

(28)

**MOON PHASES:
LUNAR CYCLE (36:39)**

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PART 1: READ

وَالْقَمَرَ قَدَرْنَا مَنَازِلَ حَتَّىٰ عَادَ كَالْعُرْجُونِ الْقَدِيمِ

and [in] the moon, for which We have determined phases [which it must traverse] till it becomes like an old date-stalk, dried-up and curved:

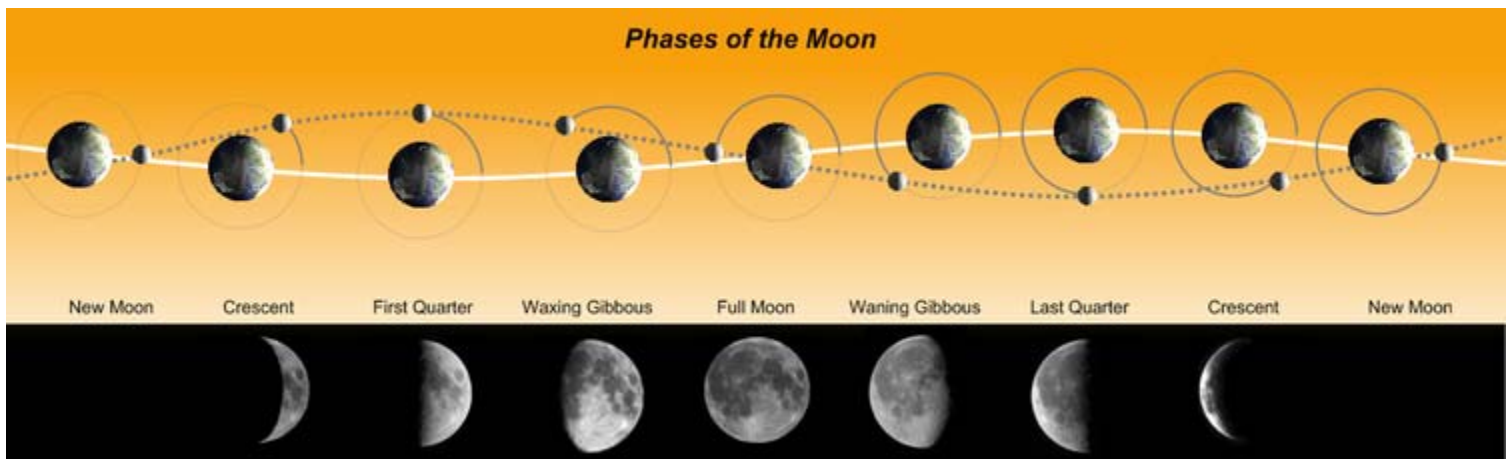
PART 2: LEARN

Basic Facts:

- 1) The earth revolves around the sun and the moon revolves around the earth; revolutions take place in specific orbits. The Quran (21 Al Anbiyaa 33) describes these motions by saying “all celestial bodies swim along, each in its own orbit.”
- 2) The moon completes one revolution approximately every month.

3) If you look to the moon from the earth, you will see different lunar phases. For simplification purposes, we may focus on the following 8 key positions and 8 key phases as shown by the diagram given below.

1. **"New** (also called the Dark Moon) - not visible
 2. **Waxing Crescent**
 3. **First Quarter** - commonly called a "half moon"
 4. **Waxing Gibbous**
 5. **Full** - we can see the entire illuminated portion of the moon
 6. **Waning Gibbous**
 7. **Third Quarter** - another "half moon", but the illuminated part is opposite of the First Quarter
 8. **Waning Crescent**
 9. **New** - back to the beginning"
- (www.moonconnection.com/moon_cycle.phtml)



Source: Wikipedia

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PART 3: THINK & CONNECT

- 1) Which moon phase marks the beginning of Ramadan?
- 2) To your knowledge, has any body claimed the ownership of the sun or the earth or the moon?
- 3) Can any human being change their orbits?
- 4) Can the best astronomer change the length of the lunar month?
- 5) Please see the youtube clip which explains the moon phases:
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4476254314239718422#>