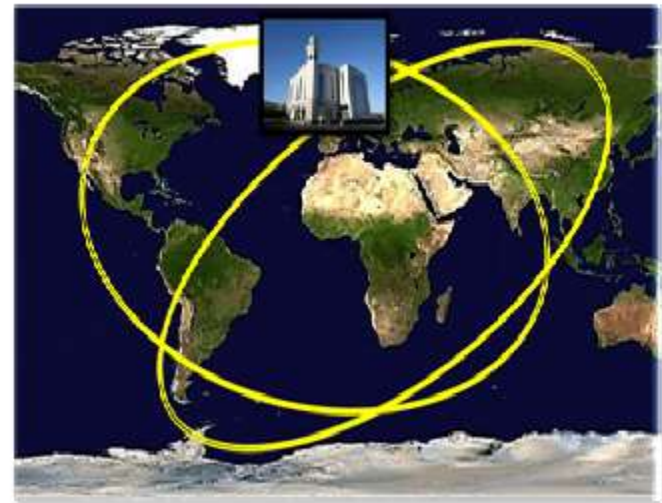


Solar and Lunar Eclipses



**Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat
Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba);
Head of the Ahmadiyya
Muslim Community**



**relayed live all across the
globe**

March 20th 2015

Summary

Today's Friday sermon was about the phenomena of solar and lunar eclipses and their historical significance as regards the advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

According to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) solar and lunar eclipses are special and great sign of the advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)

Many people accepted Ahmadiyyat after seeing this sign but the Maulawis simply refused to accept the truth

Accounts of some companions of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) regarding solar and lunar eclipses of 1894 were given by Huzoor.

Funeral Prayer in absentia of Ahmad Yahya Bajwa Sahib who passed away on 11 March in an accident

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Solar and lunar eclipses

Ahadith regarding eclipses

A solar eclipse took place in the UK today and also in some other countries

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says



The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) instructed to particularly pray, engage in istaghfar, give alms and offer Salat during eclipse

Accounts of companions of the Promised Messiah



Today special Salat known as Salatul Kusoof [Kusoof is solar eclipse] was offered by the Jama'at in areas of solar eclipse in accordance with the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).

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Eclipses of the sun and the moon were witnessed in the West as well as the East in corroboration of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) which makes them very significant for the Jama'at.

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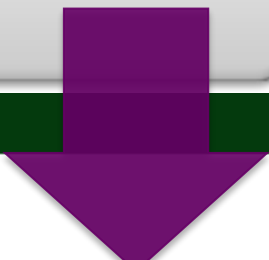
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Ahadith tell us that solar and lunar eclipses are special signs of God of the advent of the Promised Messiah



Today's eclipse certainly draws one's attention to the eclipse that took place at the advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).



The eclipse occurred on Friday, which has special reference to the advent of the Imam of the age and month of the march, the month of the advent of the Promised Messiah (as).

Ahadith regarding an eclipse that took place in the life time of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him)

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Hazrat Asma (may Allah be pleased with her) related:
'I came to 'Aishah during solar eclipse and saw her Praying. I asked her what is wrong with the people that they are Praying at this hour? She gestured with her hand towards the sky and said: *SubhanAllah*. I asked her is there a sign and she nodded in the affirmative. So I too stood and Prayed until I swooned and poured water on my head.



After the Prayer the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) praised and glorified God and said:

Just now I have seen something which I never saw before...including Paradise and Hell. It has been revealed to me that you will be put to trials in your graves...

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You will be asked:

What do you know about this man? A believer will reply, He is Muhammad, the Prophet of God and he came to us with self-evident truth and guidance and we accepted his teaching, believed in him and followed him. The person will be told, sleep peacefully as you were surely a firm believer.

On the other hand a hypocrite will reply: I do not know but I heard people saying something so I said the same.'



The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) also said:

The sun and the moon do not eclipse because of someone's death or life but they are two signs amongst the signs of Allah, so Pray whenever you see them.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote about the prophecy of solar and lunar eclipse

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'I am very much surprised that although sign after sign continues to appear, the Maulawis are least concerned with the truth. They do not realize that God Almighty causes them to suffer defeat in every field. How they wish that Divine support of some sort or other should appear in their favour also, but, instead of support, their failure and frustration continues to become apparent with each passing day.

For example, during the days when the almanacs were widely reporting that both the sun and the moon would be eclipsed in the coming month of Ramadan, many people had begun to think that perhaps this was the sign of the advent of the Promised Imam. This caused the Maulawis to fear lest people should incline towards me, for I was the only one claiming to be the Mahdi and the Messiah.

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... But when the eclipses of the sun and the moon did take place in the month of Ramadan, they started making excuses ...that these eclipses were not in conformity with the words of Hadith, ..Hadith says that the lunar eclipse would take place on the first night and the solar eclipse on the middle of the month, while in my case, the lunar eclipse took place on the 13th night and the solar eclipse on the 28th of the month.

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But when it was explained to them that the Hadith did not mean the first night of the moon, as the moon of the first night was not called *Qamar*, but *Hilal*, and the Hadith contained the word *Qamar* and not *Hilal*. .. what the Hadith meant was that the moon would be eclipsed on the first of the nights ..when it can possibly take place, i.e., 13th night of the moon, and the sun would be eclipsed on the middle one of the days in which it can possibly take place, i.e. 28th.

.. After hearing the correct meaning of the Hadith, ... came up with yet another excuse saying that one of the narrators of this Hadith was unreliable. ... The fact that this prophecy has been fulfilled literally in the time of the one who claims to be the Mahdi, is a sure testimony that he who spoke these words spoke nothing but the truth.

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...After this incontrovertible rejoinder, they were left with no choice but to admit that the Hadith was true, .. ; but, they said, this man is not the Promised Imam, he will be some other person

...The final excuse they have now come up with is, 'These people are infidels, don't read their books, and do not have any social relations with them. Do not listen to them, for what they say moves the hearts.'
It should serve as a warning for them that the heaven has turned against them ... How shameful it is that while the heaven is testifying against them on the one hand, the earth too has turned against them...' (The Need for The Imam, pp. 63-67)

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Accounts of some companions of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) regarding solar and lunar eclipses of 1894

Hazrat Ghulam Muhammad Sahib

said that during his adolescence there was a Maulawi Sahib called Badr ud Din in his village.



He remembered being with him when the eclipse occurred and Maulawi Sahib said SubhanAllah this is a sign of the Mahdi.



Maulawi Sahib accepted the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and worked assiduously on his family for a year after which they also accepted Ahmadiyyat.



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Hafiz Muhammad Hayat Sahib writes that after the eclipses of 1894 people became very keen that the Mahdi must have appeared

Some elders decided to walk to Qadian to see the Mahdi in person and if all signs were fulfilled in him they would take his

They had very little money on them. After days of travel when they reached Batala, students of Maulawi Muhammad Hussain Batalwi tried to dissuade them from going to Qadian.

They carried on with their journey and finally reached Qadian.

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Accounts of some companions of the Promised Messiah (on whom
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When the travellers reached Qadian the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) was in Masjid Mubarak with a gathering of people. He was conversing with the people as well as writing something and the conversation did not disrupt the fluency of his writing. **It was as if the subject-matter was coming to him from an unseen source**

The travellers stayed three days in Qadian....gave the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) greetings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and took bai'at.

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Qureshi Sahib writes about **Hazrat Qazi Akbar Sahib** that after the solar and lunar eclipses he realised the time of the advent of Mahdi was close.

Following the eclipses, Qazi Sahib said that we should look for the Mahdi. The task was assigned to some people who found a few books for Qazi Sahib to read.

He had seen in a dream prior to receiving the books that he is given three books. Something foul emerges from the first book so he throws it away but the other two books emit light.

The dream was fulfilled in that the first book he decided to read was a refutation of the Promised Messiah's claim. He abandoned reading it after coming across hurtful remarks in it and he found the other books as he had seen in the dream, full of light.

He sent a group of people to Qadian who took bai'at. Qazi Sahib first took bai'at by post and then in person.

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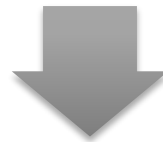
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Accounts of some companions of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) regarding solar and lunar eclipses of 1894

After the solar and lunar eclipses occurred **Qazi Maula Baksh Sahib** mentioned them in detail in a sermon and said these were signs of the advent of the Mahdi.

He said we now have to wait and see when and where the Mahdi appears

This sermon had far-reaching impact on people.



Although Qazi Maula Baksh Sahib did not accept Ahmadiyyat but his son **Hazrat Mian Imam Din Sahib** studied Ahmadiyyat and then took bai'at.

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The world situation was crying out for a reformer

Hazrat Ghulam Mujtaba Sahib writes that he read *Durre Sameen* (book of poetic compositions of the Promised Messiah) in 1901 when he was employed in Hong Kong.

Reading *Durre Sameen* he felt if its writer was truthful it was something most auspicious or else he was an excellent liar

Later he also read the Promised Messiah's book *Izala Auham* at length and had discussions with the Imam of the mosque in Hong Kong.

He says when the solar and lunar eclipses took place his father had said the Mahdi has been born. .

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Hazrat Maulana Ibrahim Bakapuri writes that a father and son went to a Maulawi and asked him if the hadith of the solar and lunar eclipse was true.

The Maulawi replied the hadith was true but warned them 'not to fall in the entrapment of Mirza Sahib' because he was citing the hadith for his claim.

He said the hadith was about the birth of the Mahdi and was not a proof of claim.

The father said ..I have spent a lifetime in law courts but the government never asked me to bring witnesses unless I first made a claim.

Mirza Sahib's claim is from before and the solar and lunar eclipses have taken place in corroboration of his claim

Later the father and son were enabled to take bai'at.

Accounts of some companions of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) regarding solar and lunar eclipses of 1894

Hazrat Sayed Zainul Abideen Waliullah Shah Sahib writes

That it was widely held in those days that Muslims were ruined

It was the end of the thirteenth century [Hijrah] and it was said that Imam Mahdi was going to appear and Hazrat Isa (on whom be peace) was also going to appear after him.

My dear mother used to mention Imam Mahdi and Hazrat Isa delightedly and would say that solar and lunar eclipse was specific to the advent of Imam Mahdi.

After the eclipses occurred God enabled the entire family to take bai'at.

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Mirza Ayub Baig Sahib writes
Ahadith gave solar and lunar eclipses during Ramadan as a sign of Imam Mahdi. When days to the occurrence came closer in 1894 both brothers headed for Qadian, so that they could offer the the prayers after the Promised Messiah (as)

The weather was inclement, they walked through rain, wind, darkness and endured great difficulty.

They prayed for the weather to calm down entreating that they were going to see the Messiah.

Soon after the wind changed direction ..and helped them on their way...

They were enabled to offer Salatul Kusoof behind the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) in the morning.

The eclipse appeared quite partial at the start and the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) was concerned that .. people would not be able to observe such a magnificent heavenly sign. Later most of the sun was covered by a shadow and the eclipse could be clearly seen

Solar and lunar eclipses

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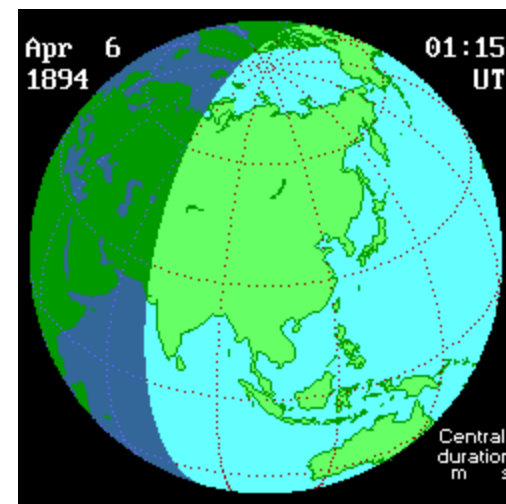
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Maulawi Ghulam Rasool Sahib writes I was in Lahore when the 1894 eclipses took place. The clergy was quite perturbed.

People asked Hafiz Muhammad Sahib that he had written about this heavenly sign very clearly in his book and now that it had occurred and Mirza Sahib had called it a sign for him what did the Hafiz think?

He replied he was feeling quite weak and could only answer after his recovery. Meanwhile **he said he would ask his son to desist from opposing Mirza Sahib.**

Maulawi Ghulam Rasool writes that although in his heart he was convinced of the Promised Messiah's truthfulness he did not take bai'at until after a few years.

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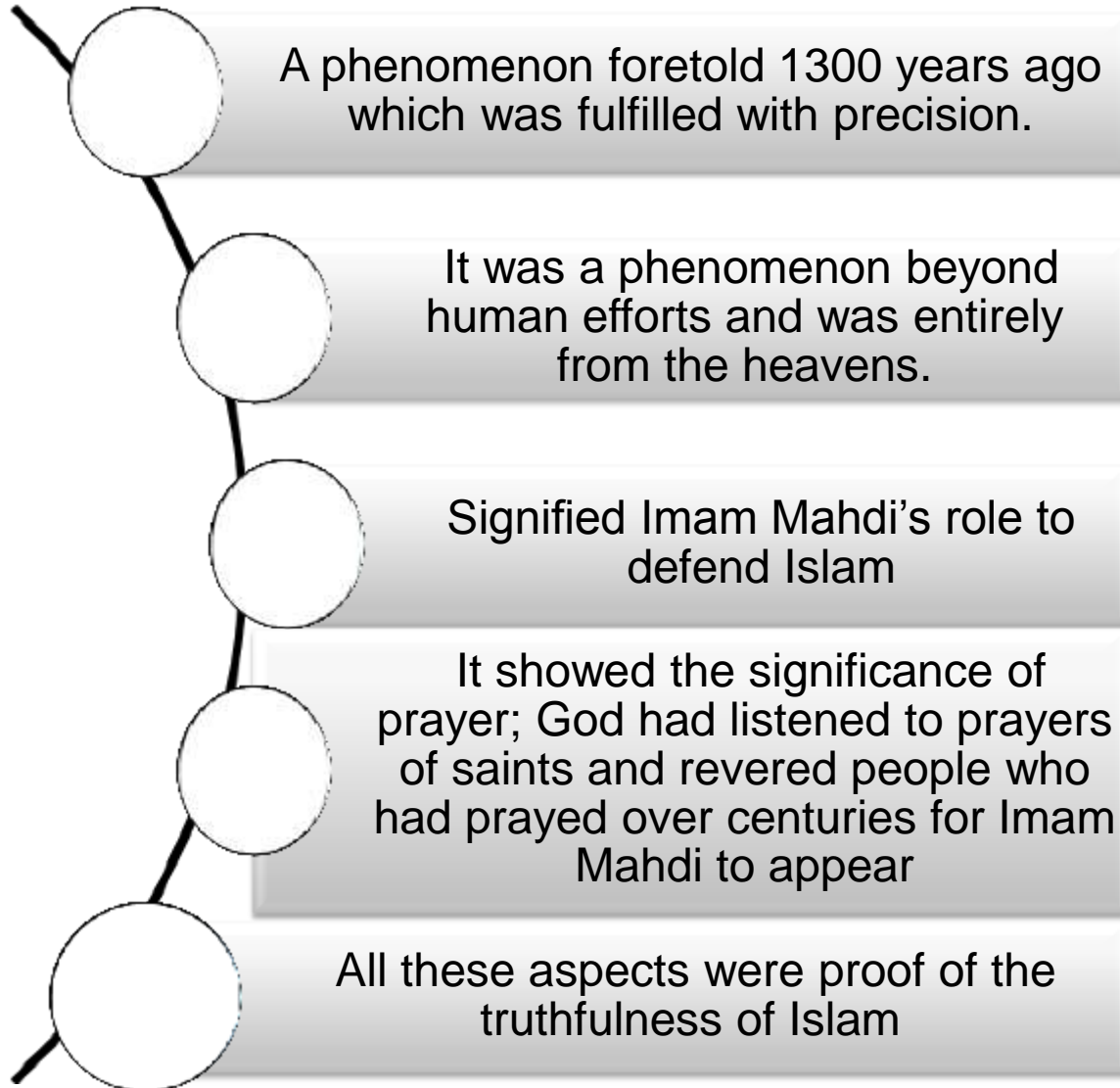
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Bhai Abdul Rahman Sahib writes that he was in Year/Grade 8 when the solar eclipse of Ramadan 1894 took place. The headmaster at his school declared that Imam Mahdi should be searched for because his sign had been fulfilled. He shared the following five-point view



He says all these matters had a deep impact on him and he prayed fervently to find Imam Mahdi. **Although young, he would call out for this scared person as he looked for him, at times in wilderness. Eventually he was enabled to fulfil his wish.**

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Sheikh Naseer ud Din Sahib, companion of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) was inspired to take bai'at after a dream.

His heart bore witness that it was time for the Promised One to come but he had not yet appeared.

Once he saw a Maulawi in mosque perturbed and lamenting that the solar eclipse had taken place

Sheikh Sahib could not quite understand why the Maulawi was worried. Surely it was a joyous occasion. He prayed most earnestly for guidance

Around this time he heard about the Promised Messiah's claim and he went to Qadian and took bai'at

He had a dream that a huge monster attacks him but he fires at him with a gun and the monster disappears in a puff of smoke. And then he joins a congregational Prayer in a mosque on an elevated spot. **This dream was interpreted for him as him overcoming his demons and joining a righteous community.**

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Funeral Prayer in absentia of **Ahmad Yahya Bajwa Sahib**
who passed away on 11 March in an accident

He was 27 years old and a student at Jamia in
Germany.

He was a very promising young man with a very
humble and charming nature.
May God elevate his status.