

Abstract

MALA's NFT project showcases 11 powerful symbols that represent the beauty of Islam and in particular: Ramadan. MALA's mission is to educate through storytelling and to celebrate Muslim American legacies in our modern world. This project bridges traditional art and history with the ever-expanding Metaverse to ensure education for generations to come.

About MALA

The Muslim American Leadership Alliance (MALA) is a 501(c)3 civic and community organization committed to promoting and protecting individual freedom and diversity for all, including the celebration of Muslim American heritage. The Muslim American Leadership Alliance is dedicated to leadership through integrity, and as such provides a platform for people to share their individual stories and to make their voices heard. MALA nurtures emerging community activists and leaders; uniting Americans of all backgrounds and advancing constructive solutions to combat extremism and human rights violations. MALA is open to choice and creed - embracing free expression, gender equality, and pluralism as cherished universal ideals. MALA welcomes and honors the experiences of individuals of all ethnic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic brackets, and political identities. Behind MALA is a firm belief in equality, love, and respect for all.

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan represents the core beliefs of MALA: generosity and empathy for others. Taking place during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Ramadan is considered one of the holiest Islamic months. During Ramadan, people participate in a 30 day fast that teaches respect and love for those who may be less fortunate.

Ramadan is also one of the [Five Pillars of Islam](#): five principles believed to be compulsory acts ordered by God. Fasting is considered to be an act of worship, which enables Muslims to feel closer to God and strengthen their spiritual health and self-discipline, along with alignment with non-material objects and the well-being of others.

During the sacred month, believers also head to the mosque for an additional night prayer called Taraweeh - this practice is only held during Ramadan.

How are the funds used?

Funds from this Platinum NFT collection are directed to programs such as annual Iftars for community members in need, and donating proceeds to refugee families and displaced people so that they can be provided with humanitarian relief.

Funds will also help assist MALA's Scholarship Program, which is provided to first generation college students pursuing the American Dream through higher education.

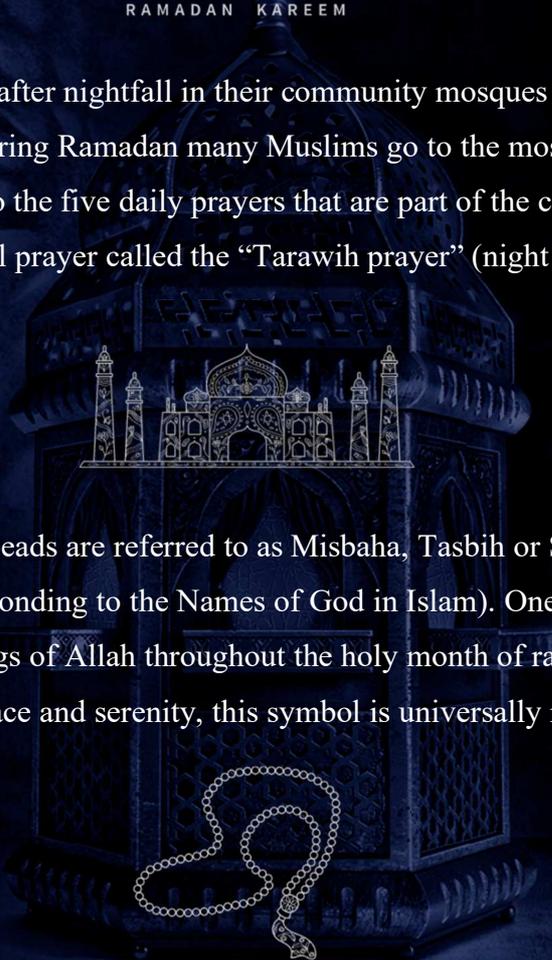
The 11 symbols and their meaning:

Ramadan Kareem: This beautiful phrase literally means "Generous Ramadan" and it is how Muslims across the world greet each other during this holy month. Muslims help each other during the month by giving sadaqa or zakat (forms of charity).



Mosque: Many will gather after nightfall in their community mosques for special communal prayers called "tarawih". During Ramadan many Muslims go to the mosque and spend several hours praying. In addition to the five daily prayers that are part of the core of Islam, Muslims recite a special prayer called the "Tarawih prayer" (night prayer).

Rosary: In Islam, prayer beads are referred to as Misbaha, Tasbeeh or Sibha and contain 99 normal-sized beads, (corresponding to the Names of God in Islam). One must engage in tasbeeh to gain additional blessings of Allah throughout the holy month of Ramadan. A beautiful universal symbol of peace and serenity, this symbol is universally recognized by all.



Hijab: Hijab (veil) is an Islamic concept of modesty and privacy. Although many Muslim women choose not to wear the hijab day-to-day, it is mandatory to do so at least during prayers. Since having a hijab itself is a religious deed and it itself has many facets, doing such during prayer will have a spiritual effect on the praying act itself.



Quran: This is the Islamic sacred book, believed to be the word of God as dictated to Muhammad by the archangel Gabriel and written down in Arabic. The Quran was first revealed during the month of Ramadan. There is no Ramadan without the Quran, as this holy month is the anniversary of the Book of Guidance.

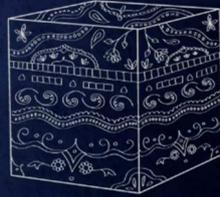


Iftar: A unifying tradition that is the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset, this sacred meal is often served with dates and milk, because it is believed that is what Prophet Muhammad did. Many people invite friends and family to share this spiritual event in hopes of obtaining blessings and forgiveness.

Ramadan Fanous: Fanous is a folk and traditional lantern, used during the month of Ramadan. In parts of the world, spanning from West Africa all the way to South America, the lanterns illuminate streets in a sea of color, creating a beautiful and magical atmosphere. The Fanous has become a worldwide symbol that represents the holy month of Ramadan.



Kaaba: The Kaaba is a sacred building at the center of Islam's most important mosque, the Masjid al-Haram in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. It is the most holiest site in Islam, and is considered by Muslims to be the House of God for Muslims around the world when performing prayers. The number of visitors increases significantly during Ramadan to take part in the spirituality and holiness of the month.



Allah: Allah is the Arabic language word referring to "God", "the Lord" and, literally according to the Qur'an, to the "God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" in the Abrahamic religions. It does not mean "a god", but rather "the Only God", the Supreme Creator of the universe, and it is the main term for the deity in Islam.



Prayer Rug: Prayer rugs are used widely around the world by Muslims to pray in a salat, which means to pray five times a day in the proper way. The rug provides a significant ritual context for the user, framing and enabling distinct postures, movements, and mindset for the occasion of prayer. The rugs are often filled with beautiful patterns and imagery and may be viewed as similar to art pieces.



Prayer Hands: A powerful depiction of two hands pressed together and fingers pointed up, the universal symbolic metaphor of praying hands is used as a gesture for guidance, gratitude, and an expression of sentiments that include hope, praise, gratitude, reverence, and respect.



Conclusion

MALA's mission is to educate and inspire generations to come. This mission will be fortified with the adaptation of blockchain technology and through the creation of its very own NFT collection. The permanence of this technology allows not just today's generation to learn and grow from the beautiful stories MALA has to tell, but many generations yet to come. From scholarships, to advocacy programs; the proceeds from this project will create real, everlasting change. Please take the time to observe the stunning art and their backstories that portray the history of Islam and the importance of Muslim leadership in our world today.

As the auspicious month of Ramadan starts, may these stunning images brighten your path toward enlightenment and may you and your family be blessed with peace and good health.

Ramadan is a month of worship, reflection and reconciliation; where the basic tenets of tolerance and forgiveness are integral to communities. Ramadan teaches us a great number of things; patience, piety and discipline are just a few to name.

With this collection, the spirit of this holy month aims to inspire and give us the desire, strength, as well as the determination to achieve our common global goal of peace and prosperity. Gratitude is attitude, and we are blessed and honored to share MALA's very first NFT collection with the world.

