

Ramadan

How does Ramadan begin?

1 Sighting of the new moon of Ramadan

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Fast when you see it (the new moon of Ramadan) and break your fast when you see it (the new moon of the following month)." So if an **adult sane muslim**, known by his fairness, experience and trustworthiness, sees the **new moon of Ramadan, then that is sufficient**, and the people must fast.

Ramadan begins when one of two things occurs

2 Completion of the previous month (Sha'baan) by having 30 days.

This is because a lunar month is either 29 or 30 days long, never longer. For that reason, if Sha'baan is 30 days long, then the first day of Ramadan must follow. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: (Fast when you see it (the new moon of Ramadan) and break your fast when you see it (the new moon of the following month). If it is not possible to see the new moon, then complete Sha'baan as 30 days." (Al-Bukhari 1810, Muslim 1081)

Who do we refer to regarding the timing of the start of Ramadan and the day of Eid?

If the muslims are a minority in a non-muslim country, then the local Islamic centres of that country may be followed. If they differ, then the most local Islamic centre or local muslim community should be followed.

The official announcement by a muslim country. The messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: "The end of Ramadaan is on the day when you end it, and the Eid of sacrifice is on the day when you sacrifice." (Abu Dawud 2324, At-Tirmithi 697)

Virtues

The night of decree

This is the night in which Allah has told us that any good actions performed in this night are multiplied by many orders of magnitude as He said: (The night of decree, which is better than 1000 months) (Sooratu ul-qadr: 3). The one who stands during that night (in worship) with belief and anticipation will have his past sins forgiven. It falls in one night of the final 10 nights of Ramadan and extends from sunset until sunrise however no-one knows the exact night in which it falls, so we must increase our worship in all of the final ten nights.

The meaning of 1000 months

It is said that it may be taken literally, and means that it is equal to 1000 months.

It is said that it is to be taken metaphorically where the actual meaning is a vast amount known only by Allah.

Revelation of the Qur'an

It was the month in which the greatest and most exalted of all divine books, the Holy Qur'an, was revealed: "It was in the month of Ramadaan that the Qur'an was revealed, with clear signs of guidance and a criterion of right and wrong. Therefore, those of you who are resident for the month must fast it." (Soorat Al-Baqarah, 2:185)

The doors of paradise are opened and the devils are shackled.

The doors of paradise are opened and the devils are shackled. The prophet (peace be upon him) said: "When the month of Ramadaan comes, the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of Hellfire are closed and the devils are chained." (Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree: 3103, Saheeh Muslim: 1079) Thus, it provides an opportunity for the faithful to do their utmost to get closer to Allah by doing righteous deeds and avoiding bad actions.

Forgiveness of sins through fasting and prayer.

Whomsoever fasts the days of Ramadan and prays during the night, then his past sins are forgiven.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Whoever fasts in the month of Ramadaan, out of sincere faith and in anticipation of Allah's rewards [in the hereafter], will have all his past sins forgiven." (Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree: 1905, Saheeh Muslim: 760)

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Whoever stands in prayer in the month of Ramadaan, out of sincere faith and in anticipation of Allah's rewards [in the hereafter], will have all his past sins forgiven." (Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree: 1905, Saheeh Muslim: 759)

Why is it named Ramadan?

The Arabs, during the times prior to Islam, named the months according to the times in which they fell. During that time, Ramadan fell during a time of immense heat and was therefore named...

Ramadan from the word ar-ramdaa, meaning intense heat.

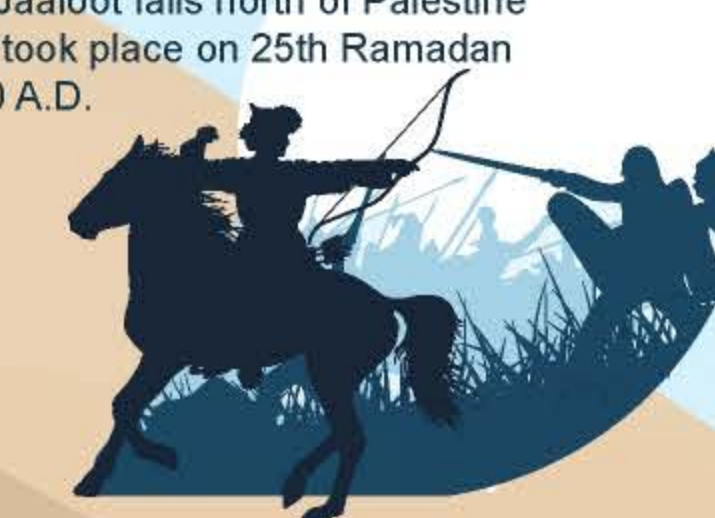
Likewise, the months of rabee al-awwal and rabee ath-thani were named as such as they fell in the season of ar-rabee (Spring).

Our history in Ramadan

Ramadan contains many victories and important historical events, from them:

Battle of the spring of Jaaloot

The decisive battle that essentially ended the Mongol conquest into muslim countries and was under the leadership of the muslim leader Qutuz and military leader Baibars. The spring of Jaaloot falls north of Palestine and the battle took place on 25th Ramadan 685 Hijri / 1290 A.D.



H 658

The conquest of Amorium

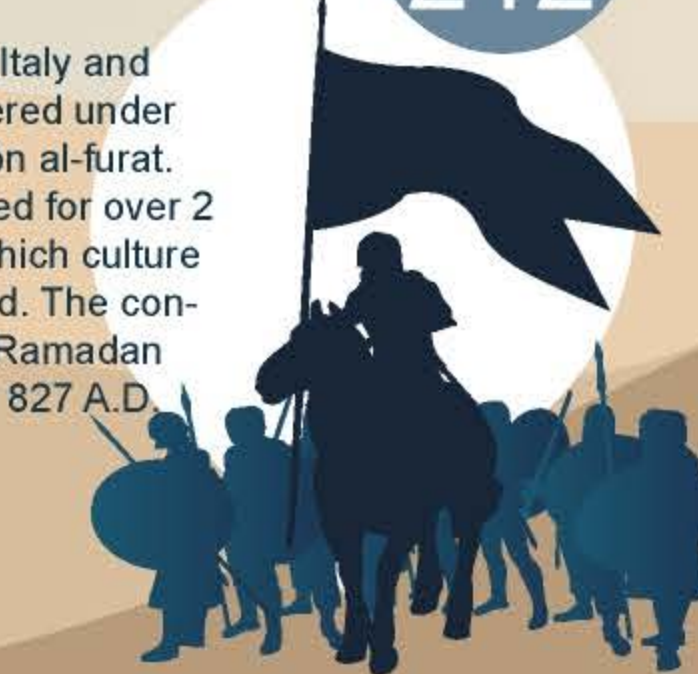
In which the muslim caliph, al-mu'tasim, gathered a great army and sent it to Amorium to the aid of women being oppressed by the Christian forces under the leadership of Theophyl Meekaaeel. The muslim army surrounded the city and Allah gave them victory in Amorium, which falls in present day Turkey, on the 17th Ramadan 223 Hijri / 12th August 838 A.D.



H 223

The muslim conquest of Sicily

The island falls south of Italy and was successfully conquered under the leadership of Asad Ibn al-Furat. The muslim rule continued for over 2 and a half centuries in which culture and knowledge flourished. The conquest took place on 9th Ramadan 212 Hijri / 6th December 827 A.D.



H 212

The conquest of al-andalus.

The muslims, under the leadership of Tariq Ibn Zyaad, were victorious in a large battle against the King Liureeq. This success paved the way for knowledge, culture and peace to last for 8 centuries in the area. The battle took place 28th Ramadan 98 Hijri / 19th July 711 A.D.



H 92

1260 A.D. Battle of the spring of Jaaloot

838 A.D. The conquest of Amorium

827 A.D. The muslim conquest of Sicily

711 A.D. The conquest of al-andalus.

The conquest of Mekkah

In which the prophet (peace be upon him) entered Mekkah peacefully and with humility. He read the verse of the Qur'an (Truth has come, and falsehood has departed. Indeed is falsehood, [by nature] ever bound to depart). That was on the 20th Ramadan 8 Hijri / 10th January 630 A.D.



H 8

H 2

The first Ramadan fasting was made obligatory.

On the first of Ramadan fasting was made obligatory, and that was in 2 Hijri (626 A.D.) and that is with the saying of Allah in the Qur'an (oh you who believe, fasting has been made obligatory on you as it was made obligatory on those who came before you, such that you may become pious) (al-baqarah: 183).



H 2

The battle of Badr

The muslims were victorious in the battle of Badr over the polytheists of the tribe of the Quraysh. Allah named this day in the Qur'an (the day of criterion). That is because it was the first battle in Islam between truth and falsehood. The battle took place on 27th Ramadan 2 Hijri / 13th March 624 A.D.



The revelation of the Qur'an

The Qur'an was initially revealed to the prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) in the cave of Hira which falls near Mekkah. This was through the Angel Jibreel, peace be upon him, with the beginning of the soorah (read by the name of your Lord who created) (sooratu ul-alaq: 1). That was on 21st Ramadan 13 years before the hijrah / 10th August 610 A.D.

av.H 13

630 A.D. The conquest of Mekkah

The battle of Badr

624 A.D. The first Ramadan fasting was made obligatory.

610 A.D. The revelation of the Qur'an