

## **The Great Spiritual Awakening - Part II by Faisal Ally**

First Edition - April 4 2023

(For Part I - See Diverse City Magazine 2022 - Christmas edition)

This article was first published on [www.allymedia.ca](http://www.allymedia.ca) on April 4, 2023. There will be an update to this first edition with more research information.

This article briefly looks at some of the recent and upcoming religious celebrations.

Section I - Easter 2023

Section II - The Month of Ramadan

Section III- A glance at other World Religion celebrations

### **Section I - Easter 2023**

This year 2023, Easter Sunday falls on April 9, 2023, where Lent had commenced on Wednesday February 22 through April 6, for a period of forty days, excluding Sundays, During this time of each year, Christians across the world fasts, staying away from certain foods and habits. Ash Wednesday had taken place on February 22, 2023, which marked the beginning of lent.

Good Friday will be on Friday, April 7 where millions of Christians across the world will attend church services. There will also be many celebrations such as many enjoying chocolate and hard-boiled colored Easter eggs, parades, baking cakes and reading books, followed by Easter Sunday which takes place on April 9, 2023. In some places Easter is also celebrated by flying kites.

Parts of the original article were first publication in Diverse City Magazine, April 2017 Edition Article: Easter Celebration, p.6 by Faisal Ally was modified along with some new sections. New updates published in May 2018. This year, 2022, this is a new edition of the same article.

Reference:

- 1) Diverse City Magazine April 2017 Edition, Easter Celebration by Faisal Ally, p.6, 19
- 2) Diverse City Magazine, Easter 2018 (Diverse-city-magazine-apr3-2018-edition-PDF), Published on April 3, 2018 at [www.allymedia.ca](http://www.allymedia.ca), Easter Celebration by F. Ally on p.6
- 3)GPL urges: Fly your kites, but keep away from power lines  
<https://newsroom.gy/2022/04/12/gpl-urges-fly-your-kites-but-keep-away-from-power-lines/>; By Editor\_On Apr 12, 2022 Last updated Apr 12, 2022

Further reading material for people looking for quick information on Easter:

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co>.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/easter-dates-meaning-behind-good-friday-easter-sunday-easter/>; article - Easter 2018: Forbidden eggs, Eostre and how the date is decided  
Photos licensed from [www.depositphotos.com](http://www.depositphotos.com) with some of their description of photos

Here are some quotes from the Bible that can uplift all of us during these dark times. “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

“Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart” (Psalm 97:11)

John 10:10

The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Luke 10:19

Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.

And on that day you will say, ‘Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted.’ Praise the LORD in song, for He has done glorious things; let this be known throughout the earth.’ (Isaiah 12:4-5)

Mark 10:27

Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”

Psalm 91:9-10;14-16

If you make the Lord your refuge,  
If you make the Most High your shelter,  
No evil will conquer you;  
No plague will come near your home.  
The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me.  
I will protect those who trust in my name.  
When they call on me, I will answer;  
I will be with them in trouble.  
I will rescue and honor them.  
I will reward them with a long life  
And give them my salvation.”

Proverbs 4:20-23

My child, pay attention to what I say.  
Listen carefully to my words.  
Don’t lose sight of them.  
Let them penetrate deep into your heart,  
For they bring life to those who find them,  
And healing to their whole body.  
Guard your heart above all else,

For it determines the course of your life.

Quotes can be found in the Bible and also from websites as mentioned below.

[Kingdomway.ca/39-verses-to-meditate-on-when-you-need-healing/](http://Kingdomway.ca/39-verses-to-meditate-on-when-you-need-healing/)

[Kingdomway.ca/39-verses-to-meditate-on-when-you-need-healing/](http://Kingdomway.ca/39-verses-to-meditate-on-when-you-need-healing/)

[loveworthfinding.ca/discover-jesus](http://loveworthfinding.ca/discover-jesus)

## **Section II - The Month of Ramadan**

The month of Ramadan is a month of fasting and worshipping for Muslims around the world. This year the month of Ramadan begins on March 22, 2023 for most around the world and goes on for 29 or 30 days, and will most likely end on April 20, 2023. Millions will be fasting during this months, from sunrise to sunset, where the hours vary depending on where you live. In the book Teach yourself Islam by Ruqaiyyah Waris Maqsood on p.77 states, 'Ramadan is seen as the most significant of months, a time of spiritual and physical discipline, and a time for making extra effort to spread love, peace and reconciliation.' The author states that Muslims are involved in cultivating 'a peaceful and prayerful attitude of mind' by fasting for the month with self restraint and giving up food, liquids and other habits during the fasting hours for this month.

According to the book, 'The meaning of the Glorious Quran by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Volume 1 (Text, Translation and Commentary) p. 72 - 74 (Preface to the First Edition, 1934) it states:

O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you

As it was prescribed, to those before you, that ye may (learn) Self-restraint - (Surah II: 182)

Fasting is a command from the Almighty. The Quran further states: (Fasting) for a fixed number of days; But if any of you is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed number (Should be made up) from days later... (Surah II: 184)

The Quran states: Ramadhan is the (month) in which was sent down the Quran, as a guide to mankind, also clear (signs) for guidance and judgment (between right and wrong)...during that month should spend it in fasting. (Surah II: 185)

During the month of Ramadan, many Muslims are occupied with not only the five daily prayers which are Fajr (dawn) prayer, followed by Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha. Muslims who are dedicated goes beyond the five prayers where after Isha is the Tawareeh prayer where Muslims reads the complete Quran through the month of Ramadan, and after Tawareeh is the witr prayer. Also many Muslims also prays Tahajud prayed during the night. Thus many Muslims are not only doing the five daily prayers, but are doing seven, eight or more prayers a day, spending their time in the purification of the heart and becoming more spiritual.

In the book 'Being Muslim by Haroon Siddiqui', on p. 68, the author says, "The last ten days are considered to be the most blessed, and Muslims make an extra effort to stay awake and pray."

In the book Teach yourself Islam by Ruqaiyyah Waris Maqsood on page 80, Maqsood states that during the last ten days of fasting, some Muslims 'withdraw altogether from ordinary life and go into retreat' where they devote time during the day and night to their practice of prayers, Quranic reading, dhikr. During this time some men, including older teenagers will also remain inside the Masjid and also sleep there for the last ten days.

Laylat ul Qadr is the night when the revelations of the first verses of the Quran first began to Prophet Mohammad. Laylat ul Qadr is translated to the 'Night of Power.' It is not certain which night this is, but this night often takes place on the 27th Ramadan. However, scholars say that this night could be any one of the odd nights during the last ten days of Ramadan. Because Muslims take the time to plan and make an extra effort in their practice e during the last ten days the blessings are tremendous.

#### Eid celebration

It's been a month of reflections and now it's time to celebrate - reflect and celebrate - as the month of fasting concludes with the Eid ul fitr celebration.

The Book of Assistance by Imam 'Abdallah Ibn 'Alawi Al-Haddad Of the Twelfth Islamic Century (1101 - 1200) on p.31 states that a person 'should set aside one or more hours' (within a 24 hour day) for reflection. It states that 'the best time for reflection (reading and studying the Quran and seek knowledge) is the one in which are the least preoccupation, worries, and most potential for the heart to be present, such as the depths of the night.' On p.33 it states, 'This kind of reflection results in losing all desires of the world...' The book states 'you must reflect and comprehend while you recite; slow melodious recitation will assist you...' On p.47 of the book, it discusses 'Inward cleanliness' and the purification of the soul from 'pride, envy, love of the world etc....'

God commands us to worship him as if you can see him. The Prophet and his companions did not only pray 5 times a day, but they prayed extra at nights when it was quiet, and that could go on for hours, so their minds are in a state of calmness, quietness, and at peace, and this is how a person wants to feel during the day by focusing and carrying their daily prayers. On p. 24 of the book, it states, 'The Messenger of God said....The best of my nations' devotion is the recitation of the Quran.' Every night before going to sleep it's important to read verses from the Quran and or even to be engaged in dhikr the remembrance of God. This keeps the mind away from being too active with unwanted thoughts that can keep a person up all night.

#### Striving to perfect your character

We strive to perfect our character through good deeds such as speaking nice to others, giving charity, taking care of our parents and the elderly etc...and taking on our responsibilities and being held accountable for our actions so we can learn and grow from our mistakes. This all leads to the opening of the heart and towards the path of

enlightenment as we continue to strive everyday to improve our character. The teachings of Prophet Mohammed through Islam brings great spiritual benefits, transformation and leads towards enlightenment depending on how you practice and how much you practice.

In one of the Hadith it states that Prophet Mohammed said your practice must be as if you can see Allah, and if you cannot see Allah, he certainly can see you. During the months of Ramadan, millions of Muslims will become more serious about practicing the way Prophet Mohammed and the sahabas used to practice, opening their hearts, looking at their inner and outer dimensions, and becoming more spiritual, so it's important to keep reminding ourselves to detach from our thoughts, worldly things and bring silence into our everyday practice.

Quran: Chaper 2 (Surah Al Baqara)

An excerpt:

8 - And among the people are those who say, 'We have faith in God and the Last Day,' but they have no faith.

9 - They seek to deceive God and those who have faith, yet they deceive no one but themselves but they are not aware.

10 - There is a sickness of the hearts; then God increased their sickness, and there is a painful punishment for them because of the lies they used to tell.

11 - When they are told, 'Do not cause corruption on the earth,' they say, 'We are only reformers!'

12 - Look! They are themselves the agents of corruption but they are not aware.

Most of the above were taken from previous articles published in various editions of the Diverse City Magazines on this topic.

Other articles written on this topic by F. Ally

The Spritual Side of Islam by Faisal Ally... This article was published in the May 7, 2018 Diverse City edition.

In this article and the other articles Allah and God are used interchangeably.

### **Section III- A glance at other World Religion celebrations**

This section briefly looks at some of the other world religions with recent and upcoming religious celebration which includes Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Buddhism. The information presented below are excerpts from taken from the reference links for each celebration as provided below. Excerpts from the links were also posted on [www.allymedia.ca](http://www.allymedia.ca) under the blog called religion, cults and others On April 4, 2023 as research information that will be used on articles as this one.

According to the following link: Jewish Holidays in 2023;

[https://www.chabad.org/holidays/default\\_cdo/year/2023/jewish/holidays-2023.htm](https://www.chabad.org/holidays/default_cdo/year/2023/jewish/holidays-2023.htm), the Passover, 'Begins sunset of Wednesday, April 5, 2023' and 'Ends nightfall of Thursday, April 13, 2023'. The article at this link states that 'No work permitted on April 6 - 7 and April 12 - 13. Work is permitted only on April 9 - 11 with certain restrictions. Yizkor is

recited on Passover, Thursday, April 13 Dates listed are for outside Israel. Passover (Pesach) celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.’

According to the link below this section, Hindus observed Magh Purnima where the author as mentioned below states that ‘according to ancient beliefs, the full moon of February is considered very special, because it is written in the Vedas and Puranas that on this occasion of this full moon, the deities come to visit the earth.’ The article states that the full moon began on February 04 , 2023 at 9:29 pm and where the full moon date ends on February 05, 2023 at 11:58 pm.’ The author states that ‘one should worship Moon God on this particular day’ and ‘on the eve of Magha Purnima, devotees observe a fast, perform a holy bath, worship and prayers.’ Further more, the author gets into astronomy, where he says, ‘the ancient scriptures that Magha Purnima is born from a constellation named Magha.’ Like many world religion and the results of practicing, the authors says that ‘if you perform all the rituals and good deeds already mentioned above then according to the Magh Purnima 2023 people will not only be blessed and have all their wishes fulfilled but they will also get salvation in the end.’

Reference: Authored by: Abhijeet Christopher Loreng Updated Feb 5, 2023 | 03:28 PM IST; <https://www.timesnownews.com/spiritual/magh-purnima-2023-know-about-the-prayers-worships-rituals-and-their-significance-article-97615603>

This reference link: <https://theguibordcenter.org/faiths/sikhism/sikh-festivals-and-observances/> provides celebration carried out by the Sikhs, where the Sikh New Year talks place on March 14, 2023 and ‘The calendar’s epoch is the birth of Nanak Dev, founder and first Guru of Sikhism, in 1469.’ From March 8 through March 10, 2023 is ‘Hola Mohalla (“mock ght”) is a three-day Sikh festival that begins on the first full moon of March. Following Guru Gobind Singh’s tradition, it follows the Hindu festival Holi by one day. (“Hola” is the masculine form of the feminine “holi.”)’

Buddhism is practiced by millions across the world where Siddhartha Gautama came to this world about 2,500 years ago, and according to the following link: Buddhist Holy Days and Observances; <https://theguibordcenter.org/faiths/buddhism/buddhist-festivals/> the Buddha was ‘born into the royal family ‘in a small Himalayan kingdom’ where he would later ‘became known as Gautama Buddha or Shakyamuni Buddha’ and where ‘Buddhist communities observe his birth on various dates, many in April or May.’ The celebration of Nehan-e (Parinirvana) takes place on ‘February 15, 2023 Mahayana Buddhists remember the Buddha’s death on Parinirvana, usually on February 15.’ The article states that the ‘Buddha died at age 80, after attaining enlightenment and then teaching for 40 years. At his death, he was in a state of meditation and reached Nirvana, a state of peace and freedom from the cycle of death, rebirth, and suffering.’