



# Exploring the Twilights

*Omar Subedar*

*The Canadian Council of Muslim Theologians*



# Motivation behind study

- Building opposition to the 12 degree stance
- Members of the congregation refusing to participate in the Isha congregation and forming their own in the masjid



# Objective of Study

- To substantiate the 12 degrees stance through physical observations



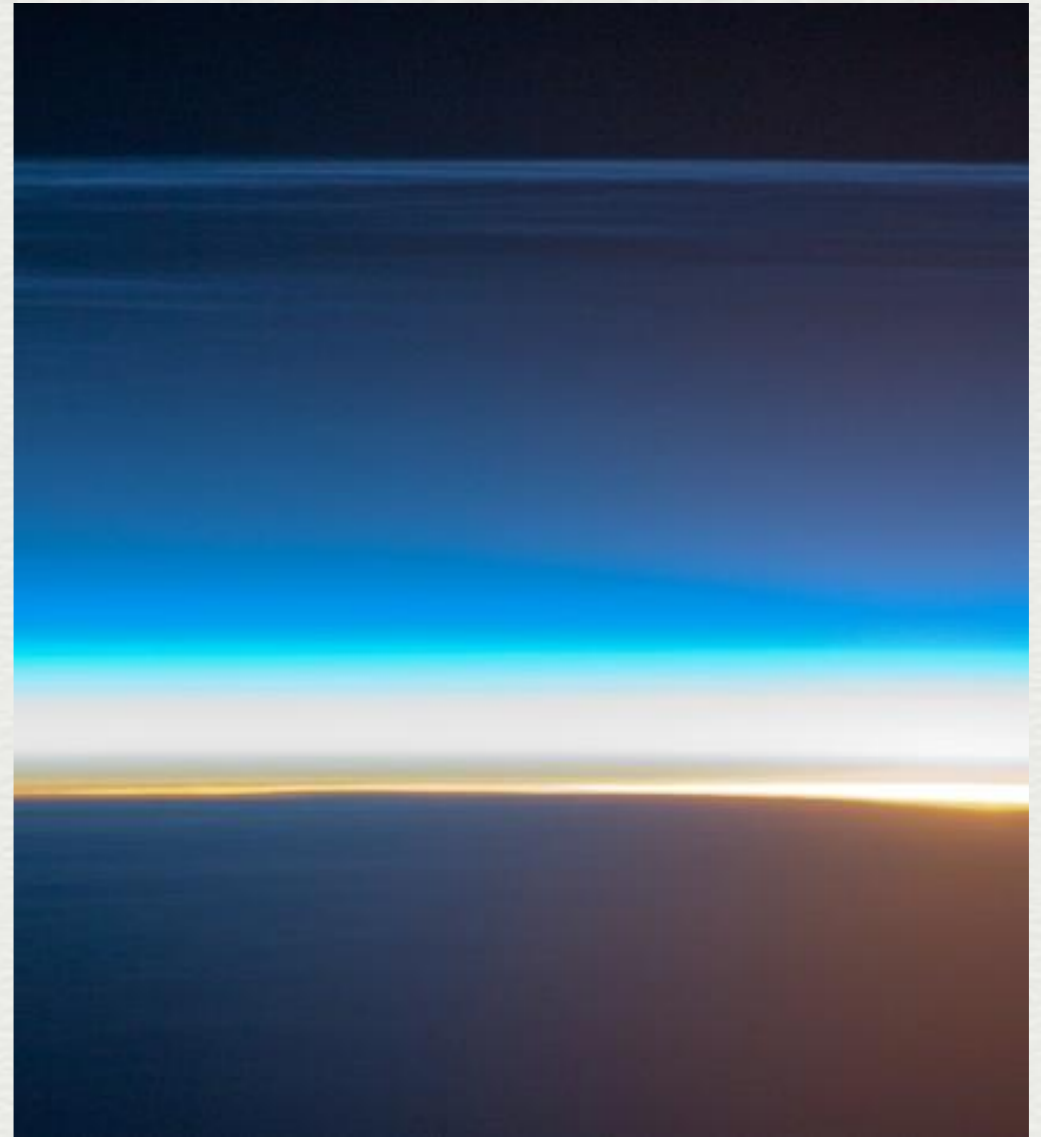
# Things to know

- Isha begins when the red twilight disappears from the horizon according to Malik, Shaf'ie, Ahmad, Abu Yusuf and Muhammad



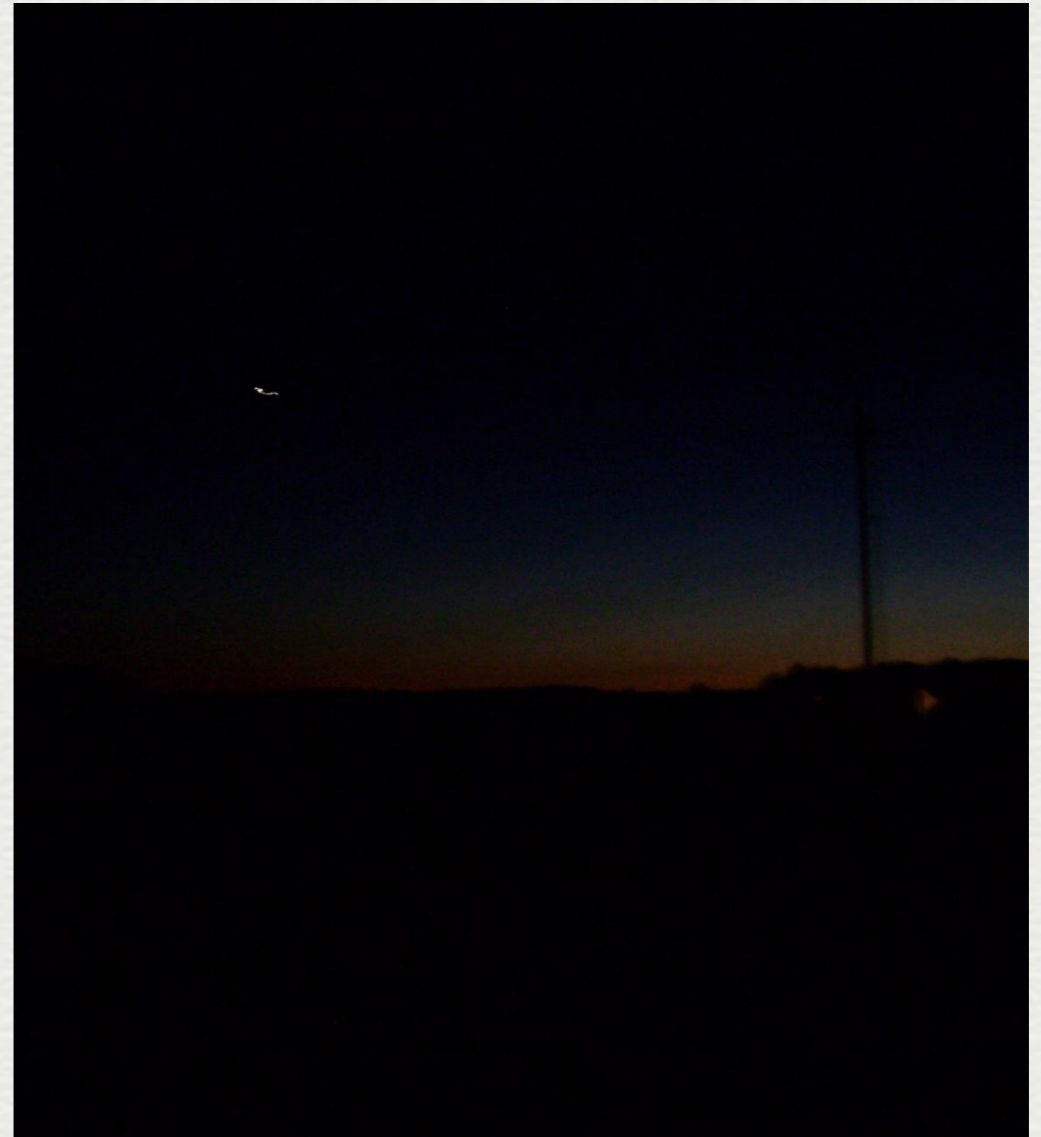
# Things to Know

- Fajr begins when the white twilight appears in the horizon



# Theme of Study

- To find out the time when the red twilight sets from May to August



# Guidelines

- Observation is for finding out the time when the red twilight disappears from the horizon
- Observation should be done at a leveled area and the vision should not be obscured by trees in the horizon
- Pictures should be taken of the observation by a special lens camera
- Avoid finding out the 12° or 15° time of the day of the sighting in order to avoid developing any preconceived notions
- Each observer should keep his information confidential and not share it with the other observer
- No observer should dictate his opinion of what he is witnessing to the another observer
- Observation sheet should be filled out by each observer and submitted to the designated data collector on the spot.



# Procedures

- Documentation on this issue from the books of Fiqh was collected
- Each participant was given an observation sheet
- Sightings were carried out in Brampton, Georgetown, Halton Hills and Whitby

Name of Observer: UMAR SUBEDAR  
Date: 29/06/10  
City: Brampton  
Latitude: 43.39 N  
Longitude: 79.23 W  
Observation Site: Intersection of Mayfield & McLaughlin  
Atmospheric Condition: CLEAR  
Sunset Time: 9:07 pm  
Beginning time of observation: 10:04 pm  
Ending time of observation: 10:40 pm  
Red Twilight Setting Time: 10:40 pm

Time of Picture:

1. 10:06 pm
2. 10:15 pm
3. 10:26 pm
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

12" : 10:26 pm  
15" : 10:53 pm







# Result

- No team had witnessed the red twilight disappear at 12 degrees
- Timing of disappearance varied between 13 to 14 degrees
- Normal distance between the disappearance / appearance of the red and white twilight is 3 degrees
- Observations conducted by certain scholars on the appearance of the white twilight at dawn revealed that the twilight would appear between 17.5 to 16 degrees
- Both observations are consistent with accepted Islamic astronomical principles



# Resolution

- Isha 15 degrees and Fajr 18 degrees on precautionary basis
- Resolution passed in May 2011 but was not to be publicized until CCMT delegation met and shared findings with certain key scholars of the GTA
- Meeting was declined
- CCMT decided to publicize findings in subsequent meeting in July 2011 without being imposing
- Resolution made for reference purposes



# Supplication /Dua

- May Allah unite our hearts and enable us to sincerely serve the Muslim community

