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**OH RAMADAN, OH RAMADAN**

By John Judy

JOHN

This past Friday the Muslim holy month of Ramadan began. Like all holidays, its pleasures are no doubt mixed with a certain amount of stress, especially if you're being held at a certain military prison on the island of Cuba.

**(Lights up on "The Yard" at Gitmo. SAMEEN is at prayer. MAHMOUD is addressing cards. SAFWAT is reading the Koran, but is turning the pages loudly and chuckling to himself.)**

SAMEEN

Safwat. Would you mind not doing that?

SAFWAT

Not doing what? I am reading the Koran.

SAMEEN

Well, could you do it quietly? I am trying to pray here and you are turning the pages very loudly.

SAFWAT

What are you kidding?

SAMEEN

Yes, Safwat, I interrupted my prayers to almighty God to josh around with you. Do I look like I'm kidding?

SAFWAT

Well, pardon me, Sameen. I did not realize that my turning the pages of the Holy Koran could generate static interference between you and Allah. I must have missed the chapter where it says not to read while Sameen is praying.

**(MAHMOUD tears up one of his cards.)**

MAHMOUD

Will you both stop it?!

SAMEEN

What is wrong, Mahmoud?

MAHMOUD

Nothing! Everything! Nevermind!

SAFWAT

Hey, what kind of talk is that for a "High Value Target?"

MAHMOUD

Oh, up your face, Safwat! We cannot all be the Number Two Man in Al Qaeda.

SAMEEN

Well, y'know, according to George Bush...

SAFWAT

I think all of us here are "Number Two Man in Al Qaeda."

MAHMOUD

You know, I don't even know why I am doing this. I am trying to make Ramadan cards for you guys and they keep tearing and all you do is bust on my chops. "My friends!" Here, make your own cards! I don't care!

CORPORAL MULROONEY

Hey, you guys! Break it up down there!

SAMEEN

We are just talking, Corporal Mulrooney!

CORPORAL MULROONEY

Well, talk quieter. But not too quiet.

SAFWAT

It is like being in military prison with my mom.

MAHMOUD

Oh, thank-you for bringing that up.

SAFWAT

What?

MAHMOUD

Family. It is Ramadan and we are all away from our families. I hate my life!

SAFWAT

Well, if you keep that negative attitude...

SAMEEN

Look, my friends, it is almost sundown. What do you say we all break our fast together?

SAFWAT

There you go! Life hands you lemons, you make lemonade!

SAMEEN

Which is what I made actually...

MAHMOUD

Ah, guys... If it were any other night...

SAFWAT

What?

MAHMOUD

I am being interrogated and beaten tonight. It's a thing. I can't get out of it.

SAMEEN

Man, it's been three years already and they're still torturing you?

MAHMOUD

Yeah, Saturday is like, "Torture Mahmoud Night." I'm running out of stuff to make up.

CORPORAL MULROONEY

No whispering!

MAHMOUD

We're just talking, Mulrooney!

CORPORAL MULROONEY

About what?

SAMEEN

We're going to blow up the White House, Mulrooney! We're doing it from in here.

SAFWAT

You should definitely phone that in. Get big medal.

CORPORAL MULROONEY

I'm counting to three. "One..."

SAFWAT

What are you going to do, Mulrooney, water-board me?  
Again?

CORPORAL MULROONEY

*(beat)* Yeah. "Two..."

SAFWAT

It's getting really old, man!

MAHMOUD

Guys, let's go back to our cells...

SAFWAT

I water-boarded your mom, Mulrooney!

SAMEEN

Ohhhh! "Snap!"

SAFWAT

I put her in a "stress position!"

MAHMOUD

Ow! No you didn't!

SAFWAT

She disclosed "key intelligence!"

SAMEEN

Okay, we should run now. Seriously.

SAMEEN, SAFWAT, and MAHMOUD

Happy Ramadan!

**(BLACKOUT)**