



Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset, consuming no food or water during daylight. It's estimated that 1.8 billion Muslims around the world observe the holy month. Children are not expected to fast until they reach puberty.

## History:



Ramadan is the month of remembrance and celebration of when the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book) was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by the angel Gabriel, in A.D. 610. Muslims believe that The Prophet Muhammad is the last Prophet, who received the teachings of Allah and who spread the Islamic faith after the Qur'an (believed to be the direct word of Allah) was revealed to him. It is during the same month of this revelation that Muslims celebrate Ramadan.

Part of the ancient Arabs' calendars, the word Ramadan is the Arabic word for 'scorching heat' or 'dryness'.

Since its origin in the 7th century, Ramadan has been a time for growing the bond with Allah. During Ramadan, Muslims do this through fasting, reciting the Qur'an and doing selfless good deeds. By fasting, Muslims are able to devote themselves to their faith and demonstrate their dedication to Allah.

To celebrate Ramadan, communities will use colourful decorations and Fanoos (lanterns) to decorate and illuminate buildings and their homes.

## Celebration:



Throughout the history of Ramadan, fasting between sunrise and sunset serves the purpose of demonstrating one's devotion to Allah and belief in the Prophet Muhammad. Ramadan is a time for fasting (sawm), prayer, reflection and community.

As Ramadan provides a period of reflection and self-improvement, many Muslims attempt giving up poor habits and will read the whole of the Qur'an. Alongside this, Ramadan is a time for family, community and people will spend time with loved ones and help those in need. The self-discipline of fasting also reminds those taking part in Ramadan of the suffering of the poor and less fortunate. Throughout the history of Ramadan, it has been common practice to give to the less fortunate and donate to charity (Zakat) - which is one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

Eid ul-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan with a celebration, the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. Mosques hold special services to mark the end of the fasting and families and friends come together to eat food, share gifts and give to charity.