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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
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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

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



Dr Hajah
Sharina Saad

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Table of Content

Chapter 1 - English

Title	Page
1. Meaningful Syawal - Siti Rohimi binti Mohamed Apandi	15
2. The Eid of Many Cakes - Nur Ain Abdul Malek	16
3. A Month that Still Carries You - Mimi Mazlina binti Mohamad	17
4. Loss and Love - Nurulakma binti Abdul Wahab	18
5. I Miss Ramadhan - Nursuhaila Ibrahim	19
6. Raya Feast and Celebration - Chen Chee Khium	20
7. His Last Ramadan - Farah Zahidah Mohd Noor	21
8. Between the Moon and the Doorway - Wan Muhd Faez Wan Ibrahim	22
9. The Mangosteen Tree and Syawal Memories - Sh Nur Amirah Syed Agil	23
10. On an Imperfect Eid Morning - Zainab Razali	24
11. Ramadhan Relay - Maisarah Noorezam	25
12. The Kindergarten Contract - Puan Mimi Sofiah Ahmad Mustafa	26
13. Mary Mikil and Me - Farah Fatinah Binti Enche Shaari	27
14. In These Small Days - Azzieatul Syazwanie Azmi	28
15. Syawal in Whispers - Zuriani Yaacob	29
16. The Prince Was in Awe, The Princess Was So Raw - Siti Zarikh Sofiah Abu Bakar	30
17. Loud Absence - Ariff Syamil Bin Amri	31
18. Where Ramadan Meets Sakura - Izzati Adilah Azmir & Hessa Safiyya Mohd Najib	32
19. Harmony in the Crescent - Piermauro Catarinella	33
20. In the Afterglow of Aidilfitri - Che Nooryohana Zulkifli	34
21. First Ramadhan Without You - Dr. Mohd Zamri bin Jusoh	35
22. A Raya Journey Written by the Heart - Dr. Wan Razazila Wan Abdullah	36
23. A Sonnet of Two Moons - Farhana binti Othman	37
24. A New Shade of Syawal - Nur Amalina Bt Zaharudin	38
25. A Month That Found Me - Nurul Nadiah Azmi	39
26. Waiting for Their Dawn - Dr Abdul Rauf Badrul Hisham	40
27. Ramadhan Between Ibu's Heart & Umar's Faith - Halimatun Saadiah Abd Mutalib	41
28. Together Through Ramadan - Kelvin Goh Tee Hiong	42
29. The Blessings Between Two Moons - Maziatun Nadia binti Khairudin	43
30. Borrowed Moonlight - Daljeet Singh Sedhu Janah Singh	44
31. Borrowed Joy, Returned - Anis Athira Syahirah Saifuddin	45
32. Between Sweet Words and Two Woks - Nurul Liya Saffura binti Rostam	46
33. Behind the Envelope - Dr Nurul Hijah Jasman	47
34. A Raya Greeting - Dr Aimy Abdullah	48
35. A Home Rewritten in Two Heartbeats - Nor Elyzatul Akma Hamdan, RPh	49
36. 1447 SYAWAL - Shafiyah Binti Mohamad Khalil	50
37. Raya in Divergence - Dr Fatin Hanisah binti Firman	51
38. Twenty Ramadhans Without You - Norzatul Bazamah Binti Azman Shah	52
39. A Humble Heart Seeking Lailatul Qadar - Nur Azwa Muhamad Bashar (Ir.)	53
40. Ramadhan: A Journey of Reflection and Renewal - Nur Zafirah Zainol	54
41. Ramadhan by the Sea - Ting Su Ung	55
42. The Long Thread - Norfarahzila binti Mohd Zamri	56
43. The Three Trimesters of Ramadhan - Dr Nurulhuda binti Ahmad Sani	57
44. Yaumul Baraqah, Ramadhan: Repentance and Blessings - Nursuria binti Mahrif	58
45. The Seeking Game of Night - Nurul Nabilah Binti Yahaya	59
46. The Syawal Allah Chose for Us - Maymunah Ismail	60
47. Spelling My Story - Wani Nurfahani Binti Mohd Sapuan	61
48. Raya Tides of Terengganu - Khaleda Alia Mohamad Jamil	62
49. Raya: The Unfiltered Edition - Nur Syafiqah Abdul Kadar	63
50. Gone are the Days - Shireena Basree A.R.	64
51. From Packets to Prayers - Haslina Hassan	65
52. Rendang Ties and Ramadan Skies - Christina Eu Nguk Ling	66
53. An Eid One Would Skip - Mia Emily Abdul Rahim	67
54. A Raya Greeting - Dr Aimy Abdullah	68
55. A Prayer That Found Its Way Home - Aini Syahira Binti Jamaluddin	69

Table of Content

Chapter 1 - English

Title	Page
56. A Journey, A Lesson – A Relisation - Amir Lukman Bin Abd Rahman	70
57. Batu Rakit 1984 - Wan Faridatul Akma Wan Mohd Rashdi	71
58. A Season of Blessings: Ramadhan to Syawal 1447h - Dr Su'aida Dato' Safei	72
59. Echoes from Kampung - Nurul Nadiah Rasdi	73
60. To My Mami - Muhammad Shahrazif bin Tajul Muhd Majidi	74
61. Under a Sky That Knows My Name - Siti Salwa Hassan	75
62. The Loss of a Niece in the Month of Syawal - Nadiah Binti Abdullah, Dr. Siti Faidul Maisarah Binti Abdullah	76
63. The Expected Yet Undesirable Question - Bazrina Ramly	77
64. The Amber Glow of the Returning Sun - Aida Khalida Mohamed Idris	78
65. Ramadhan in Reminiscence - Fathimah Razman	79
66. Ramadhan Kareem - Dr Hajjah Sharina Saad	80
67. Baraan Through a 12-Year-Old Girl's Eyes - Nur Syazwanie Mansor	81

Table of Content

Chapter 2- Bahasa Melayu

Title	Page
1. Ramadan Pergi Syawal Tiba - Muhamad Ikhwan bin Mohd Zain	83
2. Syawal Tanpa Mak - Liza Marziana Mohammad Noh	84
3. Rindu Kala Ramadan - Nurul Munirah Azamri	85
4. Raya di Rumah Kita - Suziyani Rohafauzi	86
5. Ramadhan Terindah - Siti Aishah binti Che Kar	87
6. Ramadan Syawal Itu Ini - Siti Nursarjana Binti Malim	88
7. Ramadan, Rindu yang Tidak Berjawab - Khairunnisa' Yussof	89
8. Ramadan Penuh Cinta - Mohd Naqiuddin Zulkarnain	90
9. Ramadan Kali Ini - Atifah binti Othman	91
10. Ramadan: Antara Syukur, Insaf dan Doa - Rohana Binti Ramli	92
11. Pulang Ke Asal, Kembali Ke Fitrah - Luqman Bin Mohd Oslan	93
12. Di Antara Jarak dan Rasa - Balkhiz Ismail	94
13. Ramadhan Usah Usai - Nurul Nadia Binti Mohammad	95
14. Pelangi Bahagia Di Hujung Derita - Dr. Wan Mohammad Hafiz Wan Razali	96
15. Jejak Memoir - Wan Nor Syafiqah Wan Nasrun dan Nur Syahida Zulkipli	97
16. Walau Ramadan Tidak Bersama Lagi - Nurul Akmal Awang	98
17. Dari Deru Kota ke Makna Kepulangan - Sharmin Bin Baba	99
18. Seronoknya Raya - Ong Elly	100
19. Tradisi yang Kian Sepi - Dr Erwina Hashim	101
20. Raya Tanpa Ibu - Nor Azmawati Husain	102
21. Ramadan Tazkiyyatun- Nafs & Syawal Istiqamah - Muhamad Azhar bin Zubir	103
22. Kudrat - Siti Zafrina binti Mohd Zahari	104
23. Kesucian Sahur dan Kasih Ibu - Siti Maziah	105
24. Menyusur Lorong Memori: Antara Tawa dan Air Mata - Mazratul Firdaus Mohd Zin	106
25. Bila Beduk Dulu Berbunyi Lain - Ts. Syahrul Fithry Senin	107
26. Sunyi - Nor Asni Syahriza binti Abu Hassan	108
27. Kenangan Ramadan Syawal di Perantauan - Saidah Ismail	109
28. Ramadan Di ICU - Nadiyah bt Hashim	110
29. Takbir Syahdu Rindumu Ayah - Khalijah Mohd Noor	111
30. Guruku.. Syawal - Ilham Alia binti Mat Isa	112
31. Ibu Adik Rindu - Dr. Rozlinda Abdullah	113
32. Pulang Menyatukan Jiwa Lebaran - Hema Zulaika Hashim	114
33. Kenangan Syawal Yang Dirindui - Fadli bin Dali	115
34. Erti Sebuah Kemenangan - Azira Azahidi	116
35. Cinta Ramadhan - Azmira Binti Abdullah	117
36. Janji Terakhir di Subuh Syawal - YM Dr Raja Mayang Delima Binti Mohd Beta	118
37. Ramadan dan Syawal Pertama Tanpamu - Fadhlina Binti Che Arshad	119
38. Memori Syawal Dua Puteri Kecil - Jennifah Nordln	120
39. Memori Ramadan Terakhir Di Indera Kayangan - Dr Nazirah Md Tarmizi	121
40. Mekar Suci Syawal - Ahmad Firdaos Syauqi bin Ahmad Sidiki	122
41. Madrasah Rindu Ramadan Dan Syawal - Noor Aizah Binti Hj Abas	123
42. Lambaian Syawal di Jendela Rindu - Azrina binti Abu Bakar	124
43. Bahulu Emak - Nur Idawati binti Md Enzai	125
44. Upacara Sebelum Kita Berpuasa - Rozhafiezam Bin Rosdi	126
45. Tradisi Ramadanku - Nur Syamimi Binti Haji Abu Bakar	127
46. Ramadan Tanpamu - Megat Faridrullah bin Zolkefli	128
47. Ramadan Ini Bukan Noktah - Norazilah binti Mat Jin	129
48. Senandung Ramadan Tak Lapuk Dek Zaman - Rozman Nasir	130
49. Rindu Ramadhan Tidak Pernah Usai - Nurhaslina binti Ramli	131
50. Lilin Ramadhan di Jendela Hati - Nazirul Mubin Awang Besar	132
51. Lapan Tahun Tanpa Wajahmu - Nur 'Ainina Awang	133
52. Peluk - Wan Ainaa Atiqah Mohd Ismadi	134
53. Ramadan Yang Berlalu - Farhana Idris	135
54. Syawal yang Tidak Lagi Pulang - Zurah Binti Abu	136
55. Syawal Yang Ditinggal Waktu - Jazmin Binti Zulkifli	137

Table of Content

Chapter 2- Bahasa Melayu

Title	Page
56. Riang Raya - Suzila Mohd Kasim	138
57. Saiyidus Syuhur - Aeyneda Zairyn binti Abdul Jalil	139
58. Satu Hari Bulan Raadan - Nurul Nisha Mohd Shah	140
59. Kek Lapis Kepulangan - Dr Nor Diana Abdul Halim	141
60. Indahnya Ramadan - Razifa binti Mohd Razlan	142
61. Di Ambang Pintu Ampuna - Ahmad Nur Azam Ahmad Ridzuan	143
62. Dalam Rindu Ramadan, Sepi Syawal - Zalina Binti Mohd. Desa	144
63. Takbir dan Rindu - Ayuni Madarina Abdul Rahman	145
64. Dia, Aku dan Ramadhan - Nur-Hasanah Ruslan	146
65. Gema Takbir Raya - Norlizawati Md Tahir	147
66. Perempuan Diselamatkan Tuhan - Nor Najihah Binti Norafand	148
67. Dulu, Kini dan Selamanya - Norhidayah Md Yusof	149
68. Pulangnya Sebuah Jiwa- G Sharina binti Shaharuddin G	150
69. Ramadhan Yang Teristimewa - Nur Hanani Binti Nordin	151
70. Pelita di Hati Ibu - Sri Qamariah Mohd Samsir	152
71. Jalan Kenangan Ramadhan dan Syawal - Afzan Adilah Ayoub	153
72. Raya Kita - Dr. Nur Asyikin binti Ahmad Nazri	154
73. Raya Paling Emosi - Dr Azura Abdul Rahman	155
74. Sujud Ramadan Syukur Syawal - Prof. Madya Dr. Nur Helmi @ Nur Jannah Azman	156
75. Takbir yang Bergema di Hospital - Nor Tasnim Syahera binti Rasak	157
76. Suatu Masa - Khalid Mat Pardi	158
77. Gema Takbir Yang Berbeza - Iqbal Bin Jaapar	159
78. Ramadan dan Syawal Tanpa Abah - Salina Abdullah	160
79. Peluru Perang Ramadan dan Syawal - Prof. Madya Dr Ho Wee Chee	161
80. Hening Syawal - Najihan Awang @ Ali	162
81. Esok Hari Raya! (Nostalgia Aidifitri 2022) - Mohd Ab Malek bin Md Shah	163
82, Di Bawah Mentari Ramadhan - Fara Azwin Adam	164
83. Pantun Ragam Puasa Tingkah Raya - Sharir Aizat Kamaruddin	165
84. Secebis Memori dalam Hening Syawal - Hjh Nurnazirah binti Jamadin	166
85. Syawal Yang Dinanti - Zaity Akhtar Mukhtar	167
86. Jejak Ramadhan, Teduh Syawal - Mohd Adib Izzat Bin Mohd Nor	168
87. Ramadan! Bulan Yang Dirindui - Fauziana Bt Fauzi @ Mat Rawi	169
88. Adakah akan masih sama? - Noor Ain Binti Saufi	170

Chapter 1



Gone are the Days

Shireena Basree A.R.

Gone are the days
when the beginning of Ramadhan – brought with it, the excitement of Hari Raya.
Weekend shopping in Orchard Road, often culminating with Beriyani at Zamzam in Arab Street for berbuka
Not forgetting Abah's special treat ~ his all-time favorite gigantic 1-dollar curry puff … with a whole hard-boiled egg sealed in it,
and the legendary Rochor fried pisang raja for dessert –
another delicatessen that I will always remember.

Gone are the days
when we looked forward to the long drive by the east-coast beaches
heading to Kuala Terengganu
stopping for breaks in Kuantan and Kemaman
counting down the hours with Mak
all excited to be back in her Kampung.

Now – all that's left is a massive void,
Of missing voices, missing faces and missing purpose.
Ramadhan and Raya have never been the same,
meaningless smiles and laughter, fail to hide the pain.

Those were the days,
Days that will never repeat itself again,
Days that will only remain
a memory of Ramadhan and Raya that will only live on, within.

.

Shireena Basree A.R. is a member of the TESL Department in the Faculty of Education, UiTM. Beyond her academic contributions, she also enjoys writing poems and stories. For Shireena, poetry is more than just words on a page; it is a way to share the feelings and memories that have shaped her life. She writes with the hope of connecting through shared experiences, turning her personal stories into relatable, heartfelt poetry.

Autograph

Thank You





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