

FASTING ON YAUMUL SHAK (doubtful if Ramadhan month has begun)

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The day about which you do not know whether it is 30th shaban or 1st Ramadhan is called Yaumul Shak. On this day it is haram to fast with the intention of 1st Ramadhan and a fast with this niyyat is invalid.

It is not wajib to fast on this day. However, It is **Mustahab** to keep fast on this day but the **Niyyat** (intention) should be either

- (a) with the Niyyat of Mafiz-zimma (to discharge my responsibility), (although such a niyat is allowed, it is better to avoid it)
- (b) with the Niyyat of any Qaza fast of previous Ramadan, if any, or
- (c) with the Niyyat of Mustahab Shaban fast.

If you do a double Niyyat of fasting (i.e. 30th Shaban or 1st Ramadan), then such a Niyyat is wrong according Ayatullah Khui, but it is OK according to Ayt Khomeini and Ayt Seestani. Still it is better to avoid doing such a niyyat.

If you are fasting on Yaumul shak, and if, at any time on that day, you get the news of moon sighting of Ramadhan, then you must immediately change Niyyat to that of 1st of Ramadan.

If you have fasted on Yaumul shak (with any valid Niyyat), and afterwards(after the day is over) you come to know that it was 1st of Ramadan, then your fast will automatically be counted as fast of 1st of Ramadan.

If you are **not fasting** on yaumul shak, then following actions are necessary on you:

- (a) If you get the news after sunset of yaumul shak that the moon had been actually sighted on evening of 29th Shaban, then you have to keep Qaza of 1st Ramadan after the month of Ramadan.
- (b) If you get the news of moon sighting after Zawal time (Islamic mid-day), then it is haram to do anything which breaks a fast from that time until Iftar time on that day, and you have to do Qaza of 1st of Ramadan later on.
- (c) If you get the news of moon sighting before Zawal time (Islamic mid-day), then
 - (i) if you have not or done anything which breaks fast, you must immediately do the Niyyat of fasting of Ramadan for that day. According to A . Seestani & A. Khomieni this is enough. According to A. khui (on the basis of ehtiyat e wajib) you have to keep a qaza fast too
 - (ii) if you have done anything which breaks fast, then you have to imsaak (refrain from anything that breaks fast) for the remainder of the day, and then do Qaza of 1st of Ramadan later on.