

RAMADAN 1425 AH



Islamic Society of Greater Richmond (ISGR)

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Understanding Qur'an

The word **Qur'an** is derived from the root qara'a, which has various meanings, such as to read, [Sura 17: 93.] to recite, [Sura 75:18:17: 46.] etc. Qur'an is a verbal noun and hence means the 'reading' or 'recitation'. As used in the Qur'an itself, the word refers to the revelation from Allah in the broad sense [Sura 17: 82.] and is not always restricted to the written form in the shape of a book, as we have it before us today.

Other Names of the Qur'an furqan (criterion, see 25: 1), tanzil (sent down, see 26: 192), dhikr (reminder, see 15: 9), kitab (scripture, see 21:10).

Other references to the Qur'an are by such words as nur (light), huda (guidance), rahma (mercy), majid (glorious), mubarak (blessed), bashir (announcer), nadhir (warner) etc.

Beginning of Revelation The revelation of the Qur'an began in the laila al-qadr of Ramadan (the 27th night or one of the odd nights after the 21st)

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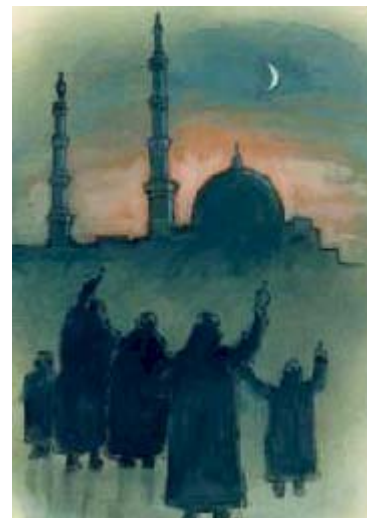
Islamic Terms for Ramadan

Bab Al-Raiyan The name of one of the gates of Heavens (Jannah) through which the people who often observe fasting will enter on the Day of Judgement.

Eid Al-Fitr The festival marking the end of **Ramadan**. It takes place on the 1st of Shawal, the 10th month of the Islamic calendar.

Fidya Compensation for missing or wrongly practicing necessary acts of worship. Fidya usually takes the form of donating money, foodstuffs, or sacrificing an animal. Contrast with **Kaffara** (making amends).

Iftar Breaking of the fast immediately after sunset. Iftar takes place at Maghrib as soon as the call to prayer (Adhan) is called.



Imsak Start of the fasting time. Imsak begins when the first light of dawn becomes visible, and ends at Fajr when the Adhan is called.

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after the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had passed the 40th year of his life (that is around the year 610), during his seclusion in the cave of Hira' on a mountain near Makka.

Chronology of the Written Text

610	Revelation Begins	Transmitted orally, later written
632	Prophet's death	Memorized by many & written
634	Abu Bakr's death	Suhuf from written & oral sources
644	Umar's death	Suhuf remains with Hafsa
653	Uthman's caliphate	Copies from Suhuf in book form

The Qur'anic Script

Tashkil is the name for the signs indicating the vowels in Arabic scripts.

I'jam to provide a letter with a diacritical point.

From this very basic system of writing there developed over the ages, various types of script, such as Kufi, Maghribi, Naskh, etc., which spread all over the world.

Divisions of the Text

Aya (pl. ayat) actually means 'sign'. In technical language it is the shortest division of the Qur'anic text, i.e. a phrase or sentence.

Sura (pl. Suwar) means literally 'row' or 'fence'. In technical language, it is the passage-wise division of the Qur'anic text, i.e. a chapter or part, set apart from the preceding and following text.

The Qur'an has 114 suras of unequal length, the shortest consisting of 3 and the longest of 286 ayat.

All suras (with the exception of Sura 9) begin with the words "bismillahir rahmanir rahim".

All 114 suras in the Qur'an have names, which serve as a sort of heading. The names are often derived from an important or distinguishing word in the text itself, such as e.g. Al-Anfal (8) or Al-Baqara (2). In other cases it is one of the first few words with which the sura begins e.g. Ta-ha (20) or Al-Furqan (25).

Suras are also grouped as

al-tiwal (long ones): 2-10.

al-mi'un: suras with approx. 100 ayat: 10-35.

al-mathani: suras with less than 100 ayat: 36-49.

al-mufassal: the last section of the Qur'an beginning with Sura Al-Qaf: 50-114.

Other Divisions

Juz' (pl. ajza') literally means part, portion. The Qur'an is divided into 30 portions of approximately equal length to complete recitation in a month.

Ruku section within each **Sura**.

Manzil Qur'an is divided in 7 parts to read it in 7 days.

Makkan and Madinan Suras

The Makkan Phase lasted about 13 years, from the first revelation up to the hijra.

The Madinan phase lasted about 10 years, from the hijra to the death of the Prophet (pbuh).

A sura is said to be of Makkan or Madinan origin, when its beginning was revealed in **The Makkan phase** or **The Madinan phase**.

According to one estimate, **85 suras** are of Makkan origin and **29 suras** of Madinan origin.

Variety of Modes

al-ahruf al-sab'a The word sab'a means seven, and ahurf is the plural form of harf, which has many meanings, among them 'edge' border, letter, word', etc. In technical language it describes the variety of modes of the Qur'an transmitted to us, also expressed in various forms of writing the text.

Tafsir word tafsir is derived from the root 'fassara' - to explain or to expound. It means 'explanation' or 'interpretation'. In technical language the word tafsir is used for explanation, interpretation and commentary on the Qur'an❖

ISLAMIC CALENDAR

The Islamic calendar, which is based purely on lunar cycles, was first introduced in 638 CE by the close companion of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the second Caliph, `Umar ibn Al-Khattab (586-644 CE). He did it in an attempt to rationalize the various, at times conflicting, dating systems used during his time.

`Umar (Omar) consulted with his advisors on the starting date of the new Muslim chronology. It was finally agreed that the most appropriate reference point for the Islamic calendar was the Hijra (Hijrah, Hegira).

The actual starting date for the calendar "Epoch" was chosen on the basis of purely lunar years, counting backwards to be the first day of the first month "1st of Muharram" of the year of the Hijra. The Islamic (Hijri) Calendar with dates that fall within the Muslim era is usually abbreviated AH in Western languages from the Latinized Anno Hejirae "In the year of the Hijra." 1st of Muharram, AH 1 corresponds to Friday July 16th, 622 CE in the Julian calendar.

Important Islamic Dates

1 st Ramadan 1425	Sat Oct 16, 2004
Eid-ul-Fitr	Sun Nov 14, 2004
Waqfatul Arafat	Thu Jan 20, 2005
Eid-ul-Adha	Fri Jan 21, 2005
New Year 1426	Thu Feb 10, 2005
Ashoora	Sat Feb 19, 2005
12 th Rabi-al-Awal	Thu Apr 21, 2005
Isra & Mairaj	Thu Sep 01, 2005
15 th Shabaan	Tue Sep 19, 2005
1 st Ramadan 1426	Wed Oct 05, 2005

Terms - continued from page 1

I'tikaf I'tikaf refers to the religious practice of spending the last ten days of Ramadan (either wholly or partly) in a mosque so as to devote oneself exclusively to worship. In this state one may go out of the mosque only for the absolutely necessary requirements of life, but one must stay away from gratifying one's sexual desire.

Kaffarah Kaffarah means atonement, expiation.

Lailatul-Qadr 'The Night of Power,' concealed in one of the odd nights in the last ten days of **Ramadan**; the night on which the Qur'an was first revealed by Jibraeel to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), and which the Qur'an itself describes as "better than a thousand months." (Sura 97:3.)

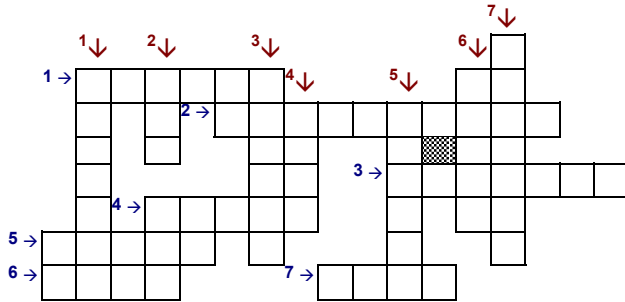
Ramadan The ninth month of the Islamic (lunar) calendar. Ramadan is derived from the Arabic root word ramida or arram intense scorching heat and dryness. From the same root another word ramdaa, which means sun baked sand.

Sawm The Arabic word for fast. Plural: Siyaam.

Fasting, siyam, has two meanings. Generally, siyaam or sawm, is derived from the root sama, to restrain from normal things, such as eating, drinking, and talking. If an individual refrains from these things, he is considered saaim, the observer of fast. Fasting will not be complete until one observes three elements:

1. Restraining the **stomach and the private parts**, avoid food, drinks, and sexual activity.
2. Restraining the **jawarih**, the other body parts, which may render the fast worthless despite the main factor of hunger and thirst; so the tongue, for instance, must avoid backbiting, slander, and lies; the eyes should avoid looking into things considered by the Lawgiver as unlawful; the ears must stop from listening to conversation, words, songs, and lyrics that spoil the spirit of fasting; and,
3. Restraining of the **heart, and mind** from indulging, themselves in other things besides dhikir Allah (remembrance of Allah). ❖

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON RAMADAN



VERTICAL: ↓

1. Month Fasting was prescribed upon Muslims?
2. The prophet said: Umra in Ramadan is like ----
3. A gate in Paradise, specially for those who fast Al ----
4. To Allah, the fasting person's mouth smells better than ----
5. Fasting was prescribed in this many year after migration.
6. The Arabic word for "Fasting".
7. One of the most important things Fasting teaches you.

HORIZONTAL: →

1. It is a Sunna to have this meal in Ramadan.
2. What should you say to someone who swears on the morning of Ramadan.
3. A recommended act in Ramadan.
4. The prophet used this a lot when he was fasting.
5. If unintentionally eat or drink, then the fast becomes invalid.(Right or False?)
6. Word "Ramadan" mentioned in the Quran so many times
7. A significant battle which took place in Ramadan.

Method of Performing Salat-ul-Tasbeeh

This prayer consists of four raka'ats. In first Raka'at after reciting Sura Faatihah and a Sura, remain standing and recite the Tasbeeh

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Subhaanallaahe Walhamdulillaahe Walaal ilaaha illallaaho
Wallaaho Akbar

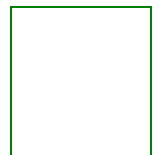
Purity belongs to Allah and praise be to Allah and there is none worthy of worship besides Allah and Allah is greatest.

Before Ruku	15 times
In Ruku	10 times
In Qaumah (the standing position after ruku)	10 times
First Sajdah	10 times
In Jalsah (the sitting position between 2 sajdah)	10 times
In Second Sajdah	10 times
After Second Sajdah (while sitting)	10 times

The Tasbeeh is recited **75 times** in one raka'at as outlined above. The same procedure will be followed in every raka'at.

Thus the total Tasbeehs recited will be **300**. ❖

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