

**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MONTH OF RAJAB**  
**27 DECEMBER 2024 | 25 JAMADILAKHIR 1446H**

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ  
وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.  
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ.  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،  
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، انْفُزُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

The month of *Rajab* is one of the four sacred months that are revered in Islam. The sacred months are the months of *Dhul-Qi'dah*, *Dhul-Hijjah*, *Muharram* and *Rajab*. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 9 (*Surah At-Tawbah*), Verse (*ayat*) 36:

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرْمٌ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ  
الْقَيِّمُ فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا فِيهِنَّ أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَقَاتِلُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ كَافَّةً كَمَا يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ كَافَّةً وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الْمُتَّقِينَ

**Which means:** “Indeed, the number of months ordained by Allah is twelve—in Allah’s Record since the day He created the heavens and the earth—of which four are sacred. That is the Right Way. So do not wrong one another

*during these months. And fight the polytheists together as they fight together against you. And know that Allah is with those mindful of Him”.*

Linguistically, *Rajab* means to respect and glorify. The Arab society of *Jahiliyyah* (ignorance) respected and glorified the sacred months so much that they did not allow war in these months. Imam Ibn Kathir in his commentary stated that the rewards of good deeds done in these months are more than doubled compared to other months. Likewise, if injustice and evil are done, the sin is greater.

In conjunction with the celebration of the new year 2025, which coincides with the start of the month of *Rajab*, let us start the new year by seeking the advantages and blessings of this month of *Rajab*.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

The month of *Rajab* is among the sacred months in which fasting is encouraged. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him [PBUH]) once told a companion who wanted to fast as a *sunnah* to do so during the sacred months in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Abu Daud:

...صُمْ مِنَ الْحُرْمِ وَاتْرُكْ، صُمْ مِنَ الْحُرْمِ وَاتْرُكْ، صُمْ مِنَ الْحُرْمِ وَاتْرُكْ وَقَالَ: بِأَصَابِعِهِ الثَّلَاثَةَ فَضَمَّهَا ثُمَّ أَرْسَلَهَا

**Which means:** “Fast during the inviolable months and then stop; fast during the inviolable months and then stop; fast during the inviolable months and then stop. He indicated by his three fingers, and joined them and then opened them.”

Reflecting the opinions of scholars in the Shafie School, Imam Ibn Al-Solah said:

*“The hadith about the benefits of fasting in general and the hadith about encouraging fasting in the sacred months (Dhul-Qi’dah, Dhul-Hijjah, Muharram and Rajab) are enough to encourage fasting in the month of Rajab.”*

Sheikh Athiyyah Saqar in his book *Ahsanul Kalam* concluded that there is no evidence that prevents fasting completely in the months of *Rajab*, *Sha’ban* and *Ramadan*. Similarly, Sheikh Wahbah Al-Zuhaili said that fasting for three consecutive months is practiced by the righteous and there is no contradiction as long as a person is able to do it without claiming that it is *sunnah* and does not harm the person to the point he is unable to complete fasting in the month of *Ramadan*.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Among the significance of the month of *Rajab* is that prayers are answered on the first night of this month. Imam As-Shafie stated in the book *Al-Umm*:

إِنَّ الدُّعَاءَ يُسْتَجَابُ فِي خَمْسِ لَيَالٍ: فِي لَيْلَةِ الْجُمُعَةِ، وَلَيْلَةِ الْأَضْحَى، وَلَيْلَةِ الْفِطْرِ، وَأَوَّلِ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْ رَجَبٍ، وَلَيْلَةِ النَّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ

**Which means:** *“Indeed, Du’as (supplications) are accepted in five nights; in the night of Jumu’ah, the night of Eid Al-Adha, the night of Eid Al-Fitr, the first night of Rajab, and the mid-most night of Sha’ban”*

A Sufi scholar, Abu Bakr Al-Warraaq said:

رَجَبُ شَهْرِ الزَّرْعِ وَشَعْبَانُ شَهْرِ السَّقْيِ وَرَمَضَانُ شَهْرِ الْحَصَادِ.

**Which means:** “*The month of Rajab is the month for planting, the month of Sha’ban is the month for irrigating, and the month of Ramadan is the month for harvesting.*”

Based on the opinions that have been mentioned, there is neither absolute prohibition on performing certain practices in the month of *Rajab*, nor is there an absolute command to perform certain practices in the month of *Rajab*. However, to seize the advantages of the sacred month, let us increase our virtuous practices in this month.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Several important historical events occurred in the month of *Rajab* which include *Isra’* and *Mi’raj* (*Prophet Muhammad’s ascension to Heaven*). It was at the climax of this event that Allah the Almighty made it obligatory for Muslims to pray five times a day. Other events that occurred in the month of *Rajab* are: the first migration to Abyssinia, the Battle of Tabuk, the change of the direction of the *Qibla* from *Masjidil Aqsa* to *Masjidil Haram*, the birth of Imam As-Shafie and also the liberation of *Baitul Maqdis* from the hands of the Crusaders. Therefore, let us take the opportunity to appreciate the significant events in Islamic history that occurred in this noble month.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

To end today’s *khutbah* (sermon), let us:

1. Appreciate the wisdom behind the significance of the month of *Rajab* as one of the sacred months.

2. Encourage fasting in the month of *Rajab* and also supplement it with other *sunnah* practices such as reciting *du'a*, performing *qiamullail*, reading the Quran, performing *sunnah* prayers, remembering Allah (*dhikr*), seeking forgiveness (*istighfar*), helping those in need, etc.
3. Appreciate the important historical events of Islam that occurred in this month so that we can use them as a guide and example in our lives.
4. Perform any act of worship that is prescribed by Islam as long as we do not declare that it is specifically commanded to be done in the month of *Rajab*. All acts of worship are done only to gain the pleasure of Allah the Almighty.

Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 9 (*Surah At-Tawbah*), Verse (*ayat*) 105:

وَقُلْ أَعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَسَتُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عِلْمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ

**Which means:** “Tell them O Prophet. “Do as you will. Your deeds will be observed by Allah, His Messenger, and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the seen and unseen, then He will inform you of what you used to do.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.