ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY OF HARI RAYA PUASA

A compilation by the Inclusion & Integration Unit, Student Affairs Office

Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri

House Visits The Muslim community would celebrate Hari Raya Puasa by decorating their houses, buying new clothes and visiting family and friends. House visitation usually begins with the parents and parents-in-law homes, followed by the elders, other relatives and friends. It is also a custom to seek forgiveness and understanding from the elders.

It is important to take note of the social etiquettes and practices during house visits. Do dress decently and avoid wearing revealing clothing to show respect to the host. There are always scrumptious treats prepared for guests at every house. Do grab some food to eat but do not finish all the food as the host may expect more guests.

During house visits, children will receive “duet raya”, a green packet with money. People who have started working are expected to give out the “duet raya” to children and elder family members as a way of showing respect.

Attire The traditional Malay costume is known as Baju Kurung, which consists of a long sleeve loose fitting shirt with a long skirt (for women) or a pair of pants (for men). On occasions, the men will wear a “samping” (short sarong wrapped around the waist) over the pants and a traditional Malay cap known as “songkok”. The women would wear the outfit with a headscarf known as “tudung”. The traditional Malay outfit is a symbol of Malay cultural heritage. Wearing the attire during Hari Raya visits is a form of respect to the elders.

Muslim families usually dress in similar coloured outfits during Hari Raya Puasa to show unity of the family.

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Visiting Mosque for Prayer A particular Islamic prayer known as Eidul Fitri prayer is usually performed in a mosque on Hari Raya Puasa.7

Before heading out for prayer, Muslims would take a bath in the morning and don their best clothes. Perfume is then applied as practised by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It is recommended to have breakfast before leaving for prayer.8

Before the start of Eidul Fitri prayer, Muslims are required to pay Zakat Fitrah, which is a relief-aid to the poor. It is also prescribed as a way of purifying the person who fasts and righting the wrong deeds during fasting. It can also be paid throughout the month of Ramadan.9

The Islamic Religious Council of Singapore would usually release an Eidul Fitri prayer schedule which lists the names of mosques in Singapore and their respective prayer timings. The prayer is usually performed in congregation in mid-morning. After which, the person who leads the prayer will deliver a sermon.10

Greetings “Assalamualaikum”, meaning “Peace be upon you” is a common greeting among Muslims as a form of respect. The greeting is usually accompanied with a handshake using either right hand or both hands. This act of salam usually involves the younger person kissing the hand of the elder after the handshake. During Hari Raya, the children will salam their elders to seek forgiveness for any wrongdoings they have committed.11

Decoration In the past, houses would light oil lamps during Ramadan until the end of the Hari Raya festival to attract spirits and angels to their homes during the night of Lailatulgadar 12 (eve of the 27th day of Ramadan). This practice has evolved over time, where oil lamps are no longer used in Singapore.13 Instead, many families use LED lights with other decorative items such as ketupat motif as a way to welcome visitors.14

Look out for our U.n.I Bite in 2021, where we cover the aspects of food & their significance for Hari Raya Puasa