



Ramadan

Mahdi Talha

Age:11

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, also known as shahr e Quran (month of Quran) in which Quran was first revealed. In this month Muslims around the world put more effort in improving their spiritual connections to Allah by fasting from sun rise (Fajr) to sunset (Maghrib), pray and zikr more, read and understand more Quran. They do more good deeds as the reward is multiplied 70x more than the other months. It is the month of blessings where sins are forgiven the most.



Why do we fast?

We fast to come closer to Allah by obeying him. It is one of the 5 pillars of Islam. By fasting we experience the sufferings of less fortunate people in terms of food, which helps us in understanding their situation and increase our will to help them more. It helps us in organizing our selves, realizing and being thankful to Allah for the blessings we have, it builds the Takwah in us.



What breaks your fast?

- ☐ Intentional eating or drinking
- ☐ Intentional vomiting
- ☐ Bleeding/ Childbirth
- ☐ Physical contact with opposite gender.



What to do when you purposely break your fast?

Once a person came to prophet Muhammad (PBUH) asked, “I broke my fast what do I do?” Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, “If you broke your fast then you must fast for 60 days continuously without intentional gap.” The man responded, “If I cannot fast 1 day how will I fast 60 days in a row.” Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) laughed and said, “Then you must give Kaffarah which is to feed 60 poor people.” He said, “I am poor myself how would I feed them?” Muhammad (PBUH) had some dates for donations which he asked him to donate from his side, but he said, “Believe me I am the poorest person in the city.” Muhammad (PBUH) being kind and generous gave those dates to him. However, when you break your fast ask forgiveness from Allah as it's a major sin and fast for the next 60 days in a row or feed 60 poor people as kaffarah(donation) if for some genuine reason you are not allowed to fast.

Suhur, Iftar, Zakat- al- Fitr

- Suhur

Suhur is the meal taken before Fajr prayer by Muslims before fasting. It is not fardh but sunnah of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to eat before dawn.

- Iftar

Iftar also known as fatoor is the meal taken at time of sunset after Maghrib prayer to break your fast.

- Zakat al Fitr

It is charity given by head of family for each family member before Eid al Fitr prayers in Ramadan. It's the amount equivalent to meal of one person.



Laylatul Qadr

Night of Decree, Night of power , and the most blessed night of the year which has more khair than 1000 months these are the traits that describe laylatul Qadr. It's in one of the odd nights of the last 10 days of Ramadan. Its a night when Quran was first revealed. It's a night when angels come down by Allah's permission which has peace and Khair till sunrise. Surah al Qadr describes the importance and beauty of this night. Allah is most merciful that night and forgive those who have sinned and shower blessings for those who ask for it. As we don't know which odd night it is exactly, we must find it by worshipping, praying, doing zikr or reading Quran in all 5 odd nights till the sunrise.



Taraweeh

It is also called Salat-ul- lail. After Isha prayers in Ramadan additional prayers are prayed in set of 2 rakat minimum up to 20 rakat. Unlike other 5 prayers which are obligatory this prayer is sunnat muqidah. In this prayer we revise Quran by reciting it in every rikat of prayer and try to finish one juzz per day which is also not compulsory. There are 2 practices one is to complete one whole Quran in Taraweeh in 30 days or pray minimum of 8 rikat of Taraweeh everyday in Ramadan.



Eid ul Fitr

On first shawal (10 month) Eid ul Fitr is celebrated. It is the end of the fasting month Ramadan (9 month). Muslims give zakat ul Fitr, pray Eid, meet and greet their fellow Muslim brothers. It's holiday in Islamic countries and people send sweets and do family gatherings. Kids get gifts called Eidi and Muslims decorate home and prepare delicious food and eat together.



Battle of Badar

In second hijri on the 17th day of Ramadan after prophet Muhammad (PBUH) migrated to Madinah Muslims fought their first big battle against Quraish e Mecca called battle of Badar. Muslims had fewer men while the Quraish had more than triple their army. Still, the Muslims fought Quraish with their faith and bravery and Allah granted them victory. In surah Anfal it is mentioned Allah sent large numbers of angels who helped the Muslims that day. Quraish got a lot of casualties and most of them were captured against the few Muslims who got Shaheed. Martyrs of Badar will always have a high status as they were the first to sacrifice themselves for the greater good.





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