

UAE astronaut sends Ramadan greetings from space

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An Emirati astronaut has sent an end-of-Ramadan greeting from space. Sultan al-Neyadi, 41, sent an Eid al-Fitr message to the world from the International Space Station. Eid al-Fitr is a short holiday that marks the end of the

holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and service to community. Mr al-Neyadi is on a six-month mission in space. He will be the first Arab to complete a spacewalk when he undertakes a six-hour task of maintaining and upgrading equipment on the orbiting space station. In his Eid message, al-Neyadi said: "May this special occasion bring peace, happiness, and prosperity to the whole world."

Mr al-Neyadi has shared a lot of footage of Earth while on his mission. In particular, he has transfixed millions of Muslims with images of the holy site of Mecca glowing in the dark of night. His achievements have ignited an interest in technology among his compatriots in the UAE. He has received many questions about fasting in space. Most adult Muslims are required to fast from dawn to dusk as one of the five Pillars of Islam. Al-Neyadi explained that fasting was different in space. This is because he has to avoid activities "that could jeopardize the mission or put crew members at risk." He said he needed sufficient food "to prevent any escalation of a lack of nutrition or hydration".

Sources: al-Arabiya.com / space.com / khaleejtimes.com

Writing

Everyone should pray at, celebrate and observe religious events. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

astronaut / Ramadan / greetings / space / holiday / fasting / prayer / reflection / Eid / Earth / mission / holy / Mecca / dawn / dusk / activities / crew / nutrition / hydration

True / False

- 1) An astronaut received many Ramadan greetings while in space. T / F
- 2) Ramadan marks the end of Eid-al-Fitr. T / F
- 3) The astronaut will be the first Arab to do a spacewalk. T / F
- 4) The astronaut has to paint the outside of the space station. T / F
- 5) The astronaut sent images of Mecca at night back to Earth. T / F
- 6) People in the UAE are now becoming more interested in technology. T / F
- 7) The astronaut said fasting in space and on Earth was the same. T / F
- 8) The astronaut said he decided to eat enough to do his job properly. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. message | a. fascinated |
| 2. marks | b. tackles |
| 3. reflection | c. wealth |
| 4. undertakes | d. threaten |
| 5. prosperity | e. indicates |
| 6. transfixed | f. insufficiency |
| 7. dusk | g. rise |
| 8. jeopardize | h. note |
| 9. escalation | i. twilight |
| 10. lack | j. contemplation |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Would you like to be an astronaut?
- c) What do you know about the holy site of Mecca?
- d) What do you know about the five Pillars of Islam?
- e) Is a month a good length of time for Ramadan?
- f) Should all countries make the Eids national holidays?
- g) How important is the moon in your culture?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Mr al-Neyadi?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. an end-of-Ramadan | a. equipment |
| 2. a month of fasting, prayer, | b. from dawn to dusk |
| 3. maintaining and upgrading | c. hydration |
| 4. on the orbiting | d. greeting from space |
| 5. bring peace, happiness, and prosperity | e. the mission |
| 6. images of the holy | f. space station |
| 7. ignited | g. site of Mecca |
| 8. Muslims are required to fast | h. reflection, and service |
| 9. avoid activities that could jeopardize | i. to the whole world |
| 10. a lack of nutrition or | j. an interest |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Ramadan?
- What greeting would you give to the world?
- What do you think of going into space?
- How spiritual is fasting from dawn to dusk?
- Should we all pray every day?
- How often do you reflect on your life?
- What service do you do for your community?
- What would bring peace and prosperity to the world?

Spelling

- An amriEit astronaut
- derbvseo by Muslims worldwide
- fasting, prayer, fclenoteri and service
- maintaining and upgrading nqemptiue
- on the iritnbgo space station
- happiness and tspiperryo
- shared a lot of etfoago of Earth
- among his tsctroiaomp
- iajopezder the mission
- He said he needed ifuiensftc food
- prevent any etclasoani
- a lack of ounttniir or hydration

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. I	8. d	9. g	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Praying

You think praying is the best religious act. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their acts aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): fasting, reading holy books or gift giving.

Role B – Fasting

You think fasting is the best religious act. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their acts aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): praying, reading holy books or gift giving.

Role C – Reading Holy Books

You think reading holy books is the best religious act. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their acts aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): fasting, praying or gift giving.

Role D – Gift Giving

You think gift giving is the best religious act. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their acts aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): fasting, reading holy books or praying.

Speaking – Religious Actions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| • Praying | • Donating to charity |
| • Fasting | • Community service |
| • Reflection | • Reading holy books |
| • Gift giving | • Attending services |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.