

THE PEACE TIMES

A MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ (1) وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ (2) لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ (3) تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالرُّوحِ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ (4) سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ (5) [Al-Qadr]

"Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree (1) And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? (2) The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. (3) The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. (4) Peace it is until the emergence of dawn. (5)"



WHAT IS SHUKR?

Shukr (شكر) is an Arabic term for thankfulness, gratitude, or acknowledgment by humans, and it is a highly esteemed virtue in Islam.

There are three levels of Shukr: Shukr Bil Qalb (شكر بالقلب), Shukr Bil Lisaan (شكر باللسان), and Shukr Bil Jawarah (شكر بالجورة). Shukr Bil Qalb is to realize and appreciate all of Allah's blessings within our hearts. Shukr Bil Lisaan is to verbally say thanks to Allah, such as doing dua' and thikr. Shukr Bil Jawarah is to show our gratitude to Allah by performing good deeds.



FIRST PUBLICATION!

Assalamu Alaikum Everyone!
The Student Council is thrilled to be releasing this as the first publication of *The Peace Times*! InshaAllah we look forward to expanding this newspaper in the months and years to come with your submissions of articles, short stories, poems, and more.



R A M A D A N

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim Lunar Calendar in which Muslims fast, or don't eat or drink, from Fajr, the morning prayer, until sunset. Ramadan is important for us as Muslims because it is a month of full devotion towards Allah, which helps us become closer to Allah by building our Taqwa, or consciousness of Allah, and it is the month in which the Quran was revealed. During this month, Allah forgives the past sins of those who fast and pray with faithful intentions. This should encourage us to perform extra good deeds and refrain from worldly desires. During Ramadan, we fast not only from food and water, but from wrongful, dishonest behavior and ill speech. Because of this, our patience and discipline increases.

Fasting is beneficial in increasing faith as well as promoting good health as proved by science. It can prevent health problems like heart disease, obesity, and cancer. Medical literature has shown that fasting increases stress resistance in the body and boosts the immune system.

During Ramadan, families come together to pray and experience the blessings of fasting. One of the blessings of Ramadan includes giving charity, which brings about a feeling of contentment. Most people fulfill their obligation of distributing Zakat, a portion of one's savings, to the needy because the deeds are multiplied several times.



R A M A D A N

People share iftar meals with neighbors, friends, family, and the needy. There are many different foods that are popular during Ramadan. Traditional clothing is commonly worn. The mix of many cultures makes Ramadan more enjoyable and interesting.

Layl-at-ul-Qadr, or The Night of Power, is a very important night in Ramadan as it is the night in which the Quran was revealed. This night falls upon one of the last ten odd nights of Ramadan. It is described in the Quran as “better than a thousand months.” Muslims take advantage of the last ten days to earn as many blessings as we can. Praying sincerely and asking for forgiveness on this night erases all a person’s past sins. Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم would exert himself more on these last ten nights than any other night of the year.

Eid Al-Fitr is a celebration after Ramadan. This signifies the ending of a holy month and makes us reflect on the actions performed during it. Everyone from the Muslim community gathers to observe the Eid prayer, congratulate each other, and feast. As Eid is a celebration of the end of a month of fasting, it is prohibited to fast on Eid day, but fasting for six days after Eid during the month of Shawwal is encouraged.

We should integrate values that we learn from Ramadan into our daily routine. The month of Ramadan purifies one’s body and soul and trains us to perform good deeds that we are expected to carry forward into the rest of the year.

- Umaiza Sohail



RISE IN ANTI-ASIAN HATE

On March 16, 2021, a succession of shootings occurred at three different spas in the metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia. A total of eight victims were murdered, six of whom were Asian women.

This event was one of many recent anti-Asian incidents. According to a study found by Stop AAPI Hate, over 3,795 anti-Asian hate incidents have occurred from March 2020 to February of this year. Asian women, youth, and elders have been disproportionately affected by these incidents at a higher level than others. Russell Jueng, a professor of Asian American studies at San Francisco State University stated, “Bullies attack whom they think are vulnerable, and we see this in our elderly and youth populations.”

Anti-Asian hatred has spiked since the pandemic started, but it has only gained attention nationwide recently. A factor contributing to this was former President Donald Trump’s tweets about the virus, calling it racist names such as the “Chinese virus” and the “kung flu.” This harmful rhetoric by the ex-president influenced anti-Asian sentiment among many Americans. As stated by Yulin Hswen, a lead author of this study published in the American Journal of Public Health, “Using racial terms associated with a disease can result in the perpetuation of further stigmatization of racial groups.”



RISE IN ANTI-ASIAN HATE

In order to combat these hate crimes, the Senate passed the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act, which was introduced by Sen. Mazie Hirono, on Thursday, April 22nd. This bill addresses the issue by providing state, local, and federal justice officials with the resources to strengthen the response to anti-Asian attacks. The bipartisan vote was 94-1 with almost all Republican senators voting yes.

On the Senate floor, just before the vote, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer stated, “to our Asian American friends: We will not tolerate bigotry against you. And to those perpetrating anti-Asian bigotry: We will pursue you to the fullest extent of the law. We cannot – we cannot – allow the recent tide of bigotry, intolerance, and prejudice against Asian Americans go unchecked.”

Anti-Asian hate has been perpetual since before the pandemic. As discrimination continues to be exhibited throughout America, it is up to the people to eliminate all sorts of bigotry in order to bring truth to the words “Liberty and justice for all...”

- Myriam Mousa



BEST BOOKS TO READ

During the summer, many people have nothing to do and are bored as a result. If this sounds like you, you should try reading a book this summer! Reading helps you forget the real world for a little while, presents you with new experiences, and you never have to move from your seat! Here are three books you should read this summer if you are bored:

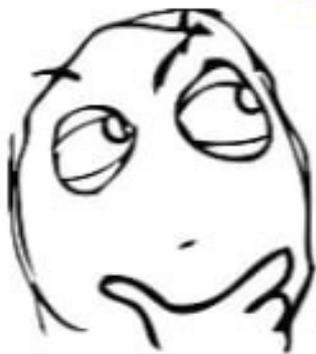
1. *Urban Outlaws* by Peter Jay Black is a five-book series about five orphans who have bonded over their sense of justice. They become the Urban Outlaws, a group dedicated to outsmarting criminals and helping others.
2. *The Best Lies* by Sarah Lyu: is a book about a girl and her best friend. A shooting happens and now one of them is the accused. Will they be able to keep their friendship, or will one mistake rip them apart?
3. *The Time of the Fireflies* by Kimberley Griffiths Little tells the story of a girl whose family is cursed by a voodoo doll that killed all her siblings. Will she be able to save her family from being cursed in the first place?

- Emaan Ali



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Normal Days

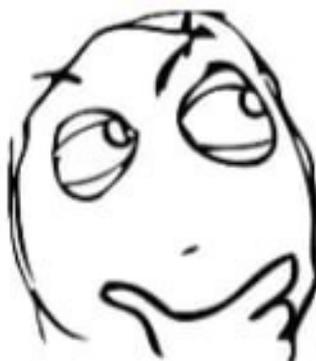


When is
Maghrib ?

I Don't
Know !



During Ramadaan



When is
Maghrib ?



7:30
&
44 secs

- Teba Ishwait