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RAMADAN ISSUE

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Editor in Chief

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Editorial

Ramadan: The Season of the Soul's Awakening

Ramadan al-Mubarak is not merely a month — it is a complete spiritual training system that reconnects humanity with its true essence. This month reminds us that a human being is not only a body but also a soul, and that the nourishment of the soul is the remembrance of God, worship, and moral purity.

Throughout the year, people become so entangled in worldly occupations, desires, and competition that they forget to hear the voice of their inner self. Ramadan provides an atmosphere of peace within all this noise, where a person meets themselves. They reflect: Who am I? Where did I come from? And where am I going?

Fasting temporarily distancing a person from their basic needs — food, drink, desires — gives them the realization that true strength lies in controlling the self, not in fulfilling desires. This is why fasting is not merely a physical act of worship but also a moral and psychological training.

Ramadan teaches us patience. When a person endures thirst and hunger for the sake of God's pleasure, willpower develops within them. This same strength later becomes the cause of success in every arena of life.

This month also teaches us to feel the pain of others. When we endure hunger, we gain an understanding of the condition of those who suffer from deprivation all year round. From this awareness arises the spirit of generosity, Zakat, and charity.

Ramadan is in truth a means of reform for both the individual and society. If its effects were to persist throughout the entire year, love, compassion, and peace could replace oppression, injustice, and hatred in the world.

This special issue of Write Beyond Borders is a humble effort to spread this message — to understand Ramadan not merely as a religious ritual, but as a universal ethical and human training system.

Article 1

The Excellence of Ramadan and Its Spiritual Message

Ramadan al-Mubarak holds immense importance in Islamic teachings. The Quran and Hadith describe this month as one of mercy, forgiveness, and salvation. It is a time when the connection between the servant and the Lord becomes strongest.

The greatest excellence of Ramadan is that the reward for good deeds is multiplied many times over. Even a simple act of goodness can become the cause of extraordinary reward. This is why Muslims participate enthusiastically in worship, charity, and service to humanity during this month.

In spiritual terms, Ramadan is a process of renewal. Just as the earth becomes lush green after rain, the human heart becomes pure and radiant through worship. During this month, the intensity of whispers from evil diminishes, and a person gets the best opportunity to gain control over their own self.

Ramadan also makes us aware of God's blessings. When a person experiences hunger and thirst, they come to appreciate even the most ordinary blessing. A single sip of water at that moment feels like a bounty from paradise.

This month also teaches us the value of time. Suhoor, Iftar, prayers, and Taraweeh — everything is carried out with a system. This discipline creates order and balance in a person's life.

In truth, Ramadan is a spiritual journey in which a person moves from the darkness of sin toward the light of piety.

Article 2

The Relationship Between the Quran and Ramadan

The greatest honor of Ramadan al-Mubarak is that it is during this very month that the revelation of the Holy Quran began. Allah has declared in the Quran itself:

"Shahr u Ramadana alladhi unzila fihi al-Quran" (Al-Baqarah: 185) — Ramadan is the month in which the Quran was revealed.

This verse establishes an eternal bond between Ramadan and the Quran. It is as if Ramadan is the month of the Quran, and the Quran is the soul of Ramadan. Fasting purifies the body, and the Quran illuminates the soul. When both come together, a comprehensive transformation takes place within the person.

The Revelation of the Quran and Laylat al-Qadr

The revelation of the Holy Quran began on the Night of Power (Laylat al-Qadr), which is a blessed night in the last ten days of Ramadan. The Quran describes this as a night "better than a thousand months." The reward for worship, supplication, and recitation on this night is immensely magnified.

The revelation of the Quran was equivalent to the opening of the door of guidance for humanity. It provided principles for every domain of life — belief, worship, ethics, social order, politics, and justice.

Ramadan — The Month of Renewing the Bond with the Quran

Special care is taken to recite the Quran during Ramadan. In mosques, the entire Quran is recited during Taraweeh prayers so that Muslims remain collectively connected to the words of God. An atmosphere of recitation, translation, and contemplation is also created in homes.

This month reminds us that the Quran is not merely a book to be read but a constitution for living life. If we read it with understanding and incorporate its message into our practical lives, both the individual and society can be transformed.

Contemplation and Understanding the Quran

The true spirit of the Quran lies in reflecting upon its meanings. Mere recitation is also a source of reward, but contemplation changes a person's thinking. Ramadan provides the best time for this reflection, as during it a person's focus on worldly occupations is comparatively reduced.

The Quran repeatedly invites the human being to reflect upon the universe, to think about their own creation, and to evaluate their actions. This very process becomes the cause of spiritual awakening.

The Quran — Mercy, Cure, and Guidance

The Quran has also been called "Shifa" (cure) and "Rahmah" (mercy). Its recitation brings peace to the heart, reduces fear, and creates hope. During Ramadan, when the heart has already been softened through worship, the impact of the Quran multiplies many times.

This book directly connects the human being with God. The verses recited in prayer, the chapters read in supplication, and its guidance in everyday life — all together create a balanced personality.

The Universal Message

The Quran is guidance not just for Muslims but for all of humanity. Ramadan gives us the opportunity to understand and convey this universal message. Tolerance, justice, compassion, and goodwill — these are the foundational principles of the Quran.

Conclusion

Ramadan and the Quran are incomplete without each other. Ramadan gives us the opportunity to return to the Quran, and the Quran shows us the right path for living life. This is why Ramadan is in fact the month of renewing the bond with the Quran for the faithful.

Article 3

Fasting: Worship, Patience, and Self-Accountability

Fasting is one of the five fundamental pillars of Islam and also the most prominent act of worship in Ramadan al-Mubarak. In Arabic, fasting is called "Sawm," which means "to stop" or "to abstain." In Islamic terminology, fasting means abstaining from food, drink, and other desires from the True Dawn (Subh Sadiq) until sunset for the sake of God's pleasure.

But in reality, fasting is not merely an act of enduring hunger and thirst. Rather, it is a comprehensive spiritual, moral, and psychological training designed to refine a person's entire personality.

The Highest Level of Worship

Fasting is a form of worship that is exclusively for God. Prayer, Zakat, and Hajj can be seen by others, but fasting is a private act of worship — a person could break their fast in solitude, yet they do not do so out of fear and love of God.

"Fasting is for Me, and I Myself shall give its reward." — Hadith Qudsi

This act of worship establishes a special relationship between the person and their Lord, in which there is no room for pretense or showing off. Fasting teaches sincerity — the goodness that is purely for God.

Practical Training in Patience

Fasting teaches patience. Despite thirst, hunger, fatigue, and physical weakness, a person fulfills their responsibilities and endures for the sake of God's pleasure. Three levels of patience are described:

- Patience in obeying God
- Patience in abstaining from sin
- Patience in the face of hardship

Fasting is a combination of all three. The fasting person not only refrains from eating and drinking but also strives to avoid lying, backbiting, anger, and other evils. This is why the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said that if a person keeps a fast but does not abandon falsehood and bad conduct, then God has no need of their hunger and thirst.

The Practice of Self-Control

A person's greatest trial is their own self (nafs) — desires, arrogance, jealousy, and greed all arise from it. Fasting weakens these desires and teaches a person to control themselves. When a person can even refrain from their basic need — food and water — they become capable of controlling other desires too. This very training makes them a strong and balanced personality.

The Opportunity for Self-Accountability

Ramadan gives a person the opportunity to review their life. They think about what they did throughout the year, where they made mistakes, and how they can improve going forward. Fasting gives a person those moments of silence and solitude where they can hear the voice of their conscience. They feel remorse for their sins, repent, and resolve to begin a new life. This very self-accountability is the beginning of true spiritual progress.

Empathy for Others

Fasting gives us the opportunity to understand the condition of the poor and deprived. When a person endures hunger and thirst, they realize how many people in the world are forced to go hungry every day. From this awareness arises the spirit of generosity, Zakat, and charity. The increase in charitable giving during Ramadan is the result of this training.

A Means of Social Reform

If the entire society were to adopt the true spirit of fasting, conflict, oppression, dishonesty, and immorality could decrease. Fasting makes a person gentle-hearted, forbearing, and compassionate. This is why Ramadan is called "the month of mercy" — it has the capacity to improve not just the individual but the entire society.

Conclusion

Fasting is both worship and training; both patience and reform; and also a comprehensive system of self-accountability. It keeps the person physically hungry while enriching them spiritually. If the spirit of fasting is understood, purity, moderation, and piety can be maintained in a person's life even after Ramadan.

Article 4

Health and Fasting — Medical Guidance

Keeping the fast in Ramadan al-Mubarak is not only a great act of worship but also holds numerous benefits for human health. Modern medical research has proven that a fast kept properly provides the body with rest, balance, and renewal. However, these benefits are only realized when moderation and healthy habits are maintained in Suhoor and Iftar.

Detoxification — The Body's Natural Cleansing

During fasting, the body receives no food for several hours, giving the digestive system rest. In normal conditions, the stomach is constantly occupied with digesting food, but during fasting this process slows down and the body uses its energy for cleaning and repair. Research shows that fasting helps in expelling waste materials and toxins from the body, resulting in better functioning of the liver, kidneys, and circulatory system.

Heart and Blood Health

Fasting can prove helpful in balancing cholesterol levels. With proper diet, fasting can:

- Reduce harmful fat in the blood
- Improve blood pressure
- Reduce the risk of heart disease

Especially those who suffer from obesity or unhealthy lifestyles can experience noticeable improvement if they adopt a balanced diet during Ramadan.

Mental Peace and Psychological Benefits

Fasting affects not just the body but the mind as well. Worship, remembrance of God, and recitation of the Quran provide mental peace. The practice of self-control despite hunger and thirst creates tolerance and patience, which can:

- Reduce mental stress
- Keep anger in check
- Increase focus and concentration

Weight Balance

Fasting can naturally become a means of losing weight, provided that unnecessary fatty and sweet foods are avoided at Iftar. The healthy approach is:

- Break the fast with dates and water
- Take light food
- Eat at intervals
- Avoid overeating at night

The Importance of Suhoor

Suhoor provides the energy for the fast and helps maintain vitality throughout the day. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) declared Suhoor to be a source of blessing. A balanced Suhoor should include:

- Protein (eggs, yogurt, lentils)
- Complex carbohydrates (bread, porridge, oats)
- Fruits and vegetables
- Adequate water

Preventing Dehydration

Dehydration is a common problem during Ramadan. It is important to drink water intermittently from Iftar to Suhoor. Consuming too many caffeinated beverages (tea, coffee) can cause water loss through urination.

Who Should Take Precautions?

While fasting is beneficial for healthy individuals, some people should not fast without a doctor's advice, such as:

- Patients with severe diabetes
- People with complex heart conditions
- Kidney patients
- Pregnant or breastfeeding women (if weak)
- Patients with chronic illnesses

In Islam, causing harm to health is forbidden, so it is permissible to avail of the concession when necessary.

Moderation — The Fundamental Principle of Health

The real purpose of Ramadan is not to tire the body but to balance both the soul and the body. Neither is eating excessively beneficial, nor is making oneself weak. The best approach is what Islam has taught — moderation, gratitude, and simplicity.

Article 5

The Traditions of Iftar and Suhoor

In Ramadan al-Mubarak, Suhoor and Iftar are not merely meal times but important moments of worship. Islam has connected both these times with feelings of spirituality, blessing, and gratitude. The Prophet's (peace be upon him) practice in these matters was extremely simple, balanced, and full of wisdom, combining both physical health and spiritual benefit.

Suhoor — The Blessed Meal

Suhoor is the beginning of the fast and is given great importance in Islam. The Prophet (peace be upon him) declared Suhoor to be a source of blessing.

"Have your Suhoor, for there is blessing in Suhoor." — (Bukhari, Muslim)

Suhoor not only provides the body with energy but also gives strength for worship. Those who skip Suhoor feel more weakness and thirst throughout the day.

Delaying Suhoor

The Prophet's practice was to delay Suhoor until the last moment — to eat close to the Fajr prayer. This makes the duration of the fast more manageable and the body maintains energy for longer. The Companions reported that the gap between Suhoor and the Fajr call to prayer was the length of time needed to recite about fifty verses.

The Spiritual Aspect of Suhoor

The time of Suhoor is also a time of acceptance of supplications, as it is the last part of the night. At this time God is close to His servants and accepts their prayers. Therefore Suhoor is not limited to just eating but is also the best time for:

- Seeking forgiveness (Istighfar)
- Remembrance of God (Dhikr)
- Supplication (Dua)
- Recitation of the Quran

Iftar — The Moment of Gratitude and Mercy

Iftar is the announcement of the completion of the fast. It is the moment when, after enduring hunger and thirst for God's pleasure, the servant partakes of His blessings.

"For the fasting person there are two joys: one at the time of Iftar and the other at the time of meeting their Lord." — (Bukhari, Muslim)

Hastening Iftar

The Prophet's practice was to break the fast immediately upon sunset without unnecessary delay.

"The people will continue to be upon good as long as they hasten the Iftar."

Breaking Fast with Dates and Water

The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to generally break his fast with fresh dates; if dates were not available, with dried dates; and if those were not available either, then with water. Dates contain natural sugar that provides immediate energy without burdening the stomach.

Supplication at Iftar

Supplication at the time of Iftar holds special importance as it is considered a time of acceptance.

A well-known supplication is:

"Allahumma inni laka sumtu wa bika aamantu wa 'alayka tawakkaltu wa 'ala rizqika aftartu" — O Allah, for You I fasted and in You I believe and upon You I rely and with Your provision I break my fast.

Moderation at Iftar

Eating excessively at Iftar can be harmful to health and creates laziness in worship. The best approach is: break the fast with dates and water, perform the Maghrib prayer, then take light food. This approach is close to the Sunnah and also beneficial for health.

Giving Others Iftar

Giving a fasting person Iftar is a great act of righteousness.

"Whoever gives a fasting person Iftar, he will have a reward equal to that of the fasting person, without diminishing the fasting person's reward in the least."

Article 6

Laylat al-Qadr — Greatness and Significance

Laylat al-Qadr (the Night of Power) is the most blessed and magnificent night of Ramadan al-Mubarak. It is that sacred night which God has declared better than a thousand months. The worship of this single night can grant a person spiritual heights that cannot be achieved even through decades of worship under normal circumstances.

Laylat al-Qadr in the Quran

God revealed an entire chapter in the Holy Quran — Surah Al-Qadr — to describe the greatness of this very night:

"Laylatul Qadri khayrun min alfi shahr" — The Night of Power is better than a thousand months. (Al-Qadr)

The worship performed on this night carries more reward than approximately 83 years of worship. This is extraordinary mercy and grace from God for His servants.

The Revelation of the Quran

The greatest characteristic of Laylat al-Qadr is that the revelation of the Holy Quran began on this very night:

"Inna anzalnahu fi laylat il-Qadr" — Indeed, We sent it (the Quran) down on the Night of Power.

This night is in fact the night of the descent of guidance, knowledge, and light — the moment when humanity was bestowed with God's final book.

The Descent of Angels

According to the Quran, on this night the angels and the Spirit (Jibreel/Gabriel) descend to earth by the permission of their Lord, bringing messages of mercy, blessing, and peace for the servants.

The Night of Peace

Laylat al-Qadr is also called the night of peace. It is filled with peace, tranquility, and mercy until the break of dawn.

When is Laylat al-Qadr?

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said to seek Laylat al-Qadr in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan: the 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, or 29th night. Although the 27th night is most commonly thought to be it, no single night has been definitively specified, so that the servant worships throughout the entire last ten days.

The Prophet's Worship

During the last ten days, the Prophet (peace be upon him) extraordinarily increased his worship: standing all night in prayer, reciting the Quran, supplication and remembrance, waking his family, and performing I'tikaf (seclusion in the mosque). His wife Aisha (may God be pleased with her) reports that in the last ten days he would tighten his belt and spend the entire night in worship.

The Best Supplication for Laylat al-Qadr

Aisha (may God be pleased with her) asked what supplication to make if Laylat al-Qadr was attained. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Allahumma innaka 'afuwzun tuhibb ul-'afwa fa'fu 'anni" — O Allah, You are the Pardoner, and You love pardon, so pardon me.

The Spiritual Effect

This night offers the opportunity to change a person's destiny:

- Forgiveness of sins
- Purity of heart
- Spiritual peace
- Closeness to God
- A fresh start in life

It is a night on which the servant feels a direct connection with their Lord.

Article 7

Women and Ramadan

Ramadan al-Mubarak brings for women a unique combination of worship, responsibility, and spiritual progress. On one hand they strive to reform themselves and strengthen their relationship with God, while on the other, the responsibility of managing the entire household also rests upon their shoulders. In this way Ramadan becomes for women a practical test of all three — patience, service, and worship.

The Soul of the Home — The Role of Women

Women play a foundational role in maintaining the blessed atmosphere of Ramadan in the home. The preparation of Suhoor and Iftar, cleaning the home, raising children, and hosting guests — these responsibilities are generally carried out by women. If women wish, they can transform the entire home into a place of worship. Due to their intention and sincerity, even routine tasks take on the status of worship.

Balancing Worship and Responsibilities

Many women feel that due to domestic responsibilities they get less time for worship. But Islam has made intention the true foundation. Doing household work for God's pleasure, considering raising children as worship, knowing service to the family as a good deed — all these acts also become a source of reward. If women worship even for a short time with sincerity, they too can achieve spiritual progress.

Connection with the Quran

Ramadan is the month of the Quran, and women too can take full advantage of this opportunity: daily recitation, reading translation, listening to Tafsir (exegesis), teaching children the Quran — all these acts illuminate the atmosphere of the home.

Supplication — Women's Strength

The supplication of women holds special importance, especially that of the mother. During Ramadan, when the heart is soft, the effectiveness of supplication increases further. Women can make supplications for themselves, for their children, and for the entire Muslim community. This spiritual service is no less than any great act of worship.

Worship During Monthly Periods

Islam has kept ease for women. During menstruation, prayer and fasting are excused, but other doors of worship remain open: remembrance and glorification (Dhikr and Tasbeeh), Salawat (blessings upon the Prophet), supplication (Dua), listening to the Quran, studying Islamic books, and charity and service. In this way women do not miss the blessings of Ramadan even during those days.

Children's Upbringing

Ramadan is the best opportunity for teaching Islamic teachings to children. Women can teach children the importance of fasting, the habit of prayer, charity and compassion, and love for the Quran. This upbringing is what connects the next generation to religion.

Conclusion

Ramadan for women is not just a month of worship but a comprehensive system of service, patience, and upbringing. If women spend this month with awareness and sincerity, they can transform not only themselves but also their homes and society.

Article 8

The Young Generation and Ramadan

Ramadan al-Mubarak provides the best opportunity for the young generation for spiritual awakening, character building, and setting life in the right direction. Youth is the most powerful and sensitive period of a person's life — this is when habits form, personality takes shape, and the foundation of the future is laid. If young people understand the message of Ramadan, this month can change the course of their lives.

Channeling Energy in a Positive Direction

Young people are naturally full of energy, enthusiasm, and passion. If this energy is not channeled in the right direction, it can be wasted in purposeless activities, useless pastimes, or negative tendencies. Ramadan is the best means of redirecting this energy toward worship, knowledge, and service.

Fasting teaches the young person self-discipline — they learn to control desires, understand the value of time, and begin to use their abilities for a better purpose.

Prayer and Spiritual Connection

Mosques fill with young people during Ramadan, especially at Taraweeh time. Collective worship creates religious awareness, discipline, and brotherhood among the youth. Prayer creates peace, certainty, and a connection with God in the heart of the young person, which provides guidance in life's difficulties.

Friendship with the Quran

Ramadan is the month of the Quran, and this is the best time for young people to establish a relationship with it: daily recitation, understanding the translation and meaning, listening to religious lectures, studying Islamic literature — all these make a young person's mind and thinking positive and give them an awareness of life's purpose.

Training in Self-Discipline

Fasting teaches young people discipline: Suhoor and Iftar at appointed times, regularity in prayer, avoidance of unnecessary activities, and better use of time. These habits can become the means of success in life even after Ramadan.

The Trials of the Modern Age

Today's young people are deeply engaged in social media, video games, and the digital world. Ramadan gives them the opportunity to limit these activities and improve themselves. If young people reduce purposeless screen time, engage in beneficial study, and participate in positive activities, there can be a clear improvement in their mental and spiritual condition.

Youth – The Architects of the Future

Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. If they are strong on spiritual and moral foundations, society will also be strong. Ramadan is a comprehensive training program for directing their personality in a positive direction.

Conclusion

Ramadan for young people is not just a month of worship but an opportunity for self-development, the search for purpose, and the reform of life. If young people spend this month seriously, they can channel their energy in a positive direction and lay the foundation for a bright future.

Article 9

Social Harmony and Service to Humanity

Ramadan al-Mubarak is not only a month of individual worship but also a time of social reform and collective awakening. It is the month in which a person strengthens their relationship with their Lord while also improving their relationship with God's creation. In Islamic teachings, worship and service to humanity are not considered separate — rather, both together form a complete Islamic way of life.

Ramadan — The Month of Compassion and Unity

Fasting, by giving a person the experience of hunger and thirst, teaches them to feel the pain of others. When a person experiences deprivation, compassion for the poor and needy is created in their heart. This very feeling becomes the foundation of social harmony.

During Ramadan, rich and poor, old and young, all keep the fast and break it at the same time. This act creates a sense of equality and brotherhood in society.

The Collective Tradition of Iftar

Iftar gatherings are arranged throughout the world during Ramadan. Mosques, schools, welfare organizations, and individuals provide food to fasting people. Giving someone Iftar is not only a great act of goodness but also strengthens social bonds. People come closer to one another, love grows, and loneliness diminishes.

Zakat and Charity — Economic Balance

During Ramadan, the tendency toward Zakat and charitable giving increases. Islam has established a system of fair distribution of wealth through Zakat so that poverty in society decreases and deprived individuals can meet their basic needs. Charity and donations not only provide financial assistance but also restore human dignity. When the weak members of society receive support, they do not feel alone.

The Relatives' and Neighbors' Rights

Islam has placed special emphasis on the rights of close relationships and neighbors. Ramadan provides the best opportunity to improve these relationships: ending resentments, maintaining ties of kinship, visiting the sick, and caring for neighbors. These acts promote love and trust in society.

Global Solidarity

Ramadan binds the entire Muslim Ummah in a common feeling. Despite the different countries, languages, and cultures of the world, Muslims keep the fast in the same month and strive for one purpose — the pleasure of God. This global solidarity is also a message for humanity that unity is possible despite differences.

Service to Humanity — Another Name for Worship

In Islam, helping a human being is also worship. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said that the best person is the one who is most beneficial to the people. Ramadan creates countless opportunities for service to humanity: distributing food rations, organizing Iftar programs, helping the sick, and participating in welfare activities.

Conclusion

Ramadan is a comprehensive system of social harmony that takes a person out of selfishness and leads them toward service to others. If we understand the message of this month, society can move from hatred, injustice, and indifference toward love, cooperation, and compassion.

Article 10

The Colors of Ramadan Across the Muslim World

Ramadan al-Mubarak connects all the Muslims of the world in a common spiritual atmosphere. Although differences are found in various countries, cultures, and traditions, the spirit of worship, fasting, the Quran, and seeking God's pleasure is the same everywhere. This is why Ramadan is not only a religious month but also a beautiful expression of global Islamic civilization.

The Arab World – Spirituality and Traditional Grandeur

In Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and other Arab countries, Ramadan passes in a deeply spiritual atmosphere. Millions of people participate in Taraweeh and Qiyam al-Layl especially in the mosques of Mecca and Medina. Simple yet blessed spreads are laid at Iftar time, which include dates, Arabic coffee (qahwa), soup, and light food. The tradition of hospitality and communal Iftar is very strong in Arab societies.

The Indian Subcontinent – Devotion and Cultural Color

In Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, Ramadan takes on cultural colors along with religious fervor. Taraweeh, Quran recitation, and night vigils are common in mosques. Traditional foods at Iftar include samosas, pakoras, fruit chaat, and sharbat. Ramadan bazaars and special discount programs are also a prominent feature of this month. The tendency toward charity and donations is also very high in the subcontinent.

Turkey and Central Asia – History and Tradition

In Turkey, Ramadan evokes memories of the Ottoman era. Mosques are decorated with beautiful lights and messages are written between minarets called "mahya." The tradition of playing drums (davul) to wake people for Suhoor still exists in many areas. After Iftar, people spend time with family and friends.

Africa – Simplicity and Communal Life

In Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, and other African countries, Ramadan is celebrated in a communal manner. Communal Iftar gatherings are arranged in streets and neighborhoods. In Egypt, the "Fanous Ramadan" (Ramadan lantern) is a famous symbol decorated in homes and markets.

Europe and North America – Challenge and Steadfastness

In Western countries, Muslims, despite being a minority, celebrate Ramadan fully. Long fasts (especially in summer) are a great challenge, but with faith and determination Muslims continue

their worship. Mosques and Islamic centers serve as community centers where communal Iftar and Taraweeh are arranged. Here Ramadan further strengthens Muslim identity and unity.

Southeast Asia — Joy and Community Spirit

In Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei, Ramadan is celebrated like a festival. Mosques remain populated and special bazaars are held at Iftar time. In Indonesia, under the tradition called "Mudik," people return to their ancestral areas to celebrate Eid with family at the end of Ramadan.

Shared Values — One Community, One Feeling

Wherever in the world you go, a few common features of Ramadan are found everywhere: fasting and prayer, recitation of the Quran, charity and Zakat, patience and gratitude, and collective worship. These elements bind the entire community in a spiritual bond.

Conclusion

Ramadan binds all the Muslims of the world in a thread that transcends borders, languages, and cultures. This month reminds us that we are one community — believers in one purpose, one book, and one Lord. This global unity is the greatest beauty of Ramadan.

Article 11

Ramadan in Urdu Literature

Ramadan al-Mubarak has always been prominent in Urdu literature as a sacred, spiritual, and emotional subject. In Urdu poetry and prose, this month has been presented not merely in reference to worship, but as a comprehensive panorama of human feelings, social life, moral values, and spiritual states.

Since the Urdu language has a deep connection with Islamic civilization, the effects of Ramadan are naturally reflected in its literature.

Ramadan in Classical Poetry

Ancient Urdu poets described Ramadan as a symbol of piety, self-control, and spirituality. In their verses, the hardship of fasting is reflected alongside the joy of nearness to God. The liveliness of the mosque, the silence of Suhoor, the happiness of Iftar, and the state of night-long vigil — all these elements appear repeatedly in classical poetry.

Ramadan in Modern Poetry

In modern Urdu poetry, Ramadan has been viewed not only as a religious ritual but also as a system of moral and social training. Poets describe this month in the context of self-accountability, human equality, and social justice. Some poets described fasting as a means of feeling the pain of the poor, while others called it an act of reforming the self.

Ramadan in Prose

In Urdu prose — essays, short stories, and memoirs — a beautiful picture of the domestic and social atmosphere of Ramadan is found. The preparation of Iftar, children's joy, the bustle of bazaars, the populating of mosques, and the spirituality of Laylat al-Qadr — all these themes have been the favorite subjects of Urdu fiction writers and essayists.

Ramadan in Sufi Literature

Sufi poets and prose writers have presented Ramadan as a journey toward the purification of the soul and closeness to God. In their view, fasting is not just outward worship but a means of training the self and purifying the heart. Suhoor has been described as the awakening of the heart, Iftar as the contentment of the soul, and Laylat al-Qadr as the symbol of union with the Divine.

Women's Writings on Ramadan

Women writers have especially highlighted the domestic aspects of Ramadan — such as family gatherings, children's upbringing, preparing the table, and creating a spiritual atmosphere. These writings distinctly reflect love, closeness, and family harmony.

Ramadan in Satire and Humor

An interesting aspect of Urdu literature is that satirists and humorists have presented social behaviors during Ramadan in a lighthearted way — such as the difficulties of waking people up at Suhoor time, impatience at Iftar, and the crowds in bazaars. These writings highlight the humorous side of human nature alongside the seriousness of Ramadan.

Conclusion

Ramadan is a living and dynamic subject in Urdu literature that encompasses various aspects of spirituality, ethics, society, and human emotions. Whether poetry or prose, serious or humorous — the light of Ramadan shines through in every style. This literature reminds us that Ramadan is not merely a month of worship but a complete civilizational and spiritual experience.

Article 12

Selected Quotations and Verses

Regarding Ramadan al-Mubarak, countless sayings, quotations, and verses are found in Islamic history, Sufi traditions, and Urdu literature that beautifully express the spirituality, moral training, and human awakening of this sacred month.

Sayings of the Pious Elders

Imam Ali (may God honor him):

"Fasting is not just the name of abstaining from food and drink, but also the name of protecting oneself from lying, sin, and idle talk."

Hasan al-Basri:

"God has made Ramadan a field of competition in good deeds for His servants — some move ahead in it and some remain behind."

Imam al-Ghazali:

"The purpose of fasting is to weaken the self and strengthen the soul, so that the person can draw near to God."

Quotations of Scholars and Thinkers

Allama Muhammad Iqbal:

"Fasting teaches a person freedom — freedom from the slavery of desires, freedom from the prison of the self, and freedom from the attraction of the world."

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

"Ramadan reminds a person that without spiritual power, material progress is meaningless."

Excerpts from Sacred Hadith

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):

"When Ramadan comes, the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are chained." — (Bukhari, Muslim)

"The breath of the fasting person is more beloved to God than the scent of musk."

"Whoever fasts in Ramadan with faith and in hope of reward, their previous sins are forgiven."

Ramadan in Urdu Poetry

He who remained patient even in the intensity of hunger and thirst — That very one set forth on the journey toward nearness to God.

When the moment of Iftar arrived, the heart began to say — What a wonderful reward the patient fasting person has received.

In the silence of Suhoor the heart found peace — That was not possible in any worldly noise.

The tears that flowed on the night of Laylat al-Qadr — It felt as though the burden of years had lifted from the heart.

A Message of Humanity

"If the world were to adopt the message of Ramadan — patience, compassion, and justice — many conflicts could be resolved."

Words of Prayer and Hope

Ramadan gives us hope that no matter how many mistakes a person has committed, the door of God's mercy is always open. Hands raised in supplication never return empty — Ramadan renews this certainty.

Special Article

The Global Importance of Urdu Publications

In today's fast-paced and globalized world, languages and cultures are continuously going through the process of change. In such an environment, Urdu publications are not only a means of literary expression but also an effective bridge of civilizational identity, intellectual guidance, and cultural connection on a global scale. These publications bind the Urdu-speaking people spread throughout the world in a common intellectual and emotional bond.

Guardians of Language and Civilization

Urdu is the common civilizational heritage of the Indian subcontinent, but its speakers are settled in various countries of the world. Urdu publications play a fundamental role in keeping this language alive and passing it on to the next generation. Through them, classical literature is not only preserved but new writings also come forward that keep the language alive and dynamic.

A Platform for Creative Abilities

Urdu publications provide new writers, poets, and intellectuals the opportunity to present their abilities. Many renowned writers and poets began their literary lives through these very publications. This platform provides freedom of expression on various subjects: literature and poetry, social issues, religious and ethical topics, scientific and intellectual essays, and cultural and historical discussions.

A Connection for the Global Urdu Community

For Urdu-speaking people settled in Europe, America, the Middle East, and other regions, Urdu publications become a means of remaining connected to their roots. They refresh memories of the homeland, maintain cultural identity, and connect Urdu writers from different countries with one another. In this way a global literary community takes shape.

Intellectual and Social Guidance

Urdu publications are not limited to just literature but also shed light on social, political, and moral issues. Analytical articles and commentaries help readers understand situations and form their own opinions. These publications create an intellectual dialogue that is necessary for the progress of society.

Religious and Spiritual Awareness

Many Urdu publications also publish content on religious and spiritual subjects, through which readers gain a better understanding of religion. Publishing special issues on Ramadan, Hajj, and other Islamic occasions is an important tradition.

Urdu Publications in the Digital Age

In the age of the internet and social media, Urdu publications have also adapted themselves to modern demands. Through online editions, mobile apps, and digital platforms, they are now easily available in every corner of the world. Digital access has given Urdu literature new life on a global scale.

Intercultural Dialogue

Urdu publications serve as a cultural window not just for Urdu speakers but also for readers of other languages. Through translations, connections are established between different civilizations and mutual understanding increases.

Conclusion

Urdu publications are not merely printed matter but a living cultural heritage. They preserve the language, promote creative expression, connect the global Urdu community, and provide intellectual guidance. In the digital age, their importance has further increased as they are now spreading the message of Urdu, free from borders, throughout the world.

Prayers and Remembrances (Du'a and Dhikr)

Ramadan al-Mubarak is the most blessed time for supplication, remembrance, and drawing near to God. This month provides the best opportunity to strengthen the bond between the servant and the Lord. Fasting softens the heart, reduces desires that lead toward sin, and opens the doors of acceptance of supplication.

Times of Acceptance of Supplication in Ramadan

- The time of Suhoor (after Tahajjud)
- The moments before Iftar
- During the state of fasting
- After Taraweeh and Qiyam al-Layl
- Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Power)

Especially the time just before Iftar is considered very precious, when the fasting person humbly supplicates before God.

The Supplication of the Fasting Person

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said that the supplication of the fasting person is not rejected. Therefore the fasting person should make supplication for both their worldly and spiritual needs — for themselves, their parents, their children, and the entire Muslim community.

The Iftar Supplication

"Allahumma inni laka sumtu wa bika aamantu wa 'alayka tawakkaltu wa 'ala rizqika aftartu" — O Allah, for You I fasted, and in You I believe, and upon You I rely, and with Your provision I break my fast.

"Dhahaba al-zama'u wa ibtallatil 'uruqu wa thabata al-ajru in sha'a Allah" — Thirst has gone, the veins are moistened, and the reward is confirmed, if Allah wills.

Remembrance — Peace of the Heart

Remembrance (Dhikr) keeps the memory of God fresh and gives peace to the heart. Recommended remembrances include:

- SubhanAllah (Glory be to God)
- Alhamdulillah (All praise be to God)

- Allahu Akbar (God is the Greatest)
- La ilaha illa Allah (There is no god but God)
- Astaghfirullah (I seek God's forgiveness)
- Salawat (Blessings upon the Prophet)

The Supplication of Laylat al-Qadr

"Allahumma innaka 'afuwzun tuhibb ul-'afwa fa'fu 'anni" — O Allah, You are the Pardoner, and You love to pardon, so pardon me.

Collective Supplication and Goodwill

Ramadan also encourages us to make supplication for others. When a person asks for good for others, the angels also make the same supplication for them. It is a great act to make supplication during Ramadan for parents, teachers, relatives, the sick, the needy, and the entire Muslim community.

Closing Message

As Ramadan al-Mubarak moves toward its conclusion, it leaves us with a deep question:

"Are we the same people we were at the beginning of this month, or has some change come within us?"

This month is not just the name of a few days' worship but a complete training system — a system that teaches the person self-knowledge, patience, gratitude, compassion, and piety. If the effects of Ramadan remain limited only to this month, it is as if we have not fully understood its true purpose.

Ramadan — A New Beginning

Ramadan gives us the opportunity to move away from sins and return to God. It is a door that opens toward hope, forgiveness, and new life. The person who improves their habits during this month — regularity in prayer, truthfulness, gentleness, generosity, and self-accountability — can be a better human being even after Ramadan.

Purity of Heart and Humanity

Ramadan teaches us that true success lies not in gaining superiority over others but in controlling one's own self. If during this month we learned to reduce anger, learned to forgive, helped those in need, and purified our hearts of envy and hatred — this is the real success of Ramadan.

The Path to Societal Improvement

The reform of one person affects the entire society. If every person remains committed to moral principles even after Ramadan, society can automatically improve. Ramadan reminds us that the true beauty of the world lies in love, justice, and compassion — not in wealth or power.

Keep the Connection with the Quran

Ramadan is the month of strengthening the connection with the Quran. Maintaining this connection throughout the year is necessary, because this book provides guidance at every stage of life.

Supplication — The Support of Life

Keep supplication as a part of your life even after Ramadan. The connection with God should never be severed. Turning to Him in every joy, every difficulty, and every decision gives a person peace.

A Message of Hope

If someone has made mistakes, do not be despondent — the mercy of God is very vast. Ramadan leaves us with this very hope that the door of repentance is always open.

A Message from Write Beyond Borders

This special Ramadan issue of Write Beyond Borders has been presented for the purpose of spreading the message of knowledge, spirituality, and humanity beyond borders.

We hope that these writings will create positive change, depth of thought, and spiritual awakening in the hearts of readers.

Final Prayer

May Allah grant us the ability to maintain the blessings of Ramadan throughout the year, may He accept our fasts, worship, and supplications, and may He grant us the ability to make both a better person and a better society. Ameen.

Remember in your prayers. — Sarwat Parvez, Editor-in-Chief

Special Supplement

The Quran and Modern Science — Harmony of Facts

By: Sarwat Parvez

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Part One: Introduction

Preface

The history of humanity is the history of knowledge and inquiry. From the moment a human being opened the eye of consciousness, they continued to strive to know the secrets of the universe, the earth, the sky, and their own self. Various civilizations advanced knowledge in their respective eras, but with time the truth emerged that human reason, due to its limitations, cannot access absolute truth.

At this very point, Divine Revelation provides light. The Holy Quran, which is the last heavenly book, is not only a fountain of guidance and spiritual direction but also provides a methodology for knowledge and research that is in harmony with reason and nature.

The Relationship Between the Quran and Knowledge

The Holy Quran repeatedly invites the human being to reflection and thought:

"Do they not travel through the land, so that their hearts may thus learn wisdom?" — (Al-Hajj: 46)

This is proof that the Quran is not merely a book of worship but also takes a scientific point of view. In it, reflection on the phenomena of the universe has been made a part of faith. The Quran repeatedly mentions "tafakkur" (reflection), "tadabbur" (pondering), and "ta'addul" (using reason). This book compels the human being to reflect upon the system of the universe and to recognize their Lord through it.

The Harmony of Revelation and Reason

Some schools of philosophical thought have described reason and revelation as opposites of each other, but in the Quran both complement each other. Reason confirms the truths told by Revelation. Revelation guides reason so that it does not exceed its bounds and does not fall into an illusion of perception. For example: reason can know that there is a system behind the universe, but it is Revelation that tells us the Creator of that system is "Allah." Reason studies the phenomena of earth and sky through science, and Revelation clarifies the purpose and reality of those phenomena.

Thus the relationship of Revelation and reason is like a lamp and its light: without the lamp there is no light, and without the light the lamp is useless.

Scientific Progress and the Quran's Prophecies

The Quran stated facts fourteen hundred years ago that human beings of that time could not have known, but today's science is confirming them. For example:

- The origin of the universe: "The heavens and the earth were joined together, then We parted them" (Al-Anbiya: 30) → The Big Bang Theory.

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