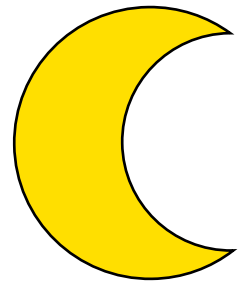


# THE RISING TIMES

*Ramadan 1444 Edition*



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## *The True Meaning of Ramadan*

*By: Zara Sheikh, 11th*

Ramadan is a holy month in which people worship Allah, study the Quran, pray, and fast. Ramadan is the month in which Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) received the Quran. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Fasting during Ramadan assists believers in purifying their hearts, renewing their faith, seeking forgiveness, and enhancing their self-control. It is also a time to reflect on what is most important and positive in the life of a believer. Fasting goes beyond simply just not eating and feeling immense hunger. You must participate in the five daily prayers, take extra time out of your day to read and interpret the Quran, and fast with a clean tongue, mind, and heart. Being overly focused on the not-eating aspect of your fast is quite narrow-minded, as this holy month has much more to offer.

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During the month of Ramadan, it is recommended that you devote more time and energy to the holy Quran and our faith as a whole. After the holy month of Ramadan, your deen, faith, and love for our glorious religion should be strengthened. Nothing is more delightful than the intensification of our deen after we depart from this benevolent month. When we demonstrate positive change and consistency throughout Ramadan, we will leave the month with certain beneficial habits ingrained in our daily tasks, which will be considerably simpler to stick to. For example, if you pray all five prayers throughout Ramadan, it will come out instinctually for us to adapt to these positive changes. Ramadan has so much to offer and is an honorable month for us Muslims. I encourage all of you to make the most out of this year's month of Ramadan because it is the easiest time to increase your hasanat.

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## The Importance of Giving

*By: Abdelkader Gassama, 11th*

Ramadan is a time for Muslims to concentrate on their faith, reflect on their blessings, and renew their commitment to living a righteous life. One of the most significant aspects of Ramadan is the emphasis on charity and community. During this holy month, Muslims around the world come together to support those in need, partake their blessings with each other, and strengthen their bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood. Charity is an important pillar of Islam, and during Ramadan, Muslims are encouraged to give free handedly to those in need. This is commonly known as zakat (charity). Zakat requires Muslims to give a portion of their wealth to those who are less fortunate. This act of giving is not just a duty, but also a way to purify one's soul and to strengthen one's relationship with God. In addition to zakat, Muslims are also encouraged to give sadaqah, which is a voluntary form of charity. This can take numerous forms, similar as giving food or clothes to those in need, volunteering at a local masjid or soup kitchen, or simply giving compliments, smiles, or a helping hand to anyone who may be having a hard time and just needs the support.

Ramadan also promotes community, as Muslims come together to break their fasts and engage in fellowship with one another. This time is known as iftar, and it is a time for Muslims to connect with one another. Many community centers hold iftar feasts, where people from all over can come together to join in on the festivities of Ramadan. The practice of iftar and Taraweeh promotes community and strengthens the connection of Muslims. By reflecting on the struggles of the day, encouraging one another to continue reading more Quran, and sharing how we are grateful for everything Allah (SWT) has given us, we unite for a special purpose of worshiping Allah. By coming together to support one another, Muslims are really able to celebrate the blessed month of Ramadan as a loving ummah.

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## The Importance of Sabr (Patience) During Ramadan

*By: Amira Siyam, 12th*

Ramadan is a month of awareness, self-control, and devotion to Allah. In Ramadan, patience is one of the virtues that is most emphasized. Endurance of hunger and thirst while fasting for the sake of Allah requires patience as Muslims must refrain from eating and drinking from dawn until dusk. Patience is a fundamental aspect of Islamic teachings. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) advised his followers to cultivate patience in all facets of their lives, and the Quran mentions patience as a quality of the believers. Given that Muslims must practice patience throughout the entire month of Ramadan, it provides an ideal opportunity to instill and enhance this virtue. Muslims gain an inner sense of resilience and fortitude that can make them better equipped to deal with life's difficulties by patiently enduring hunger, thirst, and other fasting-related challenges.

An ayah from the Quran that emphasizes the importance of patience during Ramadan is: "O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous" (Quran 2:183). This ayah suggests that observing a fast during Ramadan is a means of attaining righteousness, which requires patience and perseverance. Practicing patience during Ramadan assists us in developing compassion and empathy for others. When we are patient, we learn to be more understanding of the difficulties that others face, particularly those who must endure this type of hunger all year long. Luckily, we only have to fast from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan and break our fast to an abundance of food surrounded by our families. Ramadan offers us an opportunity to develop our patience, and by doing so, we can improve other aspects of our daily lives such as compassion, resilience, and mindfulness of our actions.

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## The Night of Power

By: Nusayba Ouhemmi, 9th

It is well known that Ramadan is one of the most blessed months of the year. It is the perfect time for us to strengthen our iman, taqwa, faith and self-restraint. It is a time of spiritual reflection, prayer to Allah (SWT), and the purification of the soul. Ramadan is the month of the Quran, but why is it called that? The Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in this blessed month, specifically, the night of Laylat-ul-Qadr. It is unknown what day exactly Laylat-ul-Qadr lands on. All we know is that it is on one of the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. What this means is that it could be on the 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, or 29th of the month. Narrated by Aisha bint Abi Bakr, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Search for the Night of Qadr in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan" (Hadith Bukhari). It is recommended to pray extra prayers in the last ten days because Laylat-ul-Qadr could be any of the odd numbered days.

Why should we pray more on these days? Chapter 97 in the Quran, Surah Al-Qadr, is dedicated to this night. In the third ayah of this Surah, Allah (SWT) says: "The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months." This ayah in the Quran shows the importance of this night. It is said that this night is better than more than eighty years. An average person's lifetime is about seventy-five years. This shows how much value and significance this night holds. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Whoever prays on Laylatul Qadr out of faith and sincerity, shall have all their past sins forgiven," (Hadith Bukhari and Muslim) All of our past sins can be forgiven if we pray on this night with sincerity and faith in our hearts. In all, with Ramadan being such a blessed and merciful month, it is important to know the significance of it and the days that we should push ourselves to do more for the sake of Allah (SWT) in order to positively profit from this beautiful month.

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## How Fasting Can Benefit Our Physical Health

By: Urooj Kamran, 9th

The benefits of fasting go beyond good deeds and a sense of patience. They also have an impact on your physical health. What happens to your body when you fast for 30 days? During the first few days of fasting, your body is cleansed and your blood sugar and pressure drop, which is beneficial to those at risk of diabetes. After this, your body starts becoming used to fasting and digestion begins to cleanse the body further and white blood cells become more active. You experience an overwhelming feeling of wellness taking over you, and you are able to concentrate better than before. When you fast, it improves your overall fitness, reduces your risk of health problems, and aids in thinking and memory. According to studies, your body can effectively shed excess fat when you fast while producing HGH (human growth hormone), which optimizes muscle growth.

Furthermore, fasting cleanses our bodies of toxins, decreases inflammation, and aids in increasing longevity. According to a study on rats, rats that fasted lived 28% longer and were hindered from diseases longer than other rats that were able to eat. It has been found that fasting protects brain cells because ketones are used instead of glucose to provide fuel for them, according to neurologist Dr. Mark Mattson. In addition to promoting the growth of new brain cells and new connections between them, ketones also produce brain-derived neurotrophic factors (BDNF). According to research, cells are also protected by BDNF from stress, allowing them to function more efficiently and live longer. Alzheimer's disease plaques and tangles can be slowed down by fasting. I have only listed a few of the many benefits of fasting. I would like for you to take from this article that Ramadan is a blessed month that not only strengthens your iman but also your physical health, which is only more reason to fast.

According to Bukhari and Muslim, the Prophet (PBUH) stated: *“Whoever stands for prayer (the night prayer) during Ramadan with iman, hoping for rewards, then all his/her previous sins will be forgiven.”* This is a great blessing to all who pray Taraweeh. Make sure to note that the more you pray other prayers such as sunnah and Taraweeh, the easier it will be to get up and perform obligatory prayers. Taraweeh can be carried out in places other than the masjid, such as the comfort of your own home.

Taraweeh positively affects your health in many aspects. Not only does Taraweeh prayer bring us closer to Allah, but it allows Muslims to perform physical activity during prayer that benefits both our muscles and our joints. Through the gentle up and down movements, such as Sajdah and Ruku, Taraweeh restores muscle strength and improves our tendons. Furthermore, taraweeh improves memory with the continuous recitation and listening of the quran.

Taraweeh is considered a sunnah that is prayed after Isha prayer. Some people would slack off from the assumption that since Taraweeh is considered sunnah, it is not a requirement.

Taraweeh is considered a sunnah, but that is part of the beauty of this prayer. Muslims have the opportunity to follow our Prophet Muhammed (SAW) and get the extra hasanat (rewards) that is provided to us. Not to mention the fact that rewards during Ramadan are multiplied. This should be a call to action for all Muslims to strive to pray Taraweeh.

With all these benefits, one can conclude that Taraweeh improves and strengthens their Iman and health in many aspects. Our connection with Allah is strengthened with the prayer of Taraweeh. With the proper intentions, those who stand to pray Taraweeh will have their sins forgiven by Allah. Taraweeh strengthens the human body such as the muscles, joints, tendons, and even memory. Finally, praying Taraweeh brings forth the opportunity to follow the actions of our Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) and allows us to strive to be better muslim. May Allah (SWT) give us the proper intentions, energy, and iman to guide us through Ramadan and take every opportunity to execute the right actions for the most rewards.

## Why You Should Pray Taraweeh

By: Ayah Amer, 10th

With Ramadan coming around the corner, a myriad of Muslims are ready to accept the compensation of Eid; however, many people question whether or not they should pray Taraweeh. In Islam, Taraweeh is one of the top eminent performances of Ramadan nights. For approximately a month, Muslims lineup after Isha prayer to pray an average of 8 rakat and listen to the recitation of the Quran. Indeed, it is a very holy and blessed experience. Taraweeh may be rigorous but it includes many benefits and compensations. One should strive to pray Taraweeh because it positively impacts their iman and health.

Taraweeh positively affects your iman and brings you closer to Allah. Praying is one of the five pillars of islam. When you pray any salah other than the mandatory five, your iman is strengthened and you are brought closer to Allah (SWT).

## Why We Feel Peaceful During Ramadan

By: Mennatallah Aly, 9th

Many of us consider Ramadan to be our favorite month of the year. We feel a sense of peace and tranquility within us during this month and we do not know why. By now, most of us know that fasting has positive impacts on our physical health; however, many of us are unaware of how much our mental well-being benefits and improves during this month.

Fasting has actually shown effectiveness in alleviating feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression. A study was conducted to determine the effects of fasting on mental health by applying the depression stress scale before and after Ramadan. According to the statistics of their results, they reported a significant improvement in depression, stress, and anxiety levels for the people who fasted during Ramadan. Also, some medical studies have shown that intermittent fasting, which is the same type of fasting we do during Ramadan, may help improve some aspects of brain function and reduce symptoms of mental health issues. Researchers have also linked fasting to *“an increased level of vigilance and a mood improvement, a subjective feeling of well-being, and sometimes of euphoria.”* Moreover, fasting can actually lower the risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease as fasting increases the levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a protein involved in plastic changes related to learning and memory. This increase lowers the risks of this disease as low levels have been attributed to an increased risk of Alzheimer’s disease. In addition, many of us set goals for ourselves during Ramadan like limiting bad habits. Avoiding bad habits can help us build more resistance to triggers, urges, and impulses that can harm our mental and physical wellbeing.

This can be a factor in the improvement of social skills, reduction of social anxiety, and strengthening of our involvement with the community, which can be a booster for many of us. Another goal, for most of us, is reading and understanding the Quran. Quran contributes to the release of endorphins by stimulating alpha brain waves which enhances the stress threshold, removes negative emotions, and creates a sense of relaxation.

Moreover, during Ramadan, most of us tend to get closer to our families. We are more involved in house work, preparing and having Iftar, and going to the masjid together. This improves our mental well-being and relationship with our families. This could also be said about our friendships and how much your friends’ involvement in beneficial acts can improve your relationship and your well-being. The benefits of fasting go on and on. If you are looking for a month of relaxation and cleansing of the mind, I strongly recommend you take this month seriously.

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## Extra Acts of Worship Done in Ramadan

By: Salwa Musbeh, 11th

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is considered a very special and blessed time for Muslims all over the world. During this month, Muslims abstain from food from sunrise until sunset, or from Fajr until Maghrib. There are also many extra acts of worship that are recommended to be done during this holy month including performing additional prayers like Taraweeh, reciting the Quran, giving charity, seeking forgiveness from individuals you may have wronged, and performing I’tikaf. Muslims are encouraged to offer additional prayers throughout the day during Ramadan, including the Duha prayer which is performed after the sun has risen, the Tahajjud prayer which is performed late at night, and the Witr prayer which is performed right after the Isha prayer.

Taraweeh prayers are also extra prayers performed at night after the Isha prayer during the month of Ramadan. Muslims believe that performing Taraweeh prayers brings them great rewards and blessings. Ramadan is also known as the month of the Quran because it was during this month that the Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Another extra act of worship done during this month is the recitation of the Quran. Muslims try to read as much of the Quran as possible during this month, either alone or in groups. The reward of completing the recitation of the Quran during all 12 months is a spot in paradise, but during the month of Ramadan, the reward for reciting every verse is equal to reciting the whole Quran. Giving charity is an important part of Islam and Muslims are encouraged to give more during Ramadan. Many people give Zakat, an obligatory charity during this month, but other types of voluntary charity are also recommended. Seeking forgiveness is also a big part of this holy month. Muslims believe that Ramadan is a month of forgiveness, and they are encouraged to seek forgiveness for their sins and mistakes during this time. Seeking forgiveness can be done through prayer, supplication, and asking for forgiveness from others. I'tikaf is a spiritual retreat where a Muslim secludes themselves in a mosque or other designated area for a certain period of time. Many Muslims choose to observe I'tikaf during the last 10 days of Ramadan, as this is believed to be the most spiritually charged time of the month. These are just a few examples of the extra acts of worship that Muslims engage in during the month of Ramadan. The main goal of all these acts is to become closer to Allah and to seek his forgiveness and blessings. All of these actions will help you achieve paradise, and for that reason, you should practice them.

## The Religious Benefits of Fasting

*By: Imane Alami, 11th*

Fasting has many advantages for Muslims, but the biggest advantages are the rewards and lessons we gain. These benefits and lessons can improve us as people and increase our faith in Allah (SWT). Muslims are reminded of the value of strengthening faith, empathy, gratitude, and increase in reward during Ramadan. These are fundamental virtues that can be applied to our everyday lives outside of Ramadan. Muslims can achieve greater spirituality and a closer connection to Allah (SWT) by avoiding material things and putting their attention solely on prayer and devotion. By removing impurities and sins, this purification process helps Muslims become better people and more devout to Islam. The ability to grow empathy and compassion for people who are less fortunate is another advantage of fasting. Muslims who go without food and water for a while can increase their willingness to help those in need. This allows them to understand other peoples' suffering. This inspires Muslims generosity and compassion while creating a sense of community. Lastly, one of the acts of worship that is highly rewarded in Islam is fasting. The idea of receiving this reward encourages Muslims to do so for the rest of their lives. Ultimately, fasting is a significant Islamic practice that offers numerous spiritual advantages for Muslims. It is a way to enhance rewards during Ramadan and strengthen faith while also increasing empathy and gratitude.



## Slow and Steady Wins the Race

By: Dulce Haddabah, 11th

During the month of Ramadan, our deeds are multiplied by 70, whether they are good or bad. Usually, people try to take advantage of this multiplication of rewards by completing different activities other than fasting to boost their hasanat. One of the main acts people partake in is reading the Quran, and for some, finishing the Quran.

Although this is an amazing action we can take to not only gain hasanat but also get closer to Allah (SWT), the way people tend to carry this out is not the best, most beneficial way. People take the completion of the Quran as a race. I know people who have finished the Quran during Ramadan once, twice, and even one person who finished it 5 times. I do not want to undermine their achievement because it is extraordinary that people have done this and more; however, there is more to take into account than just reading the Quran to get it over with. When people speed through the entire Quran many times in a month, they are not usually observing the other beautiful aspects of our Holy Book such as memorization, meaning, and implementation. You do not need to complete the Quran once a week to gain a lot of ajr. If you can read the whole Quran in a week while also memorizing part of it, understanding the meaning, and implementing it into your daily life, then go ahead and do it. Sadly, though, that is not the case for everyone. The Quran was created in the most perfect form with the most astonishing stories, hidden meanings, and more. It is better for you if when you are reading, you are looking at every single ayah and analyzing its entirety such as its word choice, explanation, significance, connotation, and many other analytical aspects of literature. In doing so, you allow yourself to be fully filled with the astounding words of our Holy Quran. With this in mind, you can take it everywhere you go in life and, insha'Allah, become the best Muslim you can ever be.

## Ramadan Recipes from Around the World

By: Marib Saeed, 10th and Salma Elsherif Lopez, 11th

Ramadan is a holy month that is observed all around the world. We have some recipes that might spice up your Iftar table!

One of my favorite South Asian dishes is creamy butter chicken served with fluffy garlic naan.

The recipe to make butter chicken is as follows:

### **Ingredients:**

#### **For the chicken marinade:**

- 28 oz (800g) boneless and skinless chicken thighs or breasts cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 1 1/2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon minced ginger (or finely grated)
- 2 teaspoons garam masala
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon red chili powder
- 1 teaspoon of salt

#### **For the sauce:**

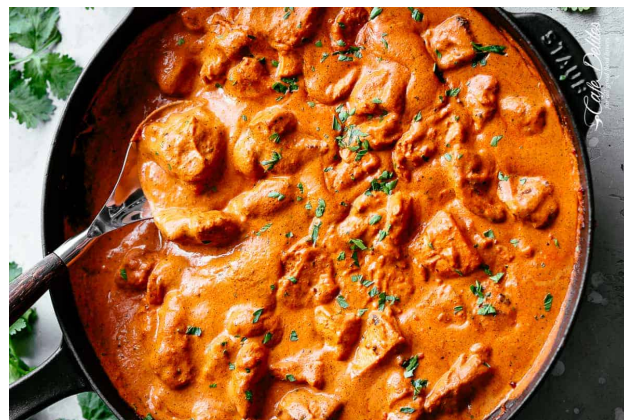
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons ghee (or 1 tbs butter + 1 tbs oil)
- 1 large onion, sliced or chopped
- 1 1/2 tablespoons garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon ginger, minced or finely grated
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 1/2 teaspoons garam masala
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 14 oz (400 g) crushed tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon red chili powder (adjust to your taste preference)
- 1 1/4 teaspoons salt (or to taste)
- 1 cup of heavy or thickened cream (or evaporated milk to save calories)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon kasoori methi (or dried

**Instructions:**

1. In a bowl, combine chicken with all of the ingredients for the chicken marinade; let marinate for 30 minutes to an hour (or overnight if time allows).
2. Heat oil in a large skillet or pot over medium-high heat. When sizzling, add chicken pieces in batches of two or three, making sure not to crowd the pan. Fry until browned for only 3 minutes on each side. Set aside and keep warm. (You will finish cooking the chicken in the sauce.)
3. Heat butter or ghee in the same pan. Fry the onions until they start to sweat (about 6 minutes) while scraping up any browned bits stuck on the bottom of the pan.
4. Add garlic and ginger and sauté for 1 minute until fragrant, then add ground coriander, cumin and garam masala. Let cook for about 20 seconds until fragrant, while stirring occasionally.
5. Add crushed tomatoes, chili powder and salt. Let simmer for about 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally until sauce thickens and becomes a deep brown red color.
6. Remove from heat, scoop mixture into a blender and blend until smooth. You may need to add a couple tablespoons of water to help it blend (up to 1/4 cup). Work in batches depending on the size of your blender.
7. Pour the puréed sauce back into the pan. Stir the cream, sugar and crushed kasoori methi (or fenugreek leaves) through the sauce. Add the chicken with juices back into the pan and cook for an additional 8-10 minutes until chicken is cooked through and the sauce is thick and bubbling.
8. Garnish with chopped cilantro and serve with fresh, homemade Naan.

Hope You Enjoy!

<https://cafedelites.com/butter-chicken/>



One of my favorite Egyptian sweets is Atayef, and when my mom makes it I know its Ramadan.

The Atayef Recipe goes as follows:

**Ingredients:****For the Dipping Sugar Syrup:**

2 cups granulated sugar  
1 cup water  
Squeeze of fresh lemon juice, about 1 teaspoon

**For the Pancakes (Atayef Batter): (1 lb Of Readymade Arabic Pancakes, Atayef Dough, May be Substituted)**

2 cups all purpose flour  
1 tablespoon granulated sugar  
1 tablespoon powdered milk (dried milk powder)  
1 teaspoons instant yeast  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/8 tsp salt  
1 3/4 cups warm water

**For The Atayef Filling: (Feel free to sub in your favorite nuts, or add flavorings like cinnamon, Rosewater or Shredded unsweetened coconut flakes)**

1/3 cup skinned hazelnuts, coarsely chopped  
1/3 cup pine nuts, lightly toasted on a dry skillet  
1/3 cup golden raisins  
1 1/2 tablespoons granulated sugar  
1 tablespoon unsalted butter, softened  
Oil, for frying



**Instructions:****To Make the Dipping Simple Syrup: (Can be made up to a week in advance)**

In a medium saucepan, combine together the sugar, water and squeeze of lemon juice. Set on the stovetop over high heat. Try to avoid stirring it as it heats to prevent crystallization from happening, but if the sugar is not dissolving, then help it out with a few stirs. Once it comes to a boil, STOP stirring.

Bring to a rolling boil, then immediately reduce the heat to medium-low and let it simmer for 10 minutes. Set a timer! The syrup will thicken slightly, and have a consistency similar to pancake syrup.

If it simmers for longer it could thicken too much and become candy-like.

Remove off the heat and transfer to a large bowl and allow to cool to room temperature before dipping the atayef.

**To Make the Atayef Dough:**

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, powdered milk, yeast, baking powder and salt. Pour in about half the amount of warm water, whisking vigorously until no lumps remain. Gradually add in the remaining water, whisking after each addition, until well combined and a loose, pourable batter is formed. It should have the consistency of a classic pancake batter. If it's thicker than that, then add a tablespoon or so of water to thin it out a bit.

Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and allow to rest for 45 minutes to 1 hour until bubbly and rises slightly.

Heat a large nonstick skillet or griddle over medium heat until hot. Put a drop of oil on the skillet, then use a paper towel to wipe it all over the skillet to lightly grease.

Give the batter a good stir to deflate. Using a small ladle or ice cream scoop with a release mechanism, drop about 2 tablespoons of batter over the skillet. The pancakes should be about 3 inches in diameter.

Allow to gently cook on one side, WITHOUT flipping on the other side, until lots of bubbles form around the surface of the pancake. Leave it to cook longer until the surface is no longer wet and the bottom is light golden brown. Adjust the heat if your pancakes are either too pale or too brown. Continue with the remaining batter. Lay the pancakes, bubbles side up on a large plate or baking sheet without stacking them on top of each other or they'll stick together, and keep them covered with a clean towel while you make the rest of the pancakes. Allow to cool completely before filling. Cover with plastic wrap until ready to use, so they don't dry out.

**To Fill and Fry Atayef:**

In a small bowl, combine together the hazelnuts, pine nuts and raisins (or your favorite nuts).

Stir in the sugar, then blend in the butter until all the nuts are coated with the butter. With the bubbly side facing up, fill each pancake center with enough nuts that would allow that pancakes to comfortably close without tearing; about a heaping teaspoon.

Fold the pancake in half and pinch the sides firmly with your fingertips to seal. At this point, you could freeze them for up to a month for later use (\*see note below for more details about freezing).

In a frying pan, pour enough oil to fill 2 inches high and heat over medium-high until very hot (350F to 375F).

Add the stuffed pancakes (Atayef), and fry for 2 to 4 minutes per side or until deep golden brown and crisp. If you prefer them softer, then take them out earlier, when they're still light golden brown.

The longer you fry them and the deeper the color, the crispier they're gonna be. Transfer the Atayef to drain on some paper towels for a few minutes. Then while still hot, dip the Atayef into the cooled dipping sugar syrup, tossing and turning them to make sure they're well coated. Transfer Atayef to a wire rack or sieve that has been placed over a piece of aluminum foil, and allow excess syrup to drip. Arrange on a serving platter and sprinkle with pistachios or coconut flakes, if desired. Enjoy warm or room temperature. Best served within a few hours of frying to maintain its crunchy exterior. They will soften up slightly as they sit. Store covered with foil that has been poked with holes, so they stay crunchier longer.

Enjoy and Sahtain!

<https://cleobuttera.com/middle-eastern/classic-qatayef-nuts/>

## RSA Art Corner

*Rising Star's very own artists showing off their talent!*

### Ode to The Month Of Ramadan

The holiest month has come upon us  
The month before Shawwal and after Sha'ban  
For when your starving in the morning  
And for iftar your already shab'aan

We fast fourteen hours from dawn to dusk  
The month where shayateen are gone like dust  
We eat suhoor at three in the morning  
A stronger bond between you and God is forming

The month of Quran  
And I can go on  
The beauty of this month  
Worth a thousand times of fun

I hate to see you slowly go by  
I can't wait to see you next time  
I guess it's time to say good-bye  
And wave a hi to Eid this time



By: Duaa Elrigouba, 9th

## Ramadan Door Competition

### Winners!

*And The Winners Are...*



1st Grade!



6th Grade!



11th Grade Girls!