

Welcome to
ALI 296: Nature in Sahifa Sajjadiyya

Please go through Dua no. 43 of the Sahifa Sajjadiyya;
His Supplication when he looked at the new crescent moon

What should we look forward to in a new month?

Agenda – Dua no. 43

- ❑ Obedience of creation
- ❑ Signs of Allah in the new moon
- ❑ A new chance
- ❑ Qualities to work towards in the new month

Quran on the new moon

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْأَهْلِ ۖ قُلْ هِيَ مَوَاقِيتُ لِلنَّاسِ وَالْحُجِّ

They ask you about the new moons.

Say: These are signs to mark fixed periods of time for mankind and for the pilgrimage.

Sura al Baqarah, 2:189

Obedience of Creation

Imam addresses the moon:

O obedient creature, speedy and untiring

All of creation obeys the Almighty. There are two types of obedience:

- 1) Obedience in Natural Laws اطاعت تكويني – every part of the Universe follows the path that has been ordained by God. The water cycle, movement of the stars and planets, growth of animals and plants are all examples of this form of obedience. This is an inescapable submission to God.
- 2) Obedience in Legislative Laws اطاعت تشريعي – God sent guidance with laws to be obeyed. Some people choose to obey while others choose to disobey.

Verses on Obedience of Creation -1

أَفَغَيْرَ دِينِ اللَّهِ يَبْتَغُونَ وَلَهُ أَسْلَمَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ
طَوْعًا وَكَرْهًا وَإِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُونَ

Is it then other than Allah's religion that they seek
and to Him submits whoever is in
the heavens and the earth
willingly or unwillingly
and to Him shall they be returned.

Sura Aale Imran, verse 83

Verses on Obedience of Creation -2

وَلِلَّهِ يَسْجُدُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ طَوْعًا وَكَرْهًا

And whoever is in the heavens and the earth makes
obeisance to Allah only, willingly and unwillingly

Sura Ra'd, verse 15

Note about the word 'Karhan'

Tafsire Namune points out that the word '*karhan*' is different from '*kurhan*'.

Karhan – a dislike that stems from internal sources

Kurhan – a dislike that stems from external sources

The dislike to obedience from Allah comes from external sources. Internally the human being has the *fitrat* that inclines him naturally towards obedience.

The difference between the two words can be seen clearly in the following verse:

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ إِحْسَانًا ۖ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ كُرْهًا وَوَضَعَتْهُ كُرْهًا ۗ

And We have enjoined on man doing of good to his parents; with trouble did his mother bear him and with trouble did she bring him forth. **Sura Ahqaf, verse 15**

Signs of Allah in the new moon

The moon lights up darkness

It illuminates jet black shadows

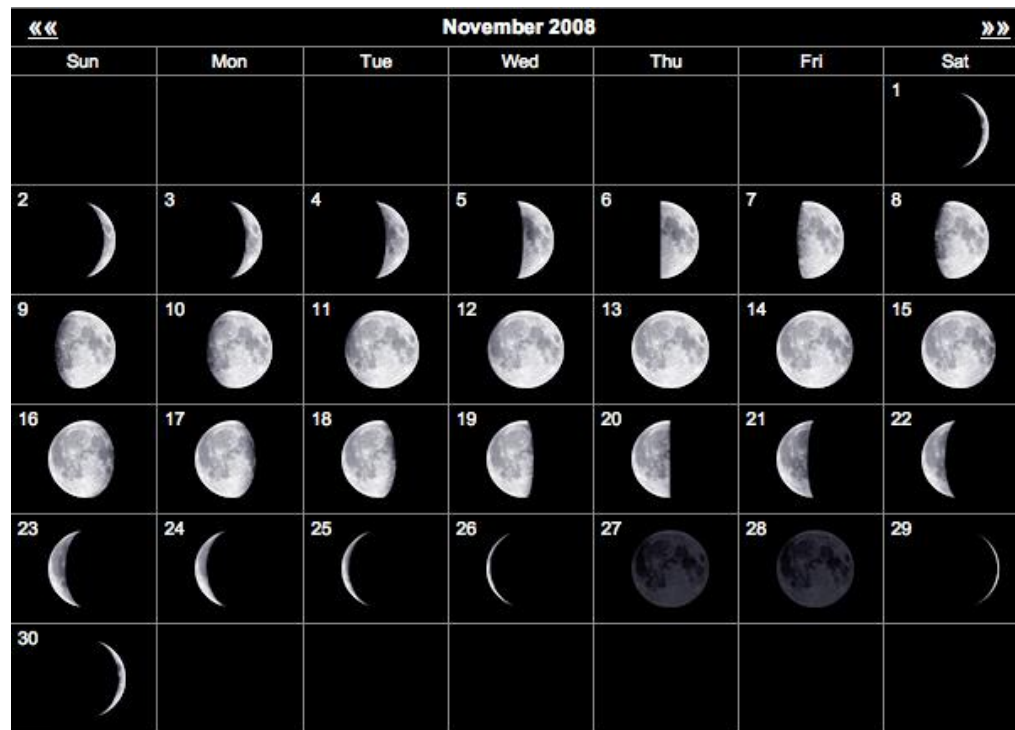
It increases

and decreases

rises and sets

illuminates

and eclipses



Facts about the moon

- The rhythm of the moon's phases has always guided humanity. Calendar months are roughly equal to the time it takes to go from one full moon to the next.
- The moon takes 27.3 days both to rotate on its axis *and* to orbit Earth.
- We see either the full moon, half moon or no moon because the moon reflects sunlight. How much of it we see depends on the moon's position in relation to Earth and the sun.
- The moon is a bit more than one-fourth (27 percent) the size of Earth, a much smaller ratio (1:4) than any other planets and their moons. This means the moon has a great effect on the planet and very possibly is what makes life on Earth possible.

A new chance

*He has made you the key to **a new month**
for **a new situation**.*

A new month is a chance to start afresh. Imam asks that the month bring new and different blessings;

- blessings not effaced by days
- purity not defiled by sins
- security from blights
- safety from evil deeds
- auspiciousness containing no misfortune
- prosperity accompanied by no adversity
- ease not mixed with difficulty
- of good unstained by evil;
- security and faith,
- favour and good-doing
- safety and submission

A new month brings with it fresh hope of blessings from God. It is an opportunity for reflection and change.

Allah in His mercy gives us opportunities for change. A new day, a new month, a new year . . . Each is very significant in the life of a believer. The Holy Quran says: *Each day He is in new glory* (55:29).

Change is one of the most important aspects of life. Each new day things change in the universe. The seasons change, and all of nature is continuously changing. All aspects of the human being is also constantly changing. Change is what gives meaning to life and hope for the future. The knowledge that things can change and that we have the ability to change ourselves, our attitudes, and therefore our lives, is a huge impetus for progress in life.

Qualities to work for in the new month

place us among

- the most satisfied of those over whom the crescent has risen
- the purest of those who have looked upon it,
- the most fortunate of those who worshipped You under it
- give us the success during [the new month] to repent
- preserve us within it from misdeeds
- guard us therein from pursuing disobedience to You
- allot to us within it thanksgiving for Your favour

- 1) Contentment
- 2) Purity
- 3) Worship
- 4) Repentance
- 5) Avoiding sins and disobedience
- 6) Gratitude