

## **"What eminent professor Dr Ilyas said about twilight in an email to a UK enquirer"**

Assalamualaikum

Thanks for sending me the input which I read with interest. Indeed I am delighted to have this discourse as I have been concerned about this matter for quite a while.

Interestingly, I see that much of what I would have said is already extracted in the material from my book. I would say that it reflects my thinking much the same now or even more so. If you can have a chance look into the referred book and study the chart for evening sky brightness which varies exponentially from sunset to long angles beyond 18 degrees. You will notice that after around 15 degrees the curve is practically flat which I have said in the text. I had suggested that this be called Islamic Twilight to avoid confusion with civil, astronomical twilights which are specific instances of solar depression. Studies done in Egyptian desert some years ago and by my own student in Malaysia reflect this. Abdul Aziz Alshamari from KACST in Saudi Arabia also has indicated this.

I have been suggesting that the 18 degree practice imported from somewhere in early last century need be revised specially as in Malaysia the imam calls Azan on the dot and after 10 minutes would pray Fajr? From my own travels and short stays in high latitudes, I feel that this is a critical issue during summer months. May be you should organize a seminar to deal with this matter considering its importance.

Pls feel free to write me if I can be of further help

Prof Dr. Mohammad Ilyas, Ph. D.