

"Fast when you see it, and break the fast when you see it, but if the sky is overcast and you cannot see it, then act on estimation."

Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) say: "Fast when you see it, and break the fast when you see it, but if the sky is overcast and you cannot see it, then act on estimation." [Authentic hadith] [Narrated by Bukhari & Muslim]

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) pointed out the sign that marks the beginning and end of the month of Ramadan, saying: Fast when you see the crescent of Ramadan, but if the clouds prevent you from seeing it, then count thirty days for the month of Sha'bān. Break your fast when you see the crescent of Shawwāl, but if the clouds prevent you from seeing it, then count thirty days for the month of Ramadan.

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