

Nadia Maigari
**Understanding Ramadan
in America**



Islam is not Islam without the holy month of Ramadan, which is fasting for straight twenty-nine or thirty days. And by fasting, I mean you're not allowed to eat

or drink unless the sun is down, which is about 8:30 pm. During the holy month, it is very important for a person to stay very clean (word choice and actions), praying on time and doing more religious things such as reciting supplications. Fasting during the holy month elevates your position in the eyes of God. It shows how much respect you have for your religion and yourself.

The holy month of Ramadan really means so much to me because it brings me closer to my Lord and makes my religion stronger. In Ramadan, I know for sure I can't miss a prayer so that behavior sticks with me during and after Ramadan

I've lived in Egypt my all my life where most people are Muslims, which makes Ramadan common and well-known. People as a whole community fast and celebrate. However, when moving to the USA, it was hard to find Muslims around makes me. I found that others felt a little weird about Ramadan. In Egypt, during Ramadan, I was used to seeing everyone fasting, but here in USA, it's a whole different story. When I go out, people offer me food, and when I'd tell them I'm fasting, many people asked, "What is that?" I was shocked because I just thought everyone knew the meaning of Ramadan. But I guess I was wrong. Some Americans have no knowledge on what Islam is to know the meaning of Ramadan. So instead of judging them, I take time to explain what Ramadan is really. I want to educate people others about the holiest month in Islam because it is meaningful to me.