

Ramadan is finally here! Fatima and Omar couldn't be more excited, and decide to fast this time.

They keep a big Ramadan lantern in their room. But their attempt at fasting proves difficult, and they start to ask questions.

"Why does it have to be so hard?"

"And why do we have to fast, anyway?"

The lantern helps them answer these important questions as they learn more about fasting and the blessed month of Ramadan.

Till we meet again,  
**Ramadan**



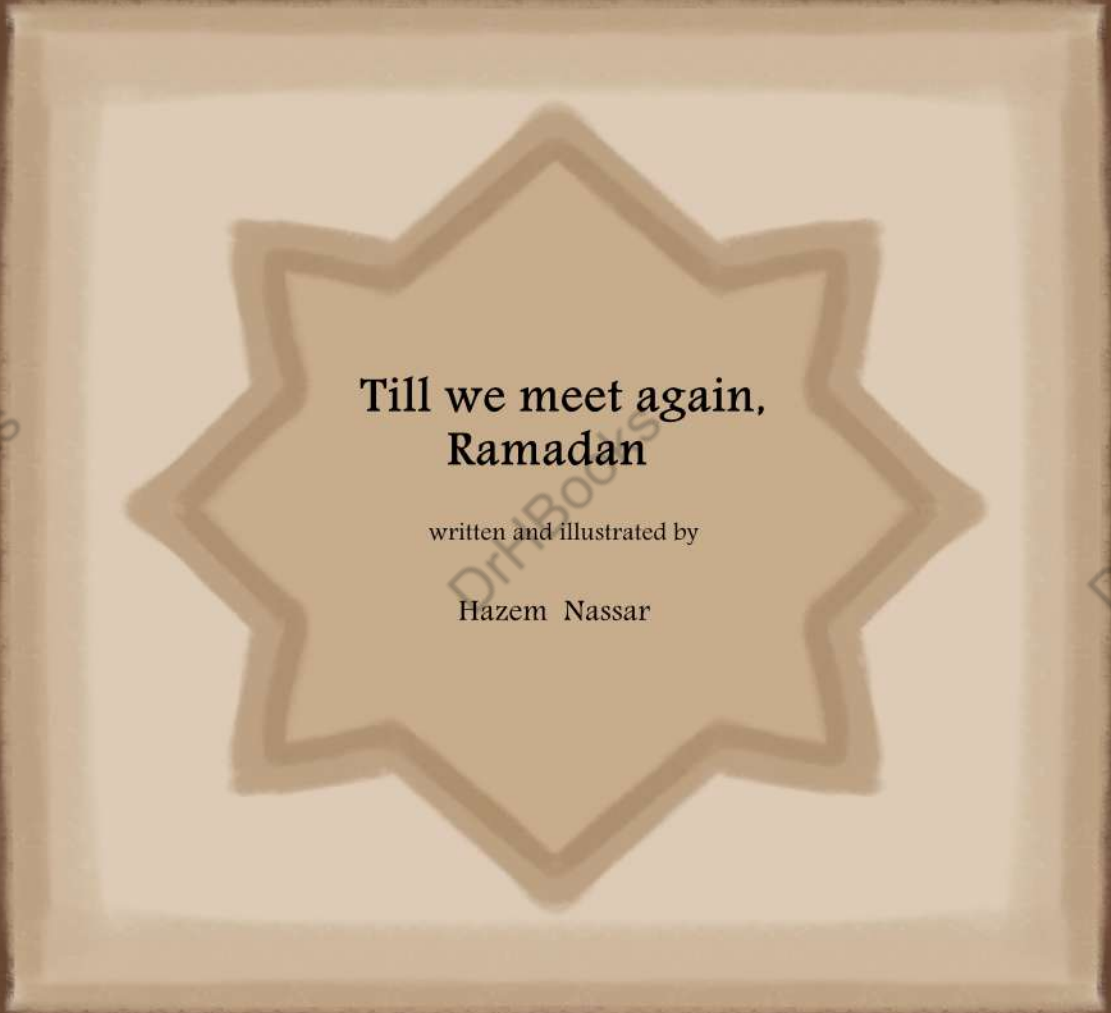
Hazem Nassar

## Dedication

To all the children around the world, fasting or not. Assalamu alaikum. Some of you might be a bit too young to fast, and that's totally ok. All of us adults were your age at some point and found it difficult to fast in the beginning. But then it started getting easier.

I hope this simple, humble book adds a bit more light to your already-shining Ramadan, insha'Allah.

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The image features a central square frame with a light beige background. Inside this frame is a larger, darker beige star shape with eight points. The text is centered within the star.

**Till we meet again,  
Ramadan**

written and illustrated by

Hazem Nassar

Fatima and Omar were filled with excitement as they sought Ramadan's moon in the sky.



They learned that the month of fasting would start tomorrow!

There were lots of things Fatima and Omar loved about Ramadan.



They got to see their friends and cousins often for iftar.

They got to decorate the house, and keep the largest lantern in their room.



And they both decided they would try to fast.

The first day wasn't easy.

Omar broke his fast after only a few hours.

Fatima lasted a bit longer.



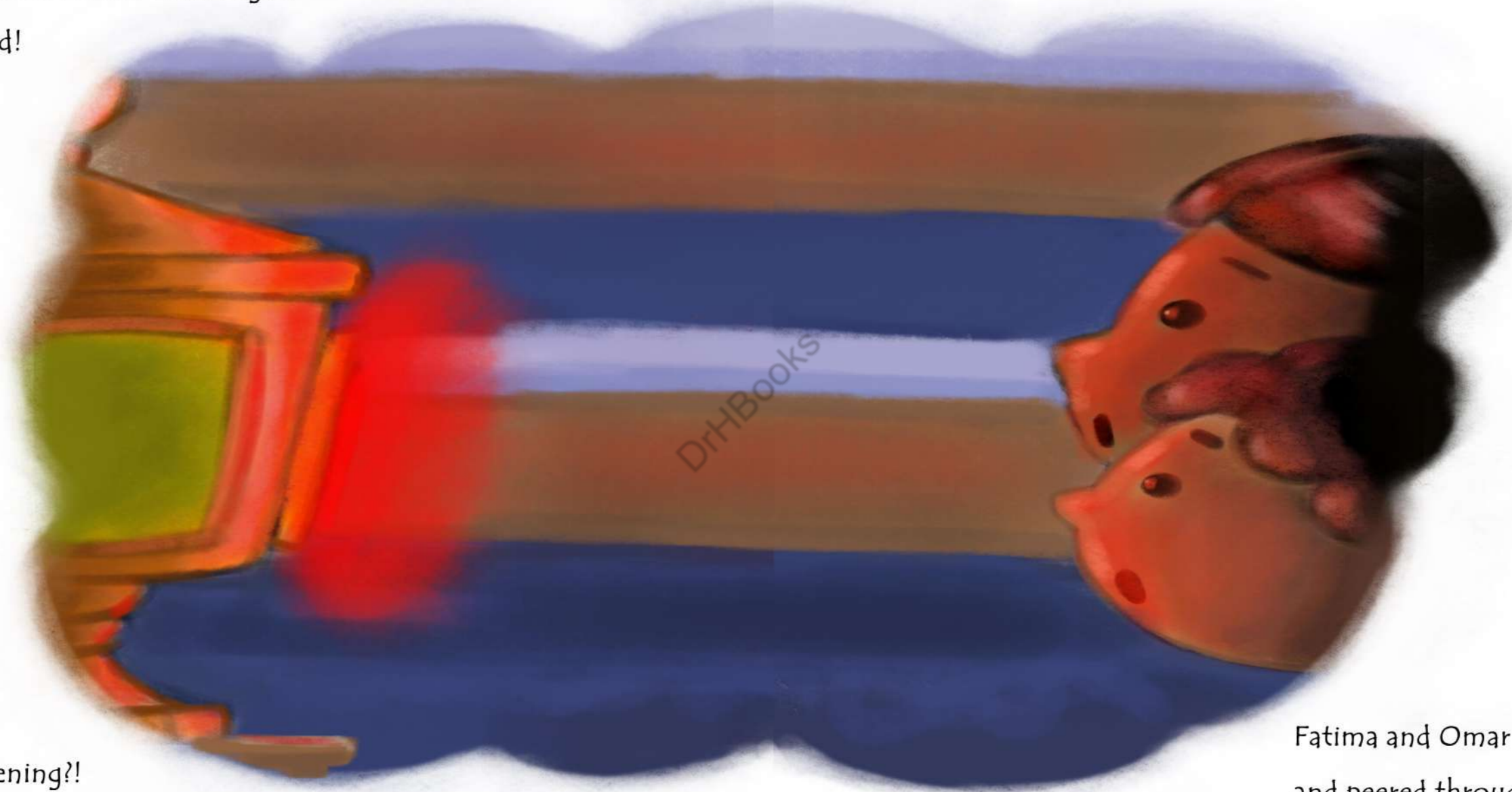
That night, Fatima and Omar discussed their attempts at fasting.



"Why does it have to be so hard?" Omar asked.

"And why do we have to fast, anyway?" Fatima wondered.

Just then, the lantern beside them began to glow bright red!



What was happening?!

Fatima and Omar drew close and peered through the lantern...

A gloomy-looking town appeared.

Some kind of a disaster had left it in rubbles.



They heard a young boy say,



"Mom, are we going to have anything to eat tonight?  
I wish I could have some water."

When the red glow faded and the view inside disappeared, Fatima and Omar looked at each other.



"He looked so hungry and tired," Fatima said.

Omar agreed. "How long do you think it will be before he gets to eat something?"

Fatima and Omar recognized that they had a choice to fast, but that child did not.

They would eat at the end of the day, but he probably would not.

Maybe fasting could help them feel what that child was going through so they could appreciate their blessings even more.

The next day, Fatima and Omar were both able to fast for a few more hours.



It wasn't easy, but remembering what they had seen the previous night helped them push through.

When it was time for bed, they hurried to their room,  
hoping the lantern would show them something new.



This time the lantern glowed bright blue!

Through the lantern they could see patients in a hospital.

"I can't eat anything, Dad. I'm too sick," one child said.

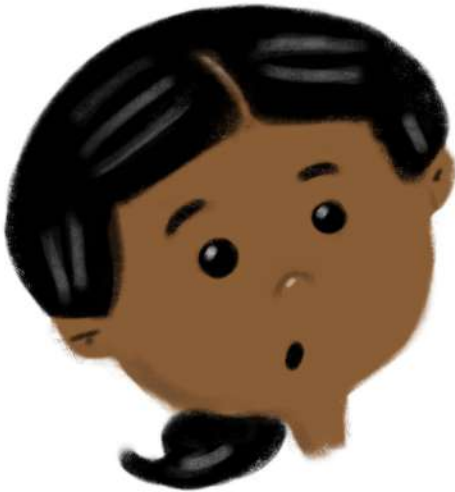


A doctor said to another child, "To make sure your body is prepared for the surgery, you must not eat or drink anything for the next twelve hours. Not even water."



The blue glow faded and the view inside disappeared.

"Wow, aren't we lucky to be healthy?"  
Omar said.



Fatima nodded. "Even when we're fasting, we know we can eat whatever we want at the end of the day. So many ill people can't do that. We surely are very lucky. Alhamdulillah."

On the third day, every time they felt hungry or thirsty, Fatima and Omar would remember the hardships that other children were going through.

This made them think less about food, and they were able to fast even longer.



Fasting might be difficult, but they soon realized it was very doable.

That evening, the lantern glowed bright green!





"It's Maghrib time!" one child shouted.

Each of the children accepted a date from their mother.



One child said, "I feel like my stomach took a long break and now it's about to get back to work!"

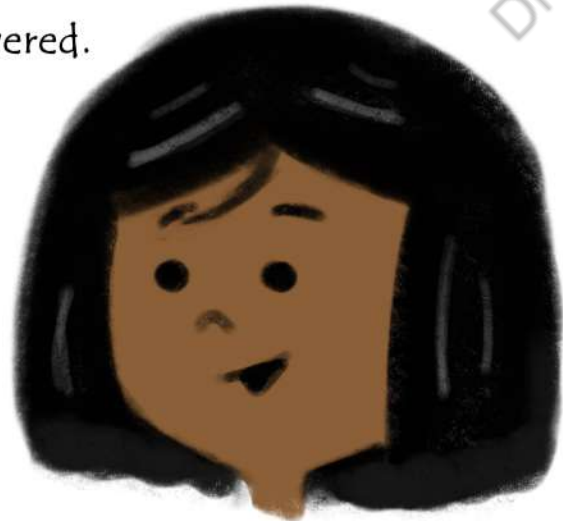
Everyone laughed with him.



"That's funny!" Omar laughed.

"It is, but it's also true," Fatima answered.

"Our science teacher explained that our organs need a break to work well."



Fatima and Omar continued to increase their fasting time by a few more hours every day.

To help keep their minds off of their hunger and thirst,

they read Qur'an,



spent quality time with their parents,



and even volunteered in their school.



That night, the lantern glowed bright yellow!

Through it Fatima and Omar could see an Imam giving a speech.



"We thank our Creator, Allah, every day,



and in this month—the month in which the Qur'an was revealed!—He gives us the chance to multiply our rewards for thanking Him!"

"This is an opportunity no one should miss!  
Let's try finishing part of the Qur'an every  
day," Fatima said.



Omar added, "Yes! Let's go to the Taraweeh prayer with Mom and Dad, too!"



As the days went by, Fatima and Omar got so used to fasting, it was no longer difficult.

Especially when they started waking up for Sohoor.



They decided today was the day they would fast until Maghrib.

Hour after hour, their excitement grew as  
Maghrib time drew closer.

The sun started to slowly disappear. It was  
almost time . . .



"Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar!"



It was the Athan!

They did it! They had fasted a whole day!



Later that night, Fatima and Omar walked into their bedroom to find all the colors of the lantern glowing brighter than before, as if it were celebrating them.



The rest of the month went by quickly, until the last day of Ramadan arrived.

Fatima and Omar looked at the moonlight shining through their lantern.



They knew it was time to say goodbye.

They reflected on the things they had seen and learned.

The importance of having  
compassion,



being patient,





and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

And with all of that, the Mercy of Allah for granting them bountiful rewards.



Although they were sad to see it go, Fatima and Omar remembered that their favorite month would return again next year, Insha'Allah.

When they looked in the sky, they knew Ramadan was bidding them goodbye.

Till we  
meet again,  
friends



Fatima and Omar smiled big.  
"Till we meet again, Ramadan."



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## About the author

Hazem Nassar was born in late 1979 to Palestinian parents in Kuwait, where he also grew up and completed his undergraduate education. He then graduated from medical school in Karachi, Pakistan, before moving to the United States later on, to work as an internal medicine physician. Ever since childhood, Hazem has had a passion for cartooning and storytelling, which he eventually managed to dedicate more time to after completing medical residency, leading to the selection of many of his works for several international theme-based exhibitions in different countries around the world. Growing up an immigrant with Palestinian roots in an extremely diverse neighborhood, along with life in a once-war-torn Kuwait, heavily influenced his ideas and subsequently, his works.

To date, Hazem has self-published four children's books.

*The Peeking Chick (2019)*

*Dr. Adam and the Virus (2020)*

*The Diversity Cube and the Cloud Wizard (2021)*

*Flick and his Mouth (2022)*

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