

RAMADAN

during **the year**

CORONA

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

الرعاية
نحو مجتمع متكافل

EDITED BY:

Jan Vincens Steen



Day 1:

-Maryam-

you **celebrate** it with all close friends and it fill your heart with love.



Day 2:

-Ruba-

Well this year 2020 had a lot of surprises that we did not expect it to come, like the **revelation & Corona virus**. Thus this year indeed Muslims face a little bit of difficulties in the Ramadan month; because of the virus is still spreading and there is fear of it and what might happen soon, visiting our friends and family members and being together in iftar and having fun together isn't now like the previous years before. Moreover, even celebrating the Eid will not be enjoyable too... But due to social media which has a lot of importance in our life it made things much simple and easier in Ramadan, so we still **have fun** and **enjoy** it with our **lovely people** we know...

Day3:

-Zeinab-

2020's Ramadan's true essence was robbed by **the vicious and widespread corona**. I miss the street**lights** and **shiny ornaments**, the warmth of my cousins' bodies as we embrace each other, the anticipation on iftar, and most importantly the appetite to eat. It is true that delicious, drool-worthy smells roam each house, but deep down we are all overwhelmed by loneliness and exasperation and missing our loved ones who are miles away. However, we remind ourselves that it is for their and our own sake and safety, so we endure and eat our meals in thick silence and fill our hearts with gratitude. **This Ramadan we keep on roaming the hallways of our memories. Taking long strolls down our memory lanes. Because that is all we can do for now.**

Day4:

-Rana-

The year 2020 is full of **painful** memories. Every Ramadan, **we and the family were gathering and breaking together and having fun**, but now there are no mosques or restaurants. **We eat just because we are hungry but from inside we are not happy we just also stay on social media talking with friends to make time pass quickly** and Inshalla next Ramadan will be free from corona and spending time with beautiful people that we are missing them.

Day5:

-Dana-

During the time of the Corona, Ramadan came, closed mosques, street revolution, closed shops. So, **we only have our homes left time is closed with recitation of the noble Quran, prayer and forgiveness.** It is also known that Ramadan is the month of prayer. In addition, we are making our food, because there are no restaurants to go to. **Ramadan Karim.**



Day 6:

-Marwa-

An Eccedentesiast (originated from Latin) is the term used for someone who hides pain behind a smile, this seems kind of relatable in the current situation. Today is day six of Ramadan. This month passes by as soon as it arrives, just like a cloud in a blue summer sky, like the rain in winter that nourishes faith, and like blossoms in spring simply because it's a discrete kind of beauty. When I was a kid I used to sit next to mom and repetitively ask her; can we eat yet? It's been 10 years and I realized that... I haven't changed at all still keeping the tradition. **This saga perhaps had not reached the climax yet, this perspective makes us the protagonists which gives us the freedom of changing our own reality by simply appreciating the little joyful things we have in life. Even if dark thoughts lurk in the dusk, and that is what Ramadan is all about.**

Day 7:

-Haneen-

Although there is a Corona virus, **people are doomed to not go anywhere for fear of this virus, but they gather in their homes to increase communication between everyone to check in Talking about the virus with the advent of the month of Ramadan has become little Every year Ramadan and the weather come very hot,** but this year, in 2020, Ramadan came with cool air breezes, to make everyone feel **comfortable and beautiful breezes**. So, let's take a look at it positively to improve the situation.

Day 8:

-Zahraa-

Today is the eighth of the holy Ramadan. **I ask God our protector in this life and in the everlasting life. And in heaven to strengthen our faith. Keep us healthy. and take us to paradise. and save us from diseases**. It is now about two o'clock time of waking up. So i begin my day doing housework. Then I read the holy Quran, following a plan that i put for Ramadan the month of charity and forgiveness So my program is as follows I wake up at noon, do house chores and read Quran Kareem and I finish at about five o'clock time of iftar preparation and helping mom in food preparation. At evening, its iftar time so we break our fasting by eating together. Then we as a family we watch a program. Then I visit a friend. After that i take a walk in our camp enjoying **Ramadan atmosphere** and **watching the smile of people in Ramadan despite poverty and suffering because they believe that God never gives them up**. This is how i spend Ramadan wishing the coming days to be better.

Day 9:

-Maya-

Three months ago, we did not know that all these events would happen. Of course, we were enthusiastic about Ramadan like every year and we were wondering how this year will be in school. But none of us expected this year to differ from previous years. Because of Corona, schools were closed and after a while the mosques were also closed ... and then a curfew was issued. After this decision, we had to spend Ramadan in our homes, without gathering with our relatives for iftar, without going to mosques for tarawih ... Of course, **we felt that Ramadan this year was strange. But despite all this, there were positive aspects. Most of us took advantage of this opportunity and tried to draw closer to God and the family ... as we knew the value of the least blessings that we possess.** Finally, **the only thing we can say is thank God for everything.**

Day 10:

-Salam-

The month of Ramadan in which the Quran was revealed, is a month of **worship and drawing closer to God.** We often **pray, ask forgiveness, recite that perhaps God forgive us our sins, and we abound in it in alms, feeding the orphan and the poor.** **The most beautiful thing in my daily time in Ramadan is the tarawih prayer** that we perform in congregation with the family as it gives joy and spirituality for this blessed month. However, in this month of the year, the atmosphere differ somewhat due to the appearance of the Corona virus as mosques are closed. We refrain from inviting loved ones and relatives to participate in breakfasts. **We ask God in this holy month to remove from the countries of Muslims and the whole world this epidemic and protect us from the evil of disease.**

Day 11:



-Farah-

When we were young, we were always taught that **we fast during Ramadan to feel with those who are always hungry**. We also learned that it is the month to fight poverty and support charitable projects. What **differs this year is not only the Coronavirus in Lebanon but also the increase of number of families that can't put food on the iftar table, the hungry children who had their basic rights taken away from them, the homeless who cannot afford the rent, and the sick old people who in no way are having access to the medicine they need**. Nobody can now deny the economic crisis in Lebanon nor can they ignore the misery and devastating effects it has had on the livelihood of people. The devaluation of the Lebanese Lira and the insane rise in the prices of products has made the poor poorer. It's so easy for us to judge the protesters and tell them to stay home due to **COVID-19**, but as long as we have food on our table and roofs above our heads, we have absolutely no right to blame the hungry. Thankfully, **Ramadan's spirit is still there in people's hearts**, for some of them are **trying their best to prepare iftar for other families and help those in need**. **Ramadan this year may be different**, but what I find beautiful about it is that it is truly finally bringing people **together**. It is uniting them against in justice and the theft and robbery of Lebanese politicians.

Day 12:

-Maryam-

Yeah, we **celebrate Ramadan!** It is the **holiest month of Islamic calendar!** We all wait for it and keep fast during the whole month of Ramadan. It **creates a peaceful atmosphere everywhere and keeps everyone away from bad deeds. Surely Muslims come closer and closer to Allah! There comes a night hours before Fajr prayer which is one of the odd nights! That is called as Lailatul Qadar! It's the greatest of all the nights and the one who prays during that night gets the reward equal to praying for thousand years' nights!** Before Iftar, my mom, me and my sister prepare big feast for Iftar like juices, shakes, fried chips, samosas, sauces, dates etc! and then comes the time of Iftar. At that time, every wish of the person (who fasts) is fulfilled by Allah Almighty! After the end of Ramadan, the Muslims are gifted with Eid-ul-Fitr and it is their reward from Allah Almighty as they had fast during the whole month! We enjoy a lot on Eid!

I am Blessed that I am bestowed with this Month which is the spring of good deeds and no doubt I am proud to be a Muslim!

Despite all the circumstances Ramadan is more beautiful with family and friends, although we sometimes communicate with them remotely. Ramadan brings us together.



Day 13:

-Ruba-

It is day 13 of Ramadan month, and we are still in the quarantine. We are **afraid that the catastrophic pandemic virus raises its power again and hit the whole world with a new wave, that is what scientists said**. Overall, in this situation, we are still **celebrating in this special month**. even through such **difficulties**, we are **trying our best to take care and be safe at home and only get out for urgent needs**. Thus, in such difficult days the Lebanese people are trying to give a hand to the people who are in need, and do their own religious rituals (**chorus, fasting, etc...**). Moreover, now about 30% of religious places can open their doors once again for the prayers. That allows hope and faith in God to surround us; praying to God and hoping everything will be good as it was before and better is the way which makes us strong.

Day 14:

-Ahmad-

This year's Ramadan is **different** because of the **corona virus**. We do not meet with the family like usual and have a big meal together, but we are still enjoying our daily life in Ramadan. And because of the lock down I do not go with my friends and that make me feel bored and alone, but we have to be patient and wait for this to end up. Mosques are locked but we can pray at home. We have to pray for all the poor people, we have to pray to all the sick people, we have to pray for all homeless people and most importantly we have to pray for our family for their health. And **we all must GIVE the poor food and clothes. Ramadan teaches us patience, strong will, and makes us feel with the poor that have nothing to eat so we should always give and not take**.

Day 15:

-Zeinab-

So, we meet again... Well that sounded quite dramatic. Though this whole year feels like a drama series in which way too many characters are getting killed off. However, **Ramadan knocked** our doors 16 days ago, **to cleanse us from our sins and embrace us with its warmth and solace**... The times remain when the shadows of loneliness creep into my heart and fear strikes my soul, yet i try to ward them off by face timing my family members whom i miss with my whole being and by being productive. You see, I have been writing pieces of poetry and poems a lot lately. Well way more than i used to before quarantine. It just seems like these times no matter how frightening or infuriating, are also inspiring. Moreover, I find my true comfort and solace in writing, for my problems and doubts seem to be temporarily forgotten when i spill them through the ink of my pen. And i hope you find what calms your soul down too. These scary times require serious precautions. Personally, I am doing my duty by remaining at home. On the other hand, when surveying the streets, my heart twinges when i see people ignorantly walking down the street without wearing any gloves or medical masks whatsoever. **I hope that everybody knows the vicious corona is still lurking in the shadows of our own carelessness, waiting for an opportunity to attack again.** The number of casualties might have deteriorated majorly, but it is never gone. The battle is still on, but we shall win, for we would not be in this battle if we weren't capable of slaying our enemy and outdoing it



Day 16:

-Marwa-

Today has passed and I can gladly say that **I am satisfied with how it went**. At 3am mom woke up my little brother we sat around and had a late Shour, my brother was in a rush to get back to his studies, he was feeling down lately since it's his senior year and its wasted down the drain, so being the very loud and lousy lump I am, I crashed into his room and sat on his books, then proceeded to make cringe worthy and cheesy jokes until I totally distracted him from his studying and threw his schedule down the gutter, but it was worth it. I like how we rush with glasses of water to each other's rooms trying to make sure everyone is hydrated before it is dawn, you know what they say... because I don't. We watched the sunrise with the birds chirping and the occasional calling of our neighbour to buy her some crackers for her birds. We are contemplating that she may have a whole species of birds in her house they keep her accompanied. Or she just wanted to live in a jungle when she was a kid. Mom tells us to sleep earlier but we stretch the rules a bit especially because mom stretches them out more than we, though sometimes I forgot she is my mom when she chases us through the halls to tickle us., in fact I forget that I'm sixteen. Then we sleep, I try to break my record and sleep for sixteen hours and when I can't fall asleep, I can always ask my brother if he fell asleep, he always answers me "no I'm just training to die" so I make sure he suffocates under the pillow. Because that is what siblings are for, to choke you under a pillow when you need it, then we end up staring at the ceiling and wandering what does the chandelier's shadow really looks like. We pray together afterwards, my sister always has to drag me to pray with her and I don't mind the free lift, so I just let her do it. Eventually there is Eftar which we kick-off by dates. Then water where everyone is trying to feed you, followed by more puns and jokes, and when they can't handle the awful joke I make sure I end it with an awfully stupid comment or a movie reference like **"pain is only in the body"** until they disown me. Which is like music to my ears; now that you have heard all about my fantastic table etiquette, **I can gladly end my diary here.**

Day 17:

-Zahraa-

Some people's disasters are other's benefits

With the re-emergence of the Corona virus in Lebanon, it brought back problems, sadness, and despair to the citizens. After we started opening the country, roads and works in the hope that we would return close to the previous situation.

Frustrated by the lack of work and poor living. Frustrated with all this obscene cost in the whole country. Families who are unable to secure a livelihood or even afford the breakfast that every fasting person desire on his hard day. The situation of all people has become hopeless and helpless, what will they do? How will they cope with this bad situation?

When will the virus be released? When will this epidemic end and life return to normal? When will all people return to their deeds, works, schools and universities? **I pray to God to have mercy on His servants and to end this epidemic.**



Day 18:

-Rana-

Ramadan is the Muslim holy month. **Ramadan is about praying, family time and thinking about and giving to people less fortunate. Ramadan is a time for me to reflect and appreciate what I have. Ramadan is about asking for forgiveness, and all that lovely food your mum makes, lol!!!**

In this month we can erase all the bad deeds that we have done. I proud that I am Muslim. Ramadan is holy month. We all too happy and healthy in Ramadan. Also forbidden to fight in Ramadan. All mothers make too delicious meal every evening and we invite our relative to together break the fast. Ramadan Month has one most important day, this day's name is Kadir Night. Quran started to come to world in this day. And in this day, Allah accept all prayers. We do not know which day is Kadir Night we only guess it maybe 27. night in Ramadan month. And we make a lot of prayer pretend in Kadir night in the last ten days. **All Muslim love Ramadan.**

Day 19:

-Dana-

Ramadan Kareem for everyone

Ramadan is recognized as the month of piety and faith. Ramadan this year came in difficult times for our country.

The most difficult thing is that our mosques are closed and receive no one. Much went. But little remained. Ask God to eradicate the Corona virus. Our day passes by prayer and recitation of the Holy Quran القرآن. Despite all the hardships, we have faith and hope within us. In addition, the price of food has become awfully expensive. There are poor families who have difficulties in this situation. The situation will improve. **Do not forget to pray in your prayers, so that you may be proactive with joy. God bless you.**



Day 20:

-Farah-

During these times, we must admit that it is hard to stay **positive**, **take care of our mental health and try to be as productive as possible with the Ramadan activities**. As known, Ramadan is the holiest month in the year for Muslims. It is dedicated to prayer, Quran recitation, fasting and introspection. However, fasting is not only about abstaining from eating and drinking from dawn till dusk, it is also about refraining from all what had possibly made you a bad Muslim before. **Ramadan is usually our spiritual “pause” to rearrange our priorities, look at our life more thoughtfully and mindfully, and get closer to our Creator**. Although the sudden changes in our lifestyles we’re facing due to quarantine have definitely made practicing self-discipline and being our best Muslim selves more challenging, I still believe that the spirit of Ramadan was all we needed to promote faith, positivity, mercy and the power of the will during this period of history.

Day 21:

-Maya-

Yesterday we started the countdown of Ramadan (last ten days). This year of Ramadan, as we mentioned in the past days, was different from the rest of the years. But day after day we got used to it, at first, we used to say how, no, it is impossible ... Today and after 21 days, we can say that we were exaggerating a little, but this thing is normal because we were living/experiencing it for the first time. Usually these days (last ten days) we used to prepare ourselves for Eid (buy clothes, accessories ...), but Eid this year can be different as well. Until now, nobody knows what will happen. **Will we celebrate Eid with the family? Will it be a normal day like any other day? Will the situation remain like this?**

.....

.....

Things are still unknown, but of course, I wish you goodness, happiness, safety, peace of mind, health, and wellness for everyone ...

HAPPY EID TO EVERYONE! ♥



Day 22:

-Salam-

There, Ramadan has come to end and we started in the last ten days these days there are freed from the fire, and we start to pray for every think we wish for. We ask God to allow forgiveness and success. The night of fate in which the Quran was revealed has come, and for Muslims this favourite and beautiful night is because on this night, all Muslims raise supplications, prayer, the Quran, and worship of God alone. but this **Ramadan we ask everyone to pray to lift the scourge and epidemic from this country, and if we refrain from going to the mosques to pray and read the Quran on this night because of the epidemic that befell us , there is no objection to sitting in our homes and praying and worshipping God at home** . and after this night comes the joy of Eid that all children love because they buy new clothes and toys. and people go to visit and return relative. **We hope that next year will be better.**

Day 23:

-Ahmad-

Ramadan is about to end, and Eid is coming. In this Eid although we will not see our family as we usually do. But **we should not give up**, we can still have time with our family by video calls and we should. **Stay Home**. So happy Eid everyone must stay at home. **And stay safe.**

Ramadan this year I saw how sad the world is. Perhaps Ramadan will come next year, as we are used to.

Day 24:

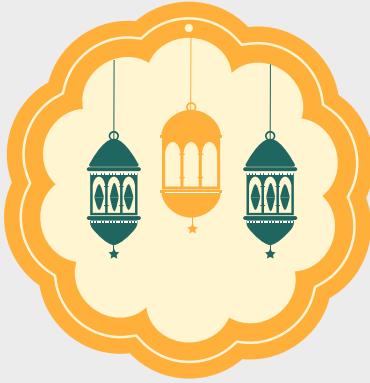
-Reem-

My diary as written by a Palestinian young woman who looks normal. I live with and in my grandmother's home. Since she is an elderly woman, I help her in the household either in cleaning the house or helping her in cooking. Then I watch TV and follow some cultural program before I take our food to my uncle's house to eat with the family. Now we are preparing the table and waiting the call to prayer. When we finish the meal, I go to pray, then read a book, and go to sleep.

Day 25:

-Layla-

Do not ask me how to spend my days in Ramadan. This year is not the years that passed my routine these days. I wake up at noon, read the Quran. I pray to my Lord to help me in my life Keep my beloved to me.... , and then bring food preparation with my family. It permits the Maghrib prayer. We all gather at one table to eat, and then we pray and watch until dawn. I really miss the wig of family and friends at the breakfast table I miss Tarawih, prayers in mosques But because of the Corona virus, we were deprived of them. **We ask God Almighty to release us and all the countries, because in Ramadan this year I saw how sad the world is. Perhaps Ramadan will come next year, as we are used to. Not forget to pray in your prayers, so that you may be proactive with joy. God bless you.**



Day 26:

-Hadeel-

Was it a **vivid dream** or is it **reality**? **We wake up to daily news of new corona virus cases.** Though it is Ramadan, Muslims have barely felt the usually holy spirit of this month. It is a pandemic after all, but a pandemic of not only a disease, a pandemic of greed and misfortune to people with low income. As Muslims we should have mercy on each other, but honestly those supermarkets taking double, no! triple the price of daily needs to avoid starvation. **As in for me as an individual, I can proudly say that I am helping the non-governmental organizations who share meals of food before Iftar, of course wearing a mask and gloves. This pandemic though a person should keep distance, it should bring people together for the greater good. You stay at home for your kids, staff members, and the whole population. It is no doubt a tough time, but our faith in Allah stays as clear as ever.** Past Ramadan's have been drastically different, people would go out to cafes until Suhur, go visit family members and friends. Now, that our freedom is restricted, it is home sweet home. For everyone's sake, for your sake and for your loved one's sake, **Stay home!**

Day 27:

-Ghina-

This year was a disaster for everyone, but we should keep our faith in God especially in this pandemic and through this holy month. **Ramadan! This month is special and blessed since the gates of heaven are opened.** The spirit of Eid this year is not like any other year. Most people will not buy new clothes and enjoy their day with their families. However, **we do not have to be sad, we can benefit from it.** Even though you are in quarantine, revive Eid spirit, turn on your TV and listen to Eid's sermon, dress your best and live this Eid's joy because it may not repeat. **Make beautiful memories.**

قال تعالى:

ومن يعظم شعائر الله فإنها من تقوى القلوب «



Day 28:

-Ruba-

Oh! There is still a few days and Ramadan's Mubarak days will end and Eid Mubarak will be after it. Yet, **we are still finding out that; that catastrophic virus is more spreading in our Lebanese country day by day**. Not only that, but also the hot weather which appears in the last week of Ramadan made it difficult to Muslims to handle. Moreover, *year 2020 was totally full of surprises to the whole world that none of us expected would happen! Eid this year is going to be celebrated by the most close family members (grandparents, mom and dad, and siblings) and social distancing, cause it is not acceptable to go out with friends and the other part of the family. But we used the social media network to make this to be safer and closer in these days.* Also, since it is the time of Laylat al-Qadr people are praying more to God hoping this disaster will end soon and things will get back normal and even better than before. **We all know that this thing take time, but what else can we do than pray and be hopeful to God to forgive...**



Day 29:

-Maryam-

Now, Alhamdulillah, the twenty ninth day is finishing, and our egos are saying. **«One more is gone; one more is gone of Holy Ramadan!»** Our souls are crying but our egos are laughing, enjoying so much. «Oh, fasting is going quickly. Then, after Ramadan finishes, each day we may eat – two times, three times, five times a day, like animals; ten times eating, enjoying». But our souls, our spirits, are crying. They are taking this divine manifestation, these Mercy Oceans, which are coming now. When Ramadan is over, that will stop because it is only for one month. The one who may carry with him the same actions, the same intentions, as during Ramadan, will be in the same manifestation of mercy during the whole year. But the one who leaves them, that mercy will leave him, also. **Therefore, you must be careful when Ramadan is finished, asking from our Lord, «Our Lord, leave me, leave my heart, to be with Ramadan.**

Bodily I am going away from Ramadan, but let my soul be in those Mercy Oceans that You opened during Ramadan.» Then you will swim in those Mercy Oceans until the next Ramadan, and that next one will be more than this one, because our Lord's giving is not like ours or like what we understand. His giving is out of our imagination, and this year's mercy is more than that which passed one year ago. This blessing, these Mercy Oceans, are so great that the past Ramadan's mercy is only one drop compared to the Mercy Ocean of this year. He is Allah; He gives. You must understand from this how Allah Almighty gives without end; yes. This year's mercy is only a drop beside the next Ramadan's Mercy Oceans, always increasing.

Allah Almighty never likes a person to be on the same route every day. Every day you must grow, must become more, must ask more. And we are asking, **«Our Lord, given to us from Your Mercy Oceans. We do not know what to ask. As much as we may ask, it is nothing beside what You are giving us. Then You give to us, Our Lord»**