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Question:

1. What are the minimum & maximum total days of the Islamic Months?
2. Is it possible for the moon sights on 28th of an Islamic month? If no, so what will be the ruling according to Shariah Law if the moon sights on the 28th?

Answer:

باسمه تعالى

1. According to the Shariah Law, the minimum days of an Islamic month are 29 and the maximum are 30 days, it is proven from different Hadith of Allah's Apostle which are as follows: (two Hadith)

عن ابن عمر ان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال
الشهر تسع وعشرون ليلة فلا تصوموا حتى تروها فان غم عليكم
فاكملوا العدة ثلاثين

Narrated Sayyiduna Ibn Umar:

The Holy Prophet said, "The month (can be) 29 nights (and days), and do not fast till you see the moon, and if the sky is overcast, then complete as thirty days."

Al Bukhari VI P256

عن ام سلمة ان النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم الى من نسائه شهرا
فلما مضى تسعة وعشرون يوما غدا اوراح
ف قيل له انك حلفت ان لا تدخل شهر ا فقال
ان الشهر يكون تسعة وعشرين يوما

Narrated Sayyidatuna Umm Salma:

The Holy Prophet vowed to keep aloof from his wives for a period of one month, and after the completion of 29 days he went either in the morning or in the afternoon to his wives. Someone said to him “you vowed that you would not go to your wives for one month.” He replied, “The month if of 29 days.”

Al Bukhari VI P256

2. It is not possible for an Islamic month to be of 28 days, and if somewhere the moon has been sighted on the 28th day, so it means that definitely one day has been surely missed.

For example, the crescent has not been sighted on the 29th day of Jamaadi-ul-Oula because the sky was overcast, so the month of Jamaadi-ul-Oula has been counted for 30 days. Then in the coming month (Jamaadi-us-Saani), the crescent has been sighted on 28th. So here the counting is clearly perceivable to know and understand that the month of Jamaadi-ul-Oula was only for 29 days, not 30 days, and the dispersion on 29th day of Jamaadi-ul-Oula was only that the crescent could not find due to the cloudily weather.

So, in that case, the month of Jamaadi-us-Saani will be counted for 29 days and one day has been clearly missed.

Jazaakallah

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