

This book shatters the myth that naked-eye sighting of the new moon and completing thirty days in the case of weather-related or other obscurities are the only two valid methods of determining the month of Ramadan. The author explains that certainty, not actual sighting, is the real objective of the Shari'ah and that the Qur'an does not mandate physical sighting. A careful analysis shows that those hadiths that seemingly require sighting actually require certainty. The assertion that Muslim scholars view the use of astronomical calculation to determine the month of Ramadan as unlawful, and hence prohibited, are without foundation. As calculation is now more accurate than naked-eye sighting, due to certain astronomical and scientific advancements, the use of calculation is the closest to the real objective of the Shari'ah and to the spirit of the hadiths.



Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah earned his B.A. (Hons) and M.A. (Hons) in *usul al-din* (the fundamentals of the Islamic religion) from the International Islamic University, Pakistan, and his Ph.D. in comparative religions from the University of Wales, UK. He has been a faculty member of several universities, served as an imam in various Muslim communities in America, and been the national president of a number of Muslim organizations. Currently, Dr. Shah is the executive director of the Fiqh Council of North America and the religious director of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee.

\$16.95



THE ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS AND RAMADAN



THE ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS AND RAMADAN

A Fiqhi Discourse

Zulfiqar Ali Shah

Zulfiqar Ali Shah

IIIT

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT

