



Ramadan 1441

April – May 2020

Excellency Dear Sheikh ul-Islam Allahshukur Pasha-Zadeh,

al-salamu alaykum wa rahmatAllah e Ramadan Mubarak, in-sha'Allah

May the Peace and Mercy of Allah be upon you and best wishes for a blessed Ramadan!

This year the month of Ramadan comes as a blessing in a time of international health emergency. There is unpreparedness and ignorance about the contagion and the nature of the virus which undermines the health of thousands of people in all regions of the world. There is unpreparedness and ignorance about the consequences of this pandemic on politics, the economy and the society. For us Muslims, the most evident sign of this crisis is Makkah being empty, the pilgrims who no longer turn around the *Ka'ba* in *baytAllah*, the house of the Lord, the calls of the muezzins from the minarets of the mosques in Africa and Asia that invite Muslims to pray in their homes, in the intimacy of the family but by sacrificing the fraternal and community participation in mosques in order to secure the priority of health for all.

Yet, *alhamdulillah*, praise be to Allah, Ramadan has returned again this year and it is present!

In a *hadith*, a prophetic teaching transmitted by al-Bukhari and Muslim, Allah says: "every act of the son of Adam belongs to him except fasting, this belongs to Me and I pay the price". Muslims who practice fasting from sunrise to sunset this month realize this hospitality of the fast of Allah and receive the spiritual benefits of this sacrifice of purification and sacred knowledge.



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This year, the evening recitation of the Revelation of Allah in the book of the Holy Quran and the long prayers of *tarawih* will have to be done in isolation anticipating the retreat that some devout Muslims make during the last ten days and nights of this month of Ramadan.

Each Muslim must discover in his fast, prayer and recitation, the company of the prophet Muhammad, *sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*, and represent the *ummah*, the community of his faithful companions, without the visible support of physical but only spiritual brotherhood. .

Just as Abu Bakr al-Siddiq did in his moments of solitude with the messenger of Islam: together they still represent an excellence of brotherhood in the common practice of holy patience awaiting future moments of liberation and circulation with other believers and citizens of all cultures and faith.

The COREIS (Islamic Religious Community) Italiana in 2020 has modulated its program for the month of Ramadan, paying attention to the poor homeless, to Muslim inmates who do not have the opportunity to receive visits to Prison institutes and families of Islamic communities who need material support, all affected by the consequences of this pandemic, in Lombardy, Piedmont, Veneto, Liguria, Lazio, Calabria and Sicily.

We are happy to offer the gift of a reading of a chapter in Arabic and Italian from the Holy Quran: the chapter of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary's fasting and her retirement, first from her people and then in the desert to the East, waiting for the miraculous birth of Jesus, she always finds the support of angels and food that nourish her faith in the Merciful.

In this way, we hope to offer a small comfort in the renewal of a communication that unites people and believers about the essence of life.

Many thanks for your kind wishes, please receive as well for a generous *Ramadan Karim!*

al-salamu alaykum wa rahmatAllah

Imam Yahya Pallavicini