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UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

رمضان & شوال



VOS VI

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

My Ramadhan and Syawal Stories

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VOS VI

رمضان & شوال

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

My Ramadhan and Syawal Stories

Voice of the Soul
Volume VI

Down the Memory Lane –
My Ramadhan and Syawal Stories

Academy of Language Studies,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Kedah Branch

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Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present Voice of the Soul Volume VI: Down the Memory Lane – My Ramadhan and Syawal Stories, a poetry anthology that beautifully captures the spiritual, emotional, and cultural significance of Ramadhan and Syawal. This publication is more than a collection of poems. It is a meaningful platform for writers to express their reflections, memories, and personal journeys through the art of poetry. The themes explored in this volume highlights spirituality, family, tradition, gratitude, forgiveness, and personal growth which are values that continue to shape individuals and strengthen communities.

Ramadhan teaches us patience, sincerity, compassion, and self-discipline, while Syawal reminds us of forgiveness, reunion, gratitude, and joy. Through the poems in this anthology, readers are invited to revisit these meaningful experiences and appreciate the moments that connect us to our faith, families, and cultural heritage.

I would like to congratulate the organizing committee, editorial team, contributors, and everyone involved in making this publication a reality. Your dedication to nurturing creativity and preserving meaningful narratives is highly commendable.

May Voice of the Soul Volume VI inspire readers to value their memories, reflect on their spiritual journeys, and continue expressing themselves through the beauty of language and literature.

ASSOC PROF DR MAHAZIR ISMAIL
Rector
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kedah



Assoc Prof
Dr. Mahazir
Ismail

VOS VI

Foreword

It is with great pride and appreciation that I welcome the publication of Voice of the Soul Volume VI: Down the Memory Lane – My Ramadhan and Syawal Stories. This anthology reflects the creativity, sincerity, and thoughtful expression of writers who have transformed their personal experiences into poetry.

Poetry has a unique ability to preserve feelings and memories in ways that ordinary words sometimes cannot. In this collection, the experiences of Ramadhan and Syawal are expressed through heartfelt lines that speak of faith, family, traditions, sacrifice, hope, and renewal. These poems remind us that every memory carries a lesson, and every story has the power to connect people across backgrounds and generations.

This volume also represents our continued effort to encourage creative writing, literary appreciation, and meaningful self-expression. It provides contributors with a valuable opportunity to share their voices while also contributing to a publication that celebrates culture, spirituality, and human connection.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the editorial team, organizing committee, and all contributors for their commitment and hard work. Your efforts have resulted in a publication that is not only creative and reflective, but also meaningful and inspiring.

May this anthology continue to encourage more writers to express their thoughts, preserve their memories, and share their stories with the world.

ROBEKHAH HARUN
Head of Department
Academy of Language Studies
Universiti Teknologi MARA
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Mdm Robekhah Harun

VOS VI

Preface

Voice of the Soul Volume VI: Down the Memory Lane – My Ramadhan and Syawal Stories is a heartfelt collection of poetic reflections that celebrates the beauty, meaning, and memories surrounding two deeply significant occasions: Ramadhan and Syawal.

This anthology brings together voices that speak of devotion, gratitude, family, culture, forgiveness, renewal, and personal growth. Through poetry, the contributors revisit moments of quiet reflection, spiritual awakening, cherished traditions, and joyful togetherness. Each poem serves as a window into lived experiences, reminding us that Ramadhan and Syawal are not merely seasons in the calendar, but meaningful journeys of the heart and soul.

The title Down the Memory Lane reflects the intention of this volume: to preserve memories that are personal yet universal. The poems in this collection capture stories that many readers may recognize in their own lives such as the warmth of family gatherings, the serenity of prayers, the lessons of patience, the spirit of giving, and the joy of reunion after sacrifice.

As Volume VI of Voice of the Soul, this publication continues the tradition of encouraging creative expression and nurturing literary appreciation among writers. It is our hope that this anthology will inspire readers to reflect on their own experiences, appreciate the richness of cultural and spiritual traditions, and recognize poetry as a meaningful medium for preserving stories across generations.

May this collection touch hearts, awaken memories, and give voice to the many emotions that make Ramadhan and Syawal truly special.

DR HAJAH SHARINA SAAD
Chief Editor
Voice of The Soul.



Dr Hajah
Sharina Saad

VOS VI

Acknowledgement

The publication of Voice of the Soul Volume VI: Down the Memory Lane – My Ramadhan and Syawal Stories would not have been possible without the dedication, support, and encouragement of many individuals and parties.

First and foremost, we express our deepest gratitude to the Rector, Dr Mahazir Ismail for the continuous support, guidance, and encouragement in promoting literary and creative initiatives. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the Head of Department, Puan Robekhah Harun for the motivation and commitment shown throughout the preparation of this anthology.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all committee members, editors, coordinators, reviewers, and contributors who worked diligently to bring this publication to completion. Their commitment, creativity, and cooperation have played an important role in ensuring the success of this project.

Special appreciation is extended to all poets and contributors who generously shared their thoughts, memories, and personal experiences through poetry. Each submission has added depth, beauty, and meaning to this anthology, making it a rich collection of voices inspired by Ramadhan and Syawal.

Finally, we thank everyone who has supported this publication directly or indirectly. May this anthology serve as a lasting reminder of the values of reflection, gratitude, unity, and togetherness that Ramadhan and Syawal continue to inspire.

DR HAJAH SHARINA SAAD
Chief Editor
Voice of The Soul

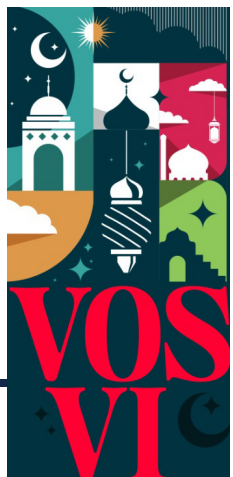


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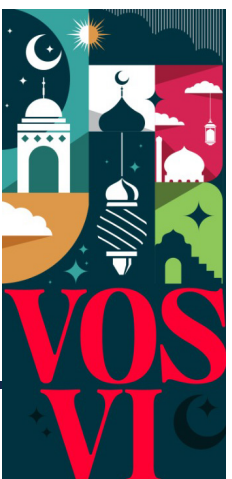


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Chapter 1



The Kindergarten Contract

Mimi Sofiah Ahmad Mustafa

I bargained with the moon at six years old,
Forging a contract in hunger and spirit.
"A ringgit a sun," the elders told,
A fortune so vast, I could almost hear it.
The shadows grew thin and the shadows grew long,
As I smoothed down the folds of my baju kurung;
A tiny heart proving that it could be strong,
To the rhythm of bells that could be confused with a gong.

The kitchen was a minefield of fragrant steam,
Of sambal clouds and the hiss of the pan.
I drifted through hours in a hollow-eyed dream,
The smallest recruit in a fasting clan.
The clock was a tortoise, its hands stuck in glue,
While I measured my worth in the scent of the rice,
Holding my breath till the sky turned to blue,
And at last came the azan to break the fast, and the ice.

Then came the palm, not with one, but with two
Crisp notes of green for a champion so small.
A bonus for "Kindie," for the struggle I knew,
For standing so short, yet standing so tall.
It wasn't the math or the wealth in my hand,
But the sweetness of mercy, unearned and immense,
A lesson in love I could then understand:
That grace always pays in a different tense.

Mimi Sofiah Ahmad Mustafa has served at UiTM Melaka Branch for 32 years. Very passionate about her career as an educator, she won the “Inspiring Educator” title in 2023. Received the “Best Academic Staff” award (2024) for UiTM Alor Gajah Campus, University Academic Award (AAU) (2024) for the Teaching Category and winner of the best micro-credential award in 2025. She has written four academic books and several articles published in indexed journals

Autograph

Thank You





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