

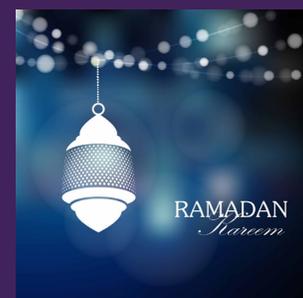
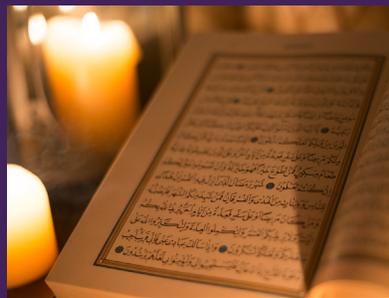


# RAMADAN

Ramadan also known as Ramazan, Romanized as Ramzan, Ramadhan, or Ramathan is the ninth month of the lunar Islamic calendar<sup>1</sup>, and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm) to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad, according to Islamic belief.<sup>2</sup> The celebration lasts 29-30 days based on the visual sightings of the crescent moon, according to numerous biographical accounts compiled in the Hadith (deeds and sayings of Islamic prophet, Muhammad). Observing Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, the five duties that are obligatory for every Muslim.<sup>5</sup>

Ramadan 2019 began in the United States the evening of Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and will end the evening of Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Since the new moon is in the same state at the same time globally, the beginning and ending dates of Ramadan depend on what the lunar sightings are received in each respective location. And since the moon's visibility in different parts of the world varies, based on weather and geography, Ramadan does not officially start until religious leaders declare they've seen the crescent moon.<sup>5</sup>

Fasting is a religious obligation for adult Muslims, except those who are suffering from illness, traveling, are elderly, pregnant, breastfeeding, diabetic, chronically ill or menstruating.<sup>3,4</sup> While fasting from dawn until dusk, Muslims refrain from consuming food, drinking liquids, smoking, and engaging in relations. Muslims are also instructed to refrain from sinful behavior that may negate the reward of fasting, such as false speech (insulting, backbiting, cursing, lying, etc.) and fighting except in self-defense.



## FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

- SHAHADAH - Sincerely reciting the Muslim profession of faith
- SALAT - Performing ritual prayers in the proper way -- five times each day
- ZAKAT - Paying an alms (or charity) tax to benefit the poor and the needy
- SAWM - Fasting during the month of Ramadan
- HAJJ - Pilgrimage to Mecca

1. [http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/practices/ramadan\\_1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/practices/ramadan_1.shtml)

2. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/islam/ramadam.shtml>

3. <http://hadithcollection.com/sahih/muslim - Sahih Muslim Book 06.Fasting>

4. <https://books.google.com/books?id=Tom-AwAAQBAJ&pg=PA15 - Islam in America>

5. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/05/05/when-ramadan-2019-muslim-month/1110697001/>

