

الْغَفَّارُ

AL-GHAFFAR
THE ALL-FORGIVING

Ramadan Reflection - Week 4, 2022

When I was growing up, Ramadan was always a special time when my family and community came together. Having no food and water during the day was always hard, but the fun we had at night being together was always great. As I grew, I learned more about the significance of Ramadan and the blessing it truly is.

Ramadan for me is always a time to reconnect with my faith. No matter how religious or not I was during the previous year, Ramadan always feels like a time to rediscover faith. Abstaining from food and water almost creates this spiritual aura that envelopes the month. Seeing Muslims around the world fasting together, some in much harder conditions, makes me feel connected to them, like we are all in it together. This special aura combined with the connection to our brothers and sisters in the faith makes Ramadan unique.

Ramadan is not only a month of fasting but a month of forgiveness. The Prophet (peace and blessing upon him) said: "Whoever observes fasts during the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all their past sins will be forgiven." (*Sahih Bukhari*). This is just one example of the many blessings we Muslims believe to be associated with the holy month. To make the most of this, we try our best to leave sins, seek good deeds, and pray during this month. We spend the night in congregational prayer hoping to seek forgiveness and some even stay in the mosque for the last ten days.

Trying to make the most of Ramadan was always a challenge for me, however. Learning more about why we fast from food and drink made it easier. I'm thankful that my parents took us to the mosque together as a family and that I had a group of friends centered around it. Learning about Islam through different perspectives like friends, family, and scholars widened my view of the faith and made me love it even more.

I try to make the most of Ramadan through different means. Whether trying to stay away from sins or participating in the night prayers, I try to get the most out of the month. For me personally, in every Ramadan I hope to be forgiven for the sins I have committed and pray for good tidings in the afterlife.

Not only is Ramadan a month of forgiveness but a month of spirituality. Muslims around the world use the month to get closer to God. I hope to be able to take advantage of future Ramadans in my life and use it as a tool of spirituality.

- Haider Qureshi, Class of '24