

Obligation to start Fasting when sighting of new moon is confirmed

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: What is the ruling on a person who does not fast according to the first sighting of the new moon of Ramadan, but waits until he sees it for himself depending on the following Hadeeth, **Start fasting on seeing it (the new moon of Ramadan), and give up fasting on seeing it (the new moon of Shawwal)** ? Is this understanding correct?

Answer: It is obligatory to fast when the sighting of the new moon is confirmed, even if only one trustworthy Muslim sees it. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)¹ issued orders to fast when a Bedouin testified that he had seen the new moon. Interpreting the Hadeeth mentioned in the question to mean that no individual should fast until they see the new moon for themselves is incorrect, because the Hadeeth tells everyone to fast when the sighting is confirmed, even if only one trustworthy Muslim sees the new moon.

May Allaah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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¹ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him