



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

Manitoba Islamic Association

Memorandum 0007

Subject: The issue of Isha' timing during the summer season
From: Local Fiqh Committee, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Date: May 24, 2018

Isha' time:

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The time for *Maghrib* prayer lasts until the *Shafaq* (twilight) has disappeared"¹. This *hadeeth* indicates that the time for *Isha'* prayer begins after the disappearance of *Shafaq*. The majority of Muslim jurists are of the opinion that it's the red *Shafaq*².

The method used to calculate Isha' time in Winnipeg:

The MIA Fiqh Committee has decided that the time of Isha' occurs after the disappearance of the red twilight, when the sun is 15 degrees below the western horizon. This method is used by the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), and is the view of some jurists and astronomers.

Since Winnipeg is located between latitudes of 48° degrees and 66° degrees north and south (Winnipeg is located at latitude 49.89°), some astronomical signs which define the time of the prayer may not occur (disappearance of the red twilight for *Isha'*) or may not occur until very late at night during the summer season.

This happens in Winnipeg from May 10 to August 4 in which Isha' time becomes very late which causes considerable hardship to perform *Isha'* prayer at the prescribed time. For example, the time of *Isha'* prayer reaches its maximum in June, when it's at 11:28, based on the 15° method of calculation.

1. Sahih Muslim (612).

2. Imam al-Shafi'i, Imam Malik and Imam Ahmad are of the opinion that it's the red twilight, while Abu-Hanifah defines it as the white phase that follows redness.



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The opinion of the Fiqh Committee regarding the issue of Isha' timing in the summer:

After discussing this matter in the Fiqh Committee, and studying the positions of many jurists and astronomers, the committee decided that it is permissible to use the Turkish method of calculation to calculate the time of *Isha'* prayer. This method states that the time for *Isha'* prayer is about one hour and twenty minutes after *Maghrib* prayer, the average difference in regions with moderate prayer times³. Hence, if we add 1 hour and 20 minutes to the maximum time for the time of *Maghrib* prayer in Winnipeg 9:42, the time for *Isha'* will be at 11:02.

It is also permissible to combine *Isha'* with *Maghrib* during the time of *Maghrib* without having to perform *Isha'* right after *Maghrib* (i.e, after a long or short time). This is based on a opinion in the *Hanbali* school of thought which was chosen by *Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah*.

Ibn- Taymiyah (d. 728 H) said, "The correct view is that *Muwalah*⁴ is not required when combining *Salahs* in any way, either in the time of first *Salah* or in the second...because taking that into account defeats the purpose of combining (and that is to bring ease and remove hardship)...".⁵

In addition, the time of *Isha'* can also be calculated based on the times found at a latitude of 45 degrees. For instance, if *Isha'* starts after the third part of the night at 45 degrees latitude, *Isha'* will start similarly in respect to the night at the place where the time is to be approximated, i.e., after the third part of the night.⁶

In conclusion, given that this issue is matter of *ijtihad*, the Fiqh Committee sees no objection in relying on other estimation methods, such as the use of the 12° method of calculation...or as the method of moonsighting.com (curve-fit technique). According to their schedule, the time of *Isha'* doesn't exceed 11:01.⁷

3. Dr. Mohmmad Al-Hawari, *Mawaqit As-Salah bayna Ulama' As-shari'ah wal-Falak*, p.102.

4. Joining two *Salah*, one after the other

5. *Majmou' Al-Fatawa*, 24:54.

6. European Council for Fatwa and Research: www.e-cfr.org.

7. moonsighting.com.



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Recommendation:

Islam is a religion of ease and tends to remove hardship or difficulty from the believers, and this is one of the main objectives of Shari'ah. *Allah* (SWT) said, "*Allah* intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you" [Surat Al-Baqarah: 185].

He also said "...and has not laid upon you in religion any hardship" [Surat Al-Hajj: 78].

Based on the authentic hadeeth of the Prophet (PBUH) who said, "Make things easy and do not make things difficult"⁸, and on the legal ruling "Hardship gives rise to ease", Muslims in the city of Winnipeg can use the Turkish method of calculation to calculate the time of *Isha'* in the summer, or join the prayers since many people find it difficult to pray *Isha'* after 11:00 p.m.

The Committee also sees no objection in relying on the other solutions mentioned in this paper.

Members of the committee:

Sheikh Ismael Mukhtar, Freelance Senior Khatib/Speaker and Writer.

Sheikh Atef Ibrahim, Imam of Grand Mosque.

Sheikh Ammar Khatib, Religious Advisor, Qari, Writer and Researcher.

Sheikh Muhiadin Omar, Imam of Bilal Mosque.

Dr. Nazir Khan, Speaker and Researcher.

Dr. Idris Elbakri, Former MIA President and Community Representative.

Br. Muaz Jutt, Fiqh Committee Secretary.

8. Sahih Al-Bukhari (69).