



What is the significance of the Lantern?

The lantern or **Fanous** comes from Greek origin and translates to "candle".
The term signifies "light in the darkness" or "hope".

The Fanous first gained popularity in ancient Egypt when the community would gather on the first day of Ramadan with their lanterns in hand.

Since then it has been used as a way to brighten up the streets and bring color to Ramadan.

Today, the Fanous is commonly seen in many Muslim countries and homes as decoration.



What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic Lunar calendar.

It is believed to be the month in which the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed by God to Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Muslims fast from dawn to dusk during the whole month. They abstain from food and drink during daylight hours.

Fasting, engaging in acts of worship, and charity bring them closer to God.

Ramadan is a spiritual time for Muslims to purify their souls and body.

Some of the benefits of fasting include:

- Compassion for the less fortunate
- Builds self control and discipline
- Purify your body and soul



What does the Crescent mean?

Although the Islamic faith does not traditionally practice iconic imagery; the crescent moon became a cultural symbol back in the Ottoman Empire under the Turkish rule of Osman in 1453.

It has since been a cultural symbol synonymous with Muslims around the world.

The Islamic calendar is based off a lunar month where each new month is determined by the appearance of a new "crescent moon".

Ramadan changes every year. Since a lunar year is 10 days shorter than a solar year, the time of year of Ramadan cycles backwards annually through the seasons.



What is EID & how is it celebrated?

The end of Ramadan is marked with a joyous day called **Eid-Al-Fitr** which means *"the festival of breaking the fast"*.

Muslims celebrate by attending special congregational prayers and listening to a special sermon in the morning at the Mosque.

After prayer, Muslims hug each other and say "Eid Mubarak" which means "holiday blessings".

Adults and children dress in their best clothes. A celebration takes place with friends and family to mark the end of fasting.

The house is decorated with lights and holiday decor. Children are often rewarded with gifts and money.