

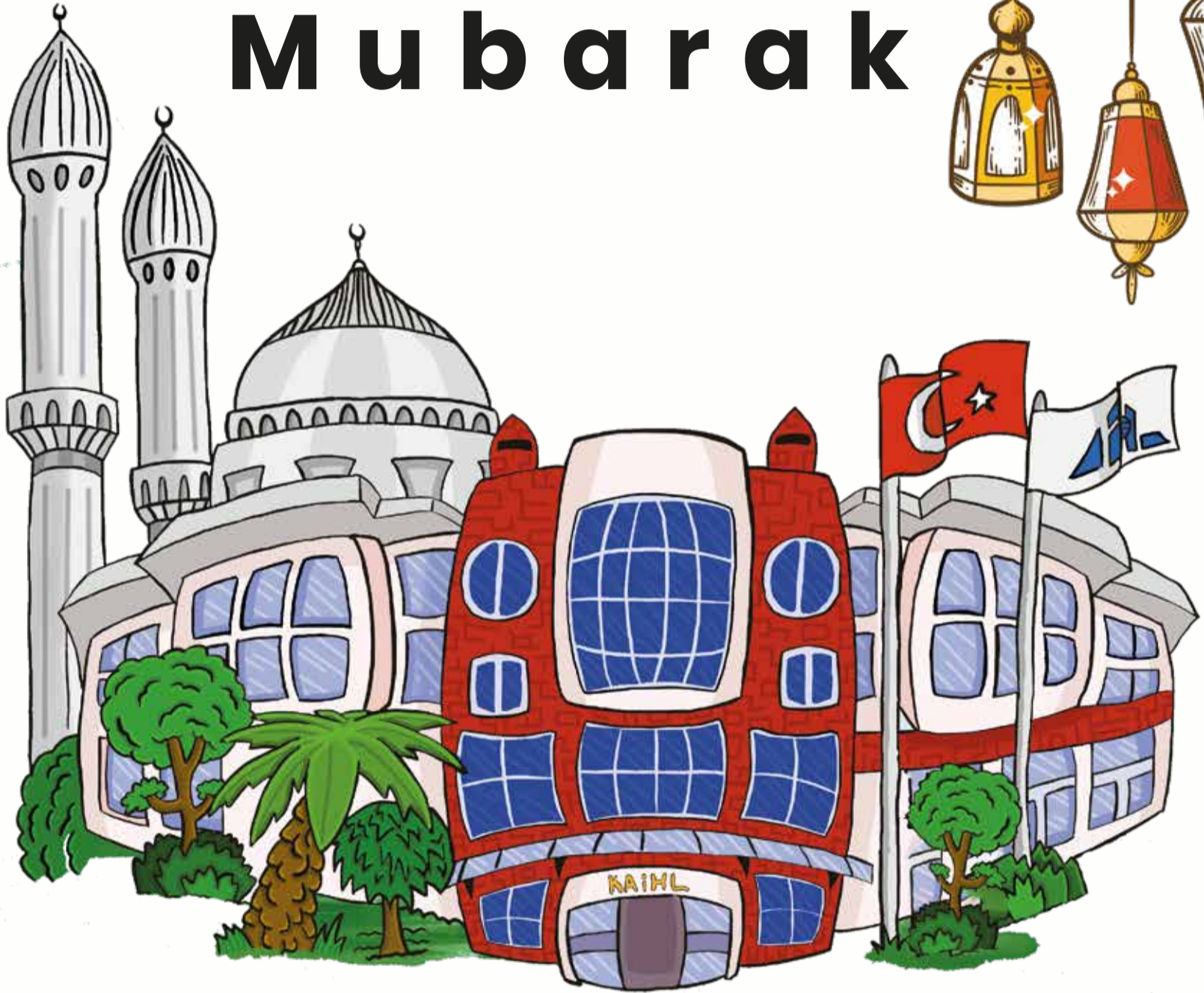
Ramadan News



in KAIHL



R a m a d a n M u b a r a k



Ramadan has finally come! Praise be to Allah, who has graciously brought us back to Ramadan, and who has given us the incredible opportunity to greet you once again with this opening article. Ramadan, the blessed time when we hope to nurture our minds and hearts tired from the trials and tribulations of modern life, is here! Ramadan, the time when we hope to deepen our connection with our Creator, is finally here! Welcome!

Sezai Karakoç beautifully captures the essence of fasting in his words: "This is the journey of turning into pearls; man is taken by Ramadan like an offering, then, in its mysterious laboratory, he is melted, passed through new retorts, purified, flowed through pipes and poured again in a brand new form."

We are thrilled to accompany you on this special journey of turning into pearls. We are also delighted to have provided you with the tips to make this journey easier and more meaningful, which we hope will help you make this Ramadan a transformative time in your life. We have once again prepared a newspaper full of rich and diverse topics. It will be like a cherished memory photo for our school.

We would like to thank all our students who contributed, and our dedicated teachers who generously gave their time. As we enter this sacred month, may it transform our hearts into beautiful pearls, bringing us closer to the divine light of Allah! Ramadan Kareem!

Zehra Şimşek

Ramadan Reflections: Insights from Mr. Faruk Uzun

Interviewed by Meryem Kiliç

During the month of Ramadan, it is a valuable time for self-reflection and spiritual improvement. To gain a deeper understanding of these concepts, we interviewed our esteemed Vice Principal Mr. Faruk Uzun and asked him some questions.

1-What comes to your mind first when you think of Ramadan?

Mr. Faruk Uzun: When I think of Ramadan, I think of peace and serenity. The things that make me happy about Ramadan are events like the iftar and taraweeh gatherings we have organized with our students in the past. Of course, there is also the feeling of the blessings of Ramadan, which is a very different pleasure. Because you feel as if you have entered a spiritual tunnel and your day and night are blessed. Such a feeling dominates you.

2-What is the characteristic of Ramadan that impresses you the most?

Mr. Faruk Uzun: I am impressed by the spiritual climate everyone enters during Ramadan. It is really nice when people get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, when the fast-paced life in the city stops for a while, when they take an introspective look at themselves, and when they try to return to their human feelings. I think we live a meaningless life in the months other than Ramadan, however, in Ramadan I see that we are trying to return to the essence both from my own point of view and from a social point of view. What makes me sad is that when Ramadan is over, everything returns to routine and unfortunately the good works done in this month are not long lasting.

3-Do you have any special habits during Ramadan?

Mr. Faruk Uzun: I have had a routine for years: During the three months, I prepare myself for Ramadan. I try to fast on Mondays and Thursdays, and I fast on Ayyam Biyd, so I spend about 10-12 days fasting in Rajab and Sha'ban. When Ramadan comes, I take a break from eating and drinking and try to push myself in Qur'an, prayer and worship and make the most of this month. Of course, there is also Laylat al-Qadr in this month, which is better than a thousand months, and we need to be prepared for it. That's why in the last ten days, our friends and students enter i'tikaf. At this point, I think we should prepare ourselves as much as possible to welcome Ramadan and spend the last ten days well.

4-What should Ramadan mean to Muslim youth?

Mr. Faruk Uzun: First of all, they should recognize their own nafs, return to their own selves, think about what is the purpose of a Muslim in this world, the source of the atrocities that Muslims in the world are subjected to and what kind of efforts we should make to stop these atrocities. At this point, Ramadan is a very important month for reflection, contemplation, returning to the essence and seeking remedies.



It should not be forgotten that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had his greatest contemplations in Ramadan before his prophethood, his first encounter with Gabriel coincided with Ramadan and the Battle of Badr was fought in this month. I look at Ramadan as a month of self-reflection and self-planning for a Muslim. I want young people to make the most of this opportunity. They need to look not only at themselves but also at the Muslim geography more holistically and think about how they can solve the problems in that geography. Because we all have great responsibilities at this point.

5-Do you have an unforgettable Ramadan memory?

Mr. Faruk Uzun: Of course, I cannot forget the Ramadan of my childhood. I also have this memory: When I was fasting for the first time, I was attending a Qur'an course. That year Ramadan fell in the summer and the days were very long. While waiting for iftar, I remember constantly asking when the call to prayer was going to be called. This memory is etched in my memory.

6-Well, is there anything else you would like to add, sir?

Mr. Faruk Uzun: Ramadan is a very important month in terms of cooperation, solidarity, understanding each other, solving our problems and being one and whole. We should see this month in this way, but we should know that this is not all there is to it. We should strive for the good deeds we do in this month to be continuous and we should adopt a life principle for this. Because we don't realize how fast life goes by in the chaos and work intensity we live in. Different events can happen to us suddenly. Therefore, it is necessary to spend our life in the best way. If we reflect the habits we gained in Ramadan to our whole life, we will have done a very good job as Muslims.

Thank you very much for accepting us and the interview.

Ramadan Glossary

By Mehmet Efe Benderlioğlu

Taraweeh (noun) /,tærə'wi:h/
A set of extra Salah (prayers) performed in the evenings during Ramadan, usually after Isha.

Suhoor (noun) /su'hur/
The pre-dawn meal eaten before Fajr to provide energy for the day's fast.

Iftar (noun) /'if.ta:r/
The breaking of the fast at sunset during Ramadan, referring both to the act itself and the meal consumed at that time.

Fast (noun, verb) /fæst, fa:st/
(noun) The religious practice of abstaining from food, drink, and, in some contexts, sexual activity from dawn to sunset.
(verb) (to fast, fasting, fasted) To refrain from eating, drinking, and engaging in certain activities during daylight hours, especially for religious purposes.

Fitr (noun) /fitr/
A mandatory charitable donation given by financially able Muslims on Eid al-Fitr, traditionally consisting of an amount equivalent to a day's worth of staple food.

Eid (noun) /i:d/
A major Islamic festival marking the end of a significant religious period, such as Ramadan (Eid al-Fitr) or Hajj (Eid al-Adha), often celebrated with prayers, gatherings, and acts of charity.

Imsak (noun) /im'sæk/
The time at dawn when fasting begins, marking the last opportunity to eat or drink before Fajr prayer.

Laylatul-Qadr (noun) /'laɪ.lə.tul 'ka:dr/
The night during the last ten days of Ramadan when the first verses of the Quran were revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), regarded as a night of immense spiritual significance, where good deeds are believed to be more valuable than those of a thousand months.

Mukabalah (noun) /mʊ'kæ.bə.le/
The practice of listening to the recitation of the Quran, particularly in mosques during Ramadan, where hafizun (Quran memorizers) recite passages aloud for the congregation.

Mahya (noun) /'ma:.hjə/
An illuminated text displayed between the minarets of mosques, typically during Ramadan, originally an Ottoman tradition used to convey religious and moral messages.

Expand Your Mind: Ramadan Reading Recommendations

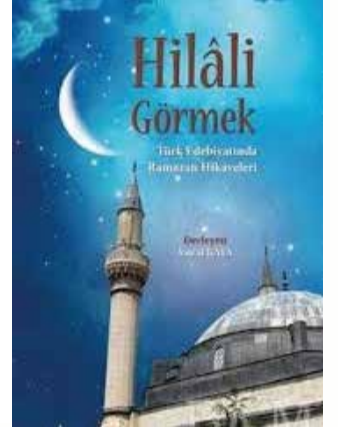
By Zeynep Betül Cevizci

Ramadan is a special time that refreshes our souls and minds. It is a month when we are not only aware of our physical needs through fasting, but also experience an increase in our spiritual awareness. Just as our eating and drinking habits change during this month, our reading habits also evolve. Here are some book recommendations for your Ramadan reading, which will broaden your horizons and take you on a journey during this beautiful time.

1. Hilal'ı Görmek

Ramadan begins with the sighting of the crescent moon, and that moment leaves a trace of peace and blessings. Every Muslim has a special Ramadan memory, right? So, what is your most unforgettable Ramadan memory?

The book "Seeing the Crescent" allows us to rediscover the meaning of this special period with Ramadan stories compiled from Turkish Literature. The authors write vividly about these memories and emotions that we experience. The book treats Ramadan not only as a time of worship, but also as an inner journey. If you want to read both literature and people's memories of Ramadan, this book is for you...



2. Oruç Mevsimi

Erol Erdoğan deepens his journey of discovering the truth of fitrat, which he started in his work titled İnsan Mevsimi, with Oruç Mevsimi. The book offers elegant reminders and inner voices brought by fasting to people seeking the peace lost in modern life. So, do you think fasting is just an act of worship, or does it create a transformation in the inner world?

The author explores fasting days through the traces of time and geography, sometimes from different perspectives such as sociology, literature and theology, and sometimes through his own memories. On every page, it is explained that fasting is not just a ritual, but a renewing experience like a season. Does fasting time feel like a season to you?

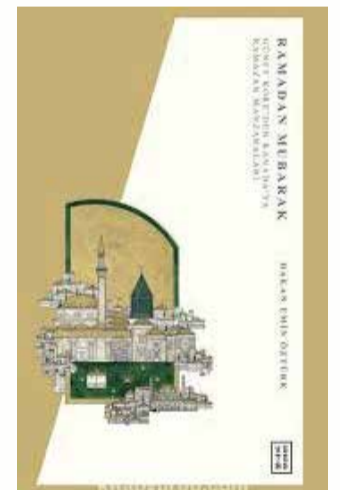


3. Ramadan Mubarak - Güney Kore'den Kanada'ya Ramazan Manzaraları

What do you know about Ramadan in other Islamic countries? If you want to know more, you should check out this book... Ramadan has the same value for every Muslim, but is experienced differently in each country. But is Ramadan just a religious observance or a cultural experience?

Ramadan Landscapes from South Korea to Canada is a collection of letters describing how we experience Ramadan in 30 countries, from villages to cities around the world. From Indonesia to Argentina, you will discover how tables, traditions and lifestyles change in different geographies.

This book shows that no matter how different Ramadan is, all Muslims share a common story. How do you live your Ramadan?



4. Ramazan Güzellemeleri

Ramadan is not a month of sloth. Rather, it is a season of struggle. So, do you think it is possible to reach true awareness without struggling with the ego?

The struggle with the nafs is a time of traveling to reach the heart and the essence of the essence. Fasting is not just a fast, it is a huge battle with oneself. At the end of this battle, peace is achieved. At the heart of this struggle is patience. Patience + struggle = victory. Fasting is patience, fasting is victory.

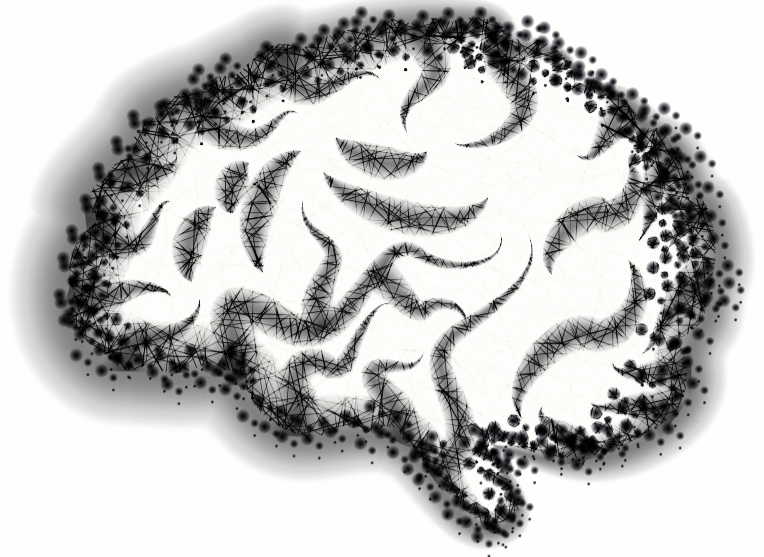
Those who cannot fight the nafs in their inner world will not be able to achieve true victory. If you feel weak and tired when Ramadan comes, read it from the pen of Prof. Bilal Kemikli; you will understand the difference!



Crack the Code



Come join us for a fun mental challenge and learn something new! Cryptology is a fascinating subject that's been around for ages, making us curious about deciphering secret codes. To help our students think critically and logically, we have a special cryptology puzzle from Ahmet Solmaz.



Prophetic Advice In Ramadan

By Zeynep Sare Açar

Ramadan is finally here! It's a special month, and following the advice of our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) will make it even more meaningful. Let's take a look at what he said.

He told us: "O people! A great and blessed month has approached you, a month containing a night better than a thousand months. Allāh has made fasting during its days an obligation and prayer during its nights a (recommended) voluntary act. Anyone who seeks nearness to Allāh in this month through any virtuous act will be like one who carried out an obligatory act at another time (outside of Ramadān), and whoever performs an obligatory act in this month will be like one who performed seventy such acts at another time. It is the month of patience, and the reward for patience is Paradise. It is the month of equality, the month in which the wealth of the believer is increased."

This shows that our good deeds in this month are especially valuable, so we should try to do more.

He also said:

"The month of Ramadan is the month of patience. The reward of patience is Paradise. This month is the month of goodness and kindness, a month in which the sustenance of the believer increases."

When we fast, we learn to appreciate food and understand how those in need feel. Waiting for iftar isn't always easy, but Allah rewards our patience in the best way.

Another hadith states:

"Whoever gives food to a fasting person to break their fast will receive a reward equal to theirs, without it diminishing their reward in the slightest."

This doesn't mean preparing a big meal—just a date, a sip of water, or a glass of milk is enough. The Prophet (pbuh) also said that those who feed a fasting person will be given water from his fountain in Paradise and will never feel thirsty again. What a beautiful thought!

Our Prophet (pbuh) also encouraged kindness: "Whoever makes things easier for those under their responsibility in this month, Allah will forgive them and free them from Hell."

This is a reminder for teachers, bosses, and anyone in charge. Fasting can make it harder to focus on schoolwork, so we hope our teachers will be understanding.

Ramadan is a gift, and we should make the most of it. Who knows if we will get another one?

Lastly, He (pbuh) recommended 4 things in Ramadan:

- Saying La ilaha illallah (There is no god but Allah).
- Asking for forgiveness by saying Astaghfirullah.
- Praying for Paradise.
- Praying for protection from Hell.

Top Tips for Healthy Eating During Ramadan

(With a Side of Laughter!)

by Elif Ertuğrul



Ramadan is here! A month of fasting, thinking, and... hunger. But don't worry, we've got some healthy eating tips to keep you feeling good while you fast. And we promise, no boring food talk. Just fun and easy tips to help you eat well during this special time.

1. Don't Skip Suhoor (Breakfast of Champions!)

Suhoor is like your secret superhero meal. It gives you energy for the whole day. Skipping it is like trying to run a race without shoes—your body will be begging for help! So, don't skip it! If you do, you'll be as tired as a phone with 1% battery.

2. Drink Water Like You're a Fish

Water is your best friend during Ramadan. You need to stay fresh from Iftar until Suhoor. Drink water, not soda or sweet drinks, because your body needs the real thing to keep working well.

Science Bit: Not drinking enough water can make you feel tired, dizzy, and even give you headaches. So, drinking enough water is important to feel good during Ramadan. Try to drink 8-10 glasses between Iftar and Suhoor. If plain water is boring, add a slice of lemon or cucumber for a fresh taste!

3. Eat Dates

Dates are full of energy and good for you! They give you that sweet feeling without the sugar crash, and they also have lots of good things your body needs. Start your Iftar with dates—think of them as nature's candy, but better for you!

4. Take Small Bites, Not Giant Bites

When you're hungry after a long day of fasting, it's easy to eat like you have never seen food before. But try taking smaller bites. It's like giving your tummy a little time to say, "Hey, I'm full!" Trust us, your stomach will be happy.

Science Bit: It takes about 20 minutes for your stomach to send a message to your brain that it's full. If you eat too fast, you might eat too much before your brain understands that you're full. So, there you go! With these funny tips, eating healthily during Ramadan doesn't have to be hard. Remember: Eat, drink, and enjoy every moment!

Ramadan Dua Pack

by Elif Beyza Kaya

Du'a is the essence of worship. It is important in the life of the Muslim at all times, but in Ramadan, the sultan of 11 months is especially important. There are three categories of people whose du'a is not rejected, one of those who are fasting until they break their fast. When those gates of heaven are open, when the mercy of Allah is close, it is one of the best times to call upon Him. So what about du'a in Ramadan?

1. Dua For Reaching Ramadan

اللَّهُمَّ سَلِّمْ لِي إِلَى رَمَضَانَ وَ سَلِّمْ لِي رَمَضَانَ
وَتَسَلِّمْهُ مِنِّي مُتَقَبَّلًا

(“O Allah! Preserve me until Ramadan, safeguard Ramadan for me and accept it from me receive my deeds with acceptance.”)

2. Dua For Breaking The Fast

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ صُمْتُ وَ بِكَ آمَنْتُ وَ عَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ
وَ عَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ

(O Allah! I fasted for You and I believe in You and I put my trust in you and I break my fast with your sustenance.)

3. Dua To Begin Ramadan

اللَّهُمَّ أَدْخِلْهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْأَمْنِ وَالْإِيمَانِ وَالسَّلَامَةِ
وَالْإِسْلَامِ وَجِوَارٍ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ
وَرِضْوَانٍ مِنَ الرَّحْمَانِ

(O Allah, enter this month upon us with security and faith, safety and Islam, protection from Shaytan, and pleasure and acceptance from the Most Merciful).

4. Dua For Your Iftar Host

أَفْطَرَعِنْدَكُمْ الصَّائِمُونَ وَأَكَلَ طَعَامَكُمْ الْأَبْرَارُ
وَصَلَّتْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْمَلَائِكَةُ

(May those who have fasted break their fast with you, may the pious eat your food, and may the angels pray for you.)

5. Dua When You See The Crescent Moon

اللَّهُمَّ أَهْلَهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْأَمْنِ وَالْإِيمَانِ وَالسَّلَامَةِ
وَالْإِسْلَامِ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ

(Oh Allah, make it a start full of peace and faith, safety and Islam. My lord and your lord is Allah.)

Ramadan Through the Eyes of Childhood

by Feramuz Efe Kabakçı, Ebrar Demir, Ecrin Hitay

Memories Of Our Teachers

Yüksel Özgün:

I fasted for the first time when I finished 5th grade and went to the Quran memorisation class. It was the last days of July, the weather was very hot, I remember clearly that we touched the ice-cold water for wudu, but we couldn't drink it. The days were also very long. Imsak would end at 3.30am and we would break fast at 8.30pm. These are my first memories. I also have the following memories of the Ramadan I spent outside Istanbul: I was doing my military service in Malatya, and from there I would call my wife and children in Istanbul and show off to them because the iftar time in Malatya was much earlier than in Istanbul. When I had my iftar, drank my tea and went to the teraweeh, it was still 10-15 minutes before their iftar time. But I experienced the opposite in Germany. When I worked as an imam there, the iftar time was 10 minutes before ten. My relatives called from Istanbul. While they were praying the Isha, we were breaking our fast. I also have such memories of Ramadan.

Enver Şimşek:

During the Ramadans of my childhood, I was one of the lucky children whose fasting time coincided with winter. My older sister and other family elders would send me and the other children outside to listen for the call to prayer. Until the ezan was heard, we would play games, feeling important because we had been given a task. But now I realize that they simply didn't want us getting in the way. Back then, the excitement of preparing for iftar was truly special.

Berkan Balık:

I was around 5 or 6 years old when I first fasted. The moment I broke my fast, I was over the moon. It was the first time I had endured hunger for so long and completing my fast gave me an incredible sense of joy and achievement. It also made me feel like an adult and allowed me to truly enjoy and understand Ramadan for the first time because fasting is what makes Ramadan, Ramadan. Ramadan during my childhood had a very special feeling. Big family gatherings and tarawih prayers had a unique atmosphere that I still cherish. I remember during tarawih prayers, like many other kids, I sometimes couldn't hold back my laughter even though my father tried hard to keep me next to him and warned me to stay quiet. Those moments, along with the warmth of family and the excitement of fasting, made Ramadan truly unforgettable.

Muhammed İzzet:

The first time I fasted was in my primary school, I remember it was winter and the daytime was short, we didn't suffer at all alhamdulillah

When I first fasted, I felt that I became grown man at that early stage in my life because I was doing it as the rest of men I know were doing.

My childhood Ramadans were simple and innocence. We used to play games specific to Ramadan, we call them Ramadan entertainers, when I'm thirsty I used to hold a cup of water minutes before the azan to drink the very second the azan starts :) our families were giving us money to pay them to the poor people so we can acquire this noble habit.

Sakine Keskin

I broke my first fast when I was probably 6 or 7 years old. My mother was always very attentive to the suhoor tables so that we would remember it well.

It was our family tradition to have iftar in Sultanahmet Square on one day of Ramadan and to visit the Ramadan book fair that was set up there at that time, it was my favorite thing to do during Ramadan. My father would buy whatever we wanted from the fair that day. I bought my first Qur'an at a Ramadan book fair. Iftars in mosque courtyards made us feel like we were having iftar in Medina or Mecca. My elders would pray that we would be there next Ramadan and those who went would tell their memories. I remember the mosque iftars the most about the Ramadan of my childhood :)

Zehra Şimşek:

When I think of Ramadan in my childhood, I remember cold winter days, and I was lucky enough to be able to fast for short periods of time to get used to fasting. When I was in 4th or 5th grade, I had to break my fast in the last period of school because my school started after noon. I also used to help my mother set the table while we watched The Messenger on TV. We used to have "hoşaf" a lot on our iftar table back then. Now, I am transported to the old Ramadans as soon as I smell the fragrance of it.

Reflections Of Our Students

Betül Güler:

I fasted for the first time when I was 7 years old. I felt hungry and grown up because finally I could fast like grown ups. Once I stayed up all night to eat sahur. When I went to bed, I slept until 4.30 pm.

Feramuz Efe Kabakçı:

I fasted for the first time when I was 6 years old. The clearest thing I remember is being very thirsty. What I recall about Ramadan is mostly spending it in the village and fasting together with my cousins.

Said Türköz:

I fasted for the first time around the age of 8. The clearest memory I have of Ramadan from my childhood is Ramadan pita and the drummers.

Yusuf Nahırcı:

I fasted for the first time when I was 7 years old. When I think of Ramadan from my childhood, the desserts I ate at iftar come to mind.

Mustafa Emir İlhan:

I fasted for the first time when I was 5-6 years old. Staying up until Suhoor was my favorite part. I used to watch Bigfoot Hunters on DMAX a lot.

Betül Dila Nur Topcu:

I fasted for the first time when I was in first grade. I felt like an adult. Because fasting is an obligation and I felt fascinated by fulfilling it. Once I was skating in the yard just before the Adhan. When I was going home, I thought I heard it and suddenly my thirst was gone, even though I had been skating for a while. When I got home, I realised that the adhan hadn't started yet. While my brother was waiting by the water, I was doing other things, as if I wasn't even fasting. It was such a strange moment - I felt like I wasn't thirsty at all, even though I had been out for so long and hadn't had anything to drink.

Meryem Kılınç:

We used to fast for half a day with my friends when I was about 6 years old. I cannot remember my first iftar exactly, but I think I felt successful. Because I still feel very strong when I am able to fast for a whole day. My best Ramadan memories happened during lockdown. We were all at home and together with my family. I used to pull an all-nighter with my grandparents and read books or watch something. It was one of my favourite activities when I was a little primary school girl :)

Berlin Yaray:

At the age of 9, I started fasting for the first time and I fasted for the whole of Ramadan. It made me feel so peaceful that I wanted to fast regularly. After that Ramadan, I decided to fast every Ramadan. I was 10 years old and I was the only one in my class to fast. Everyone told me to fast "tekne orucu" but I didn't want to, I wanted to do exactly what I was doing.

One day, we went to a chess tournament. Everything was normal except that it was very hot. It was lunchtime. Everyone's mother came, some brought food from home. Everyone started to eat with their mothers in a corner. I sat alone on a pavement and waited for the lunch break to end. After a while, my teacher came and asked me how I was doing. He said, "If you are not feeling well, break your fast and I will buy you something from here. I didn't want to. I was very hungry, but I wanted to fast completely. But my teacher tried for a long time to persuade me to eat something. I think he thought I wanted to, but I couldn't say it because I was a bit shy. But even though I was really hungry, I didn't want to break my fast. Then he sent me to the toilet to wash my hands and face. I remember crying in the toilet for a long time, but not because I was hungry or because I wanted to break my fast but couldn't. On the contrary, I felt bad because my teacher was trying so hard, even though I didn't want to break it..

Elif Beyza:

I first fasted when I was 9 years old. I felt very excited and happy. It was a great experience to fast like an adult :) Yes. Once, we prepared snacks for iftar with my friends and we gave them to people who works in our site. It was a hot day and we were very thirsty when we gave all of them. But we were feeling very peaceful and happy.

RAMADAN PITA: A Bite of Memory, A Taste of Tradition

By Berkan Balik

The bustling, yet peaceful preparations for iftar during Ramadan remain in my memory like warm summer evenings. As a small child, I stand in line in front of the bakery. I can't see "them" yet, but their delicious scent reaches me. When my turn comes, the baker asks, "With egg?" I pause for a moment, then smile and reply, "One with egg, one without."

My brother loves it with egg while I prefer it plain. I glance at the other customers waiting outside the bakery. Some are looking forward to their freshly baked ones while others hand over the eggs they've brought from home. Wrapped in cloth and carefully carried, it is as if they are not just buying bread, but carrying a tradition passed down for generations. I may not have understood it then, but now I know: Ramadan pita is more than a taste — it is the scent of sharing and memories.



The Timeless Tale of Ramadan Pita

The tradition of baking special bread for Ramadan dates back to at least 15th century during the Ottoman Empire, where bakeries produced Ramadan pita exclusively for the holy month. While flatbreads have existed for much longer, the specific tradition of baking and consuming this soft, sesame-topped pita during Ramadan became widespread in the 15th and 16th centuries.

These pitas were sometimes stamped with the sultan's emblem (Nişan ı Şerif), symbolizing their quality and importance. Ottoman records mention that pide baking was strictly regulated. Its weight, price, and ingredients were carefully controlled to ensure fairness. Over time, this cherished bread became a staple of iftar tables across generations. Whether in the buzzing streets of old Istanbul or modern-day bakeries, the sight and scent of freshly baked pide remain a nostalgic and unchanging part of Ramadan.



Similar Traditions Across the World

Similar to Ramazan pide in Türkiye, many cultures have their own special breads baked during the holy month of Ramadan, each reflecting unique regional flavors and traditions. In Morocco, Khobz Ramadhan is a round, thick flatbread, while Sambousek in Egypt offers a savory, stuffed dough enjoyed with iftar.

Brazil's "Pão de Deus" (Bread of God) is a sweet bread topped with coconut and sugar, and in the Middle East, Mahmoul pastries are filled with dates or nuts. In India and Pakistan, Sheermal is a saffron-flavored, slightly sweet flatbread, while Somalia's Bataw is a soft, spongy bread served with tea and honey. These breads, much like Ramadan pita, are central to Ramadan meals, bringing people together.



"Ramadan Pita" in a Flash (No Master Chef Skills Needed!)

You don't need to be a professional baker to make a delicious Ramadan pita at home. This simple recipe requires just a few ingredients and a bit of patience while the dough rises. So roll up your sleeves, grab your apron, and let's make some pita that will impress everyone at the iftar table this Ramadan!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup warm water
- 1 packet dry yeast
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 egg (for brushing)
- Sesame seeds (optional)
- Black seeds (optional)



Made your own Ramadan pita? Share a photo and a message using the QR code. The best ones will be featured in our next newspaper!

Instructions:

1. In a bowl, mix the warm water, sugar, and yeast. Let it sit for 5 minutes until it gets bubbly.
2. Add the flour, salt and olive oil to the yeast mixture. Mix until it forms a dough.
3. Knead the dough on a floured surface for about 5 minutes, then cover it with a cloth and let it rise for 1-2 hours.
4. Preheat the oven to 220°C.
5. Punch down the dough, then shape it into a round or oval shape. Place it on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
6. Beat the egg and brush it over the dough. Optionally, sprinkle with sesame and black seeds.
7. Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until golden brown.
8. Let it cool for a few minutes, then slice and enjoy! people together.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE CRESCENT MOON?

Mustafa Kutlu (Ya Tahammül Ya Sefer, 1983, pp. 18-24.)

Someone must have turned on the light. Rattling... Footsteps... Deep, deep music, which at first cannot be identified.

Professor Asım Bey is sitting up in his bed. He is sweating. He runs his hand over his forehead and temples.

It must be İlhan... The sounds of forks and knives coming from the kitchen; he is stirring his tea. It's a hot, muggy night. He reaches over and picks up his phosphorescent watch from the etagere. There is not much left for the morning.

His wife turns from side to side with a wheezing moan. Mrs. Fetanet has gotten fatter. As she moves, the springs of the bedstead creak. Should he light a cigarette? This music, yes, it's probably the ney.

Without thinking, he gets off the bed, looking for his slippers. He'll go get a glass of water, some medicine. He'll open the curtain and look outside. He wonders about the boy. What is this getting up in the middle of the night to eat? He should be supervised, his steps should be counted. Make sure he comes home early, so he doesn't catch a cold. Why is this boy so thin?

"Dad, I've grown up, don't cosset me anymore." How many years has he been saying that? It's like he's never been a child. If Dr. Ayhan had his way, he'd let him off the hook for good. He should have been left alone... He shouldn't have been bored. Actually, they should have shown this care in time.

He goes and opens the curtain. It's a starry night. He sees the crescent moon.

He looks at the trees, the houses. Some of them have their lights on. Will he always mess around like this? Looking for an excuse to go to his son? He must be calm, very calm. He tightens the sash of his robe. He fixes her messy hair with his hand.

- What is it İlhan... I guess you couldn't sleep. He says this as he walks towards him, smiling tenderly. It's as if he wants to embrace him with arms he hasn't been able to open and embrace for years, to hold him in his bosom. A few seconds, a few steps, silence. He doesn't even lift his head. And a joy, a sudden surge of hope, a warming heart, turns cold and hardens. It takes on its icy cloak again.

What if he turned around and looked at me. "Come have a snack, Dad." Sullen. He continues his walk, which he can't find a response for, so he can't stop.

He reaches the kitchen door without pause. He fails again. At least he could have stood at his bedside, kept quiet to get an answer to his question, forced his for a moment. He takes a glass of water from the fridge. It must be very cold. He drains half of it and tops it up from the tap.

- I don't want to take medicine, but... His voice is cracking. He can no longer complete sentences. Panic. He turns, glass in one hand, leaning on the doorjamb, staring at him. He's just waiting. "Come on, look at your father, son, come on, come on ..." It was going on like this all the time.

The anger is climbing up the hill. However, he can leave. He can drink his water and go to bed like nothing happened.

- What was I saying, it's bad to get used to the medicine... It's like he's talking to himself. Where to hold it, how to achieve it? A relationship, a father-son relationship, that has been interrupted for years, that has never been established, that is, without Fetanet, without her heavy body, without her all-encompassing and all-inclusive presence, a relationship that is unforced, unpretentious and as it should be, like the flow of water in its course, a father-son relationship;

How to initiate a relationship that should be established and tried without any doubt, in the night, when things are dressed in their most innocent guise, when humans and jinn are between life and death, when lies cannot be told, and in those still moments when laughter is really laughter and tears are really tears?

- Dad, are you aware of the music? That's how he does the unexpected.
- Beautiful... Extraordinary... İlhan lifts his head and looks at his father with steady eyes. He

looks at him with astonishment, compassion and for some reason, according to Mr. Asım, a little bit of hatred. He doesn't speak. This child will drive a man crazy.

Now he really needs a medicine. He heads for the cupboard. İlhan looks at his father's slightly hunched back, his gray-haired head with a receding crown, his jug ears. Professor of economics... Son-in-law of Mr. Kemal, a well-known figure in the region, from the notable of Akseki - one day he will search whether his father was from the gentry or the tradesmen - I wonder what his students say about him? As they pass through the corridors of the faculty, after bowing respectfully and saluting, what do they say after their teacher? Should he speak?

Should he start a conversation now, a conversation that will last again and perhaps until the morning, that will wake his mother and sister, that will create a commotion, without dirtying the spotless face of this night? Should he ask him how and for what he lives, what he believes and what he doesn't believe?

He will definitely talk to him one day, and it won't be over a new coat, as it always is. With a glass in one hand and a pill in the other, Mr. Asım walks down the hallway to the window of the living room facing the street. The curtains have not been drawn, the wallpaper is new, the furnishings are in keeping with classical taste. From where he sits, İlhan can see the whole living room with his father.

- Father!...
- Yes!...
- Have you seen the crescent?
- Yes, it's beautiful!
- Ramadan starts tomorrow.

He puts the fork down on the table as if he had lifted tons of weight, walked, run, sweated, lost all his strength. He wasn't going to do that. He informs his father that Ramadan is coming. Isn't that strange? I mean, don't radios, televisions, newspapers, people, streets, buildings in this country announce this? Mr. Asım's boredom turns into depression. His world splits like a pomegranate crack, a red-dark liquid flows out.

That ney sound is constant. Wisdom, work, friends, travel, the opening cocktail of the additional construction of the weaving factories. Tomorrow he will meet with stock market bankers. Maybe a trip to Switzerland or England. The feasibility reports of new investments that he hasn't been able to look at for days will be reviewed. A glass in one hand, a tiny pill in the other. He looks at the sky again. The whiteness of the crescent moon brightening its curve. It is fasting.

He must return, meet his son. So he's up for suhoor. He never showed it. Who manipulates him, who he talks to. He should be supervised. But he doesn't know him. He knows very well this trouble, the only trouble of his life. He even loves it. If he hadn't been bored, if he hadn't paid any attention, heedlessness would have thickened, spread, waxed and covered his whole being.

- Dad, I'm sorry!...
- I wouldn't have told you this. I don't know how it happened, I just blurted it out.
- You should have said it, of course you should.
- Discussing such things withers me away, it's making me very tired.
Mr. Asım is reaching his limit, he's about to losing it.
- Don't worry...
- You'd better go to bed and don't wake mom.
- I won't.

There was a pomegranate tree in the courtyard of that old madrasa. An old pomegranate tree with one side dried up. He is looking at his wife. Her head has slipped off the pillow, her mouth is slightly open, a lock of hair is stuck to her forehead, her face is swollen, and her eye makeup, which she had not cleaned thoroughly, is scattered. Every spring this pomegranate tree used to sprout a strange greenery.

They had tried to straighten the base. Yunus from Erzurum, Osman from Arapkir, himself, Murat, and Kerim, Murat's villager. Kerim was apprenticed to a shoemaker near the town. Kerim, the lawsuit-crazy guy. He gets into bed slowly. He takes special care not to touch his wife. He pulls the duvet cover up to his throat. A chill runs through his body. He raises his teary eyes to the ceiling. There, in the dim light of the night lamp, he is gazed into the shadows. A table is spread under a pomegranate tree. Surrounded by his friends, they kneel down, waiting for the iftar cannon to be fired.

Fasting: The Path to Taqwa

By Zeynep Temel

In the 183rd verse of Surat al-Baqarah, Allah Ta'ala says: 'O you who believe! Fasting has been made obligatory on you as it was made obligatory on those before you. It is hoped that in this way you may attain Taqwa.'

The word Taqwa appears in seventeen places in the Qur'an (see, for example, al-Baqarah 2/197; al-Ma'idah 5/2; al-A'raf 7/26; al-Tawbah 9/108; al-Tahā 20/132). The classical mufassirs generally gave the meaning of 'fear Allah' to taqwa and the imperatives from the same root. Although the root of the verb in question also contains the meaning of fear, it does not mean fear of something terrible, but the fear of hurting the heart of a loved one, and the sensitivity of respect and responsibility towards the Creator.

In this context, the expressions 'consciousness of God, consciousness of responsibility towards God' suggested as the equivalent of Taqwa seem to be more appropriate to the content of the concept. The fear contained in the words Taqwa and Ittikā arises from the respect for Allah. Such a feeling discourages believers from evil and sin and leads them to goodness and good deeds. In the Qur'an and hadiths, the use of words from the root 'havf, awe, feza', rehbet, wajaal, ru'b, isfāq' when describing the fears related to disasters, judgement, judgement and hell, and in the verses that say "Do not fear them, but fear me" (al-Baqarah 2/150; The fact that the fear of Allah is expressed in terms of hawf and awe in Āl al-Imrān 3/175, and that the word awe and ittikān occur consecutively in one verse (an-Nūr 24/52) shows that taqwa is a concept different from fear in general. The Prophet said, 'O Allah, I seek refuge in You!' (Muslim, 'ṣalāt', 22).

Taqwa is to seek refuge from Allah's wrath in His protection. In the Qur'an, believers are urged to protect themselves from Satan, fitnah (al-Anfāl 8/25), hell (Āl-i Imrān 3/131), and judgement (al-Insan 76/11). Taqwa is to seek divine protection against all that is evil and harmful. This is achieved by avoiding sins and turning to goodness.

Taqwa is a matter of the heart, and the way to attain it is through acts of worship such as fasting. Fasting enables us to control our hearts and souls, and so it is said that a worshipper should perform their acts of worship with their heart, soul and nafs. The verse 'It is hoped that through fasting you will attain taqwa' describes the effect of fasting in this regard. Fasting is a way of showing taqwa, or fear of God, and it is a way of worshipping Him. It is a way of worshipping that involves the heart as well as the body. This is why it is so important, and why it can lead to taqwa, ihlās and ihsān. Ihsān is worshipping Allah as if you can see Him. During fasting, a person cannot reach out his hand for food even in places and times when people do not see him, because he is thinking that Allah sees him and he is patient. This behaviour is the behaviour closest to ihsāna.

We should strive to make the most of this month, remembering that Ramadan is the month of taking a step closer to Taqwa, and that fasting is a worship that purifies not only our bodies but also our minds and hearts.

Let's Take A Step to Learn Al Asma Ul Husna This Ramadan!

By Berin Yaray

Why must we learn about Al Asma Ul Husna? Esmaul Husna are the most beautiful names and attributes of Allah.

Learning, understanding and applying these names in life provides spiritual depth and increases one's inner peace. Esmā-i Hüsna is the spiritual food of a believer.

Which of these names manifest themselves during Ramadan?

الرَّحِيم (Er-Rahim) (The Most Forgiving): Ramadan is a month in which Allah forgives the servants with a special mercy, and we feel this clearly in our prayers.

الرَّحْمَن (Er-Rahman) (The Most Merciful): While fasting in Ramadan, we can experience Allah's mercy and forgiveness by thinking about it.

الْمُجِيب (Al-Mujib) (The Answerer of Prayers): In Ramadan, Allah answers prayers more and generous in meeting the needs of the servants.

الْوَدُود (Al-Wadud) (The Owner and The Giver of Love): Ramadan is a month in which the love of Allah is manifested. Worship, prayer and dhikr are means to gain the love of Allah.

الْعَفَّار (Al-Ghaffar) (The Very Forgiving): Ramadan is a special time for forgiveness of sins. Allah is very generous in forgiving the sins of the servants in this month.

الْهُدَى (Al-Hadi) (The Guidance): In Ramadan, the person finds himself on a more spiritual path. Allah's guidance guides people to the right path during fasting and worship

الْبَصِير (Al-Basir) (The All-Seeing): During Ramadan, remembering that Allah sees us at all times and watches our behavior makes the individual more careful and sincere.

الْمَلِك (Al-Malik) (Ruler): In the month of Ramadan, the greatness of Allah's power and judgment is remembered

RAMADAN GOOD DEEDS CALENDER 2025

Ramadan 1
March 1 Saturday

**Decorate your room
for Ramadan.**

Ramadan 2
March 2 Sunday

**Make du'a for
Palestine.**

Ramadan 3
March 3 Monday

**Try praying
Salah on time.**

Ramadan 4
March 4 Tuesday

Send 300 Salawat.

Ramadan 5
March 5 Wednesday

**Read and learn the 5
names of Allah (swt).**

Ramadan 6
March 6 Thursday

**Feed an animal or
water a plant.**

Ramadan 7
March 7 Friday

Pray Tahajjud.

Ramadan 8
March 8 Saturday

**Call a loved one
for chat.**

Ramadan 9
March 9 Sunday

**Learn a dua of our
Prophet
and teach it.**

Ramadan 10
March 10 Monday

**Try to smile
at everyone.**

Ramadan 11
March 11 Tuesday

**Learn a new Hadith
and share it
with a friend.**

Ramadan 12
March 12 Wednesday

**Learn about a
companion
of our Prophet.**

Ramadan 13
March 13 Thursday

**Learn a Sunnah
of the
Prophet(pbuh)
and apply.**

Ramadan 14
March 14 Friday

**Suprise someone
special.**

Ramadan 15
March 15 Saturday

**Start reading the
life of
our Prophet
(pbuh).**

Ramadan 16
March 16 Sunday

Complain less today.

Ramadan 17
March 17 Monday

**Be extra kind and
generous today.**

Ramadan 18
March 18 Tuesday

**Recite Surah Al-
Fath for
the victory of
Palestine.**

Ramadan 19
March 19 Wednesday

**Forgive someone
who has hurt you.**

Ramadan 20
March 20 Thursday

**Share your iftar with
somebody who needs.**

Ramadan 21
March 21 Friday

**Help your mom
cook iftar meal or
help the people who
serve you in the
dining hall.**

Ramadan 22
March 22 Saturday

Make a donation.

Ramadan 23
March 23 Sunday

**Go to the mosque
for todays prayers.**

Ramadan 24
March 24 Monday

Learn a new Surah.

Ramadan 25
March 25 Tuesday

**Memorize and study
the
meaning of Surah
Qadr.**

Ramadan 26
March 26 Wednesday

**Perform itikaf for
at least one hour.**

Ramadan 27
March 27 Thursday

**Recite 70 Istighfaar
today, it's the month
of forgivines.**

Ramadan 28
March 28 Friday

**Read the Tasfeer
of Surah Al-Fatiha.**

Ramadan 29
March 29 Saturday

**Share what you've
learnt this month
with somebody.**



“Verily, Allah does not look at your appearance or wealth, but rather He looks at your hearts and deeds (actions).” Muslim

Ramadan PLAYLIST

By Feramuz Efe Kabakçı

Ramadan Through the Lens: A Visual Journey

Ramadan is experienced in countless ways across the globe, shaped by culture, geography, and personal faith. This curated selection of documentaries and short films offers a glimpse into the diverse traditions, challenges, and spiritual reflections of Muslims during this sacred month. From the longest and shortest fasting hours to heartfelt stories of family and faith, these films invite us to explore Ramadan beyond our own experiences. Scan the QR code to access the full playlist and immerse yourself in these powerful narratives.



South American Ramadan in tropical Guyana | Al Jazeera World Documentary

The documentary explores the vibrant Ramadan traditions in Guyana, highlighting its diverse Muslim community, historical roots, and cultural coexistence with other religions.



The Longest vs Shortest fasting Hours | Al Jazeera World Documentary

The documentary offers a glimpse into the diverse Ramadan experiences in Iceland and New Zealand, highlighting how local daylight hours shape fasting practices and the unique preparations for iftar in each region.



Five American Muslim Families Practicing Ramadan and Islam. | American Ramadan Film

"American Ramadan" explores the lives of five Muslim families during Ramadan in 2005, highlighting their struggles, faith, and daily routines. The documentary showcases the shared significance of fasting across different faiths, offering a poignant look at the American



A BROKEN IFTAR - Ramadan Short Film | OnePath Network

A grieving father and son navigate their first Ramadan without their beloved mother, finding solace in faith, patience, and heartfelt prayers, ultimately reconnecting through shared loss and hope for Allah's mercy.



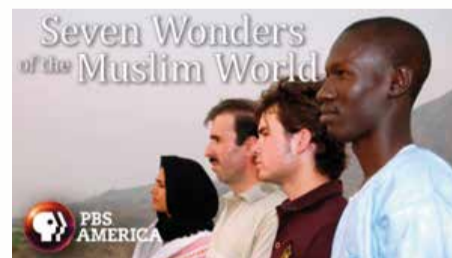
The Miraculous Life of Prophet Muhammad - The First Islamic AI Documentary | True Wahrheit

This AI-created documentary, which tells about the miraculous life of the Prophet Muhammad, deals with the events he has experienced since his birth, the spread of Islam and the divine messages he has brought in detail.



BBC Two - The Life of Muhammad (3 Parts) | Altairilla Sunnah

The Life of Muhammad is a 2011 British three-part documentary mini series examining the life of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and the origins of Islam. The documentary was directed by Faris Kermani, written by Ziauddin Sardar, and presented by Rageh Omaar.



Seven Wonders of the Muslim World | PBS America

"This visually stunning program traces the history and message of Islam by following the journeys of six young pilgrims from across the Muslim world to Mecca. It explores their lives and beliefs as well as the beautiful and historic mosques where they worship."



THE SCHOOL'S RAMADAN AGENDA: WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR?

RAMADAN NEWSPAPER

Ramadan, the season of mercy, unites us in prayer, charity, and shared joy. Our English-language Ramadan newspaper, created with contributions from teachers and students, will soon be released—offering spiritual and practical insights as a cherished keepsake of Ramadan in Kartal.



SUHOOR AND IFTAR DINNER PARTIES

Parents, teachers, and alumni are invited to share iftar and suhoor meals with students, fostering a spirit of love and fellowship.



SUHOOR CAFE

A special tradition in the boys' hostel, Suhoor Cafe will bring students together after taraweeh for warm conversations over tea. This year, it will be set up near the coffee house in front of the Anayurt building.



TARAWEEH WITH HATEM

Taraweeh prayers will take place at Hasan Tahsin Uğur Mosque, led by our young hafiz from the Hafiz Club. This will be a unique opportunity for uninterrupted Qur'anic lessons throughout Ramadan.

Hafiz:

Ömer Faruk Baş	Ahmet Enes Tekeli
Tarik Genç	Abdullah Tarık Gümüş
Selman Demirci	M. Osman Tarık Yıldız
Muhammed Karagül	İsmail Eren Çolak
Mehmet Akif Tekeli	Bilal Fırat

RAMADAN MUKABALAH

Following the tradition of our Prophet (PBUH), our hafiz students will recite mukabele in various mosques and in the girls' masjid at school.

Rahmanlar Mosque

Selman Demirci
Halil Özkan
Ömer Faruk Baş

H. Tahsin Uğur Mosque

Muhammed Karagül
Muhammed Enes Demirel
Ahmet Melih Yaz

Yunus Emre Mosque

Ahmet Yusuf Demir
Bilal Anlı
Yunus Emre Boyraz

Yavuz Selim Mosque

Bilal Fırat
Mehmet Emin Hayır
Muhammed Fatih Aydın

YENİ CAMİİ

İsmail Eren Çolak
Hasret Eren Çakır
Muhammed Yasir Türksoy

Kahramanlar Mosque

Ahmet Enes Tekeli
Mehmet Akif Tekeli
M. Osman Tarık Yıldız

MEHMET AKİF MOSQUE

Abdullah Tarık Gümüş
Tarik Genç
Bilal Kourdieh

**Note: All Mukabalahs are before the noon prayer.*



RAMADAN GLOSSARY

Short interviews with scholars and intellectuals will explore key Ramadan-related concepts such as sahur, imsak, mahya, fitre, and eid. These will be available on our school's YouTube channel.



WELCOMING RAMADAN

Ramadan is here again, bringing countless blessings. To honor its arrival, we are organizing the "Welcoming Ramadan" program in English and Turkish on March 3, embracing the spirit of this sacred month with joy and reflection.



SERMONS AND TALKS

KAIHL teachers will hold engaging talks in our school mosque and girls' masjid, sharing valuable insights on Ramadan and faith.

RAMADAN EXHIBITION : "REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAVE LOST"

Inspired by İsmet Özel's words, this exhibition reflects on the values, emotions, and traditions we may have forgotten in today's fast-paced world. Designed as an interactive experience, visitors will not merely observe but will become part of the exhibit. Objects, images, and sounds from the past will guide them through memories of faith, unity, and spirituality, encouraging them to reconnect with what truly matters. Join us at Galeri Kartal from March 3-9 for this immersive journey.

RAMADAN IN THE WORLD

This program will feature discussions with international guests about how Ramadan is observed in different cultures and regions. Stay tuned for details!

**The programs will be announced one week in advance.*

REMEMBER TOGETHER

Every day, students will participate in a collective recitation of the Qur'an, completing one hatim daily by reading designated pages during class hours.



RAMADAN CALENDAR

Our special Ramadan Calendar will highlight a verse, book, person, city, poem, or concept each day, serving as a meaningful reminder throughout the month.