

Ramadan and the Eid-al-Fitr

Eid-al-Fitr is one of the traditional Islamic festivals celebrated in Tajikistan as in any other Muslim societies. It is celebrated at the end of the month of Ramadan. The significance of the Ramadan and the Eid among Tajik people has seen centuries old development and evolution process and has its own local peculiarities including its poetical expressions. The Ramadan first of all is accepted as holy month and as one of the compulsory religious practice during which the faithful communities fast and spend much of their time in prayer and devotions.

The Ramadan fast lasts from sunrise till the sunset and is a complete fast that is no drink or eats or other bodily enjoyment must be refrained. There is also a special midnight prayer called *taroveh*, which is performed every night during the 30 days of Ramadan.

One of the unique features of Ramadan month in Tajikistan is recital of «Rabi man» (My Lord) poetry cycle by young adults and children.

Often the singing of the «Rabi man» includes going from one house to another house.

Rabi man yo rabi man yo Ramazon.

Rabi man Alloh mohi Ramazon.

Rabi man, chand ruz mehmoni man ast,

Shabako oshaki yavgoni man ast.

My Lord, my Lord, O Ramadan.

My Lord is Allah it is a month of Ramadan.

Ramadan is my guest for some time,

My Lord is my meal of delight at night.

The «Rabi man» cycle encompasses many devotional and religious quatrains from both folklore and Sufi poets and is sung with worship tune. The children who go around singing «Rabi man» are given gifts of all sort of eatable items. After their finish their cycle they gather in one place and share together the collected food.

Another tradition related to Ramadan is the Lailat-al-Qadr – the night of Appreciation,





which falls in the 27th night of the Ramadan. At this night many people who fast during the Ramadan would not sleep but spend the night awake in prayer and praise of God.

In the last three days of the Ramadan preparation for the Eid begins when households will buy and prepare festive and traditional food such as bread, fried pastry etc. On the Eid day the most cheerful are children, who one the break of the morning will go from the door-to-door

wishing people happy Eid and receive gifts.

On the Eid day there are public communal prayers are organized especially dedicated to the end of the Ramadan. After the prayer finishes people will be going to visit the cemeteries to offer prayers for their deceased kin and than afterwards would visit the homes of their relatives wishing them happy Eid and reciting from the Quran.