550 REGENCY DR. | GLENDALE HEIGHTS, IL 60139 | (630) 635-5761

The Timing of Fair and 18 Degrees

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

The scholars of the four madhāhib unanimously agree that *saḥar* (pre-dawn) ends when fajr begins at *al-ṣubḥ al-ṣādiq*. Nabī described *al-ṣubḥ al-ṣādiq* in the following narration:

"Do not let the adhān of Bilāl prevent you from your saḥūr (pre-dawn meal), nor the drawn out fajr, but the fajr that spreads on the horizon."

Scholars refer to the first dawn as *al-ṣubḥ al-kādhib* or "false dawn," and the second as *al-ṣubḥ al-ṣādiq* or "true dawn."

False Dawn

False dawn, also termed "zodiacal light" by astronomers, is a vertical "band of light in the night sky, thought to be sunlight reflected from cometary dust concentrated in the plane of the zodiac, or ecliptic." As mentioned before, since Nabī informed us that the appearance of false dawn does not signal the termination of saḥūr (or beginning of fajr), it is legally irrelevant.



Zodiacal light observed in Chile.3

True Dawn

Unlike false dawn, the illumination of true dawn develops horizontally across the horizon. The transition from night into true dawn occurs when this horizontal illumination appears. According to many astronomers and Muslim religious authorities, this illumination appears when the geometric center of the sun is positioned at 18 degrees below the horizon. This phenomenon is known as "astronomical dawn." Astronomical dawn marks the beginning of astronomical twilight, when the geometric center of the sun lies between 12 and 18 degrees below

1

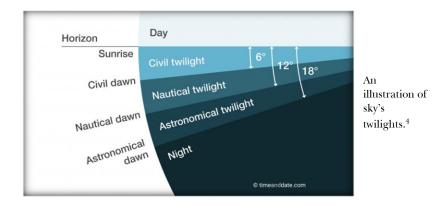
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the horizon.⁴ Therefore, *al-ṣubḥ al-ṣādiq* (true dawn) begins at astronomical dawn and continues into astronomical twilight. Consequently, fajr time begins at 18 degrees.



Historically, most scholars adopted the position of 18 degrees with regards to determining the beginning of fajr. Darul Qasim maintains that the position of 18 degrees represents the correct time for the beginning of fajr.

And Allah & knows best.

Shaykh Amin Kholwadia Mufti Ehzaz Ajmeri Mufti Hisham Dawood

2

 $^{^{-1}}$ الإمام الزيلعي الحنفي، تبيين الحقائق شرح كنز الدقائق، (المطبعة الكبرى الأميرية)، $^{-1}$

⁻الإمام الدسوقي المالكي، حاشية الدسوقي على الشرح الكبير للشيخ الدردير، (دار الفكر)،1/178

⁻محمد بن إدريس الشافعي، الأم، (دار الوفاء)، 2/ 165

⁻ابن قدامة الحنبلي، المغنى، (مكتبة القاهرة)، 1/279

⁻ابن حزم، مراتب الإجماع في العبادات والمعاملات والاعتقادات، (دار الكتب العلمية)، صـ 26

² الإمام محمد بن عيسي الترمذي، سنن الترمذي، (دار الغرب الإسلامي)، الرقم: 706

[&]quot;عن سمرة بن جندب قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: لا يمنعنكم من سحوركم أذان بلال، ولا الفجر المستطيل، ولكن الفجر المستطير في الأفق"

⁻Tirmidhī Muḥammad ibn 'Isa, Khalīl Abu, and Za'ī Abu Ṭahir Zubayr 'Alī. English Translation of Jami' at-Tirmidhī = Jami' Al-Tirmidhī. Riyadh: Darussalam, 2007. [Translation adapted from v. 2 pg. 151]

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³ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Zodiacal Light." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., September 19, 2019. https://www.britannica.com/science/zodiacal-light. Accessed April 19, 2020

⁴ Bikos, Konstantin. "What Is Astronomical Twilight?" timeanddate.com. Accessed April 23, 2020. https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/astronomical-twilight.html.

3

⁻ مركز الفلك الدولي. Accessed April 23, 2020. https://www.astronomycenter.net/fajer.html.

⁻ Mawlana Fawjullah, "Subhe saadiq au fojorer shomai kokhon shuru? Ekti proshno au taar uttor." Majallah al-Kawthar (Bangladesh), April/May, 2019, 13. [Article in Bengali]

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