

NISFU SYAABAN

(half of the month of syaaban)

7 FEBRUARY 2025 / 8 SYAABAN 1446H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ
اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّهِ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Indeed, human life is constantly exposed to sin. No one is infallible, except Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). However, Allah is the Most Just. Allah never leaves humans in a state of continuous sin. Ask for forgiveness from Allah the Almighty as much as possible at all times, especially in conjunction with Nisfu Syaaban on the night of 13 February 2025, corresponding to 14 Syaaban 1446H, which is about to arrive.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 42 (surah al-Shura) verse 25-26:

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وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَعْفُو عَنِ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ

وَيَسْتَجِيبُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَيَزِيدُهُمْ مِّن فَضْلِهِ ۗ وَالْكَافِرُونَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ

Which means: “He is the One Who accepts repentance from His servants and pardons their sins. And He knows whatever you do. He responds to those who believe and do good, and increases their reward out of His grace. As for the disbelievers, they will suffer a severe punishment.”

Dear brothers and sisters,

Among the acts love from Allah the Almighty towards us is that He has chosen several places and times that are most suitable for asking for forgiveness and fulfilment of our wishes. Among the times encouraged by the Sharia to pray and ask for forgiveness is during the night of Nisfu Syaaban. In the hadith of Mu’az bin Jabal Radiallahu Anhu, Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

يَطَّلِعُ اللَّهُ إِلَى خَلْقِهِ فِي لَيْلَةِ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَيَغْفِرُ لَجَمِيعِ خَلْقِهِ إِلَّا لِمُشْرِكٍ أَوْ مُشَاحِنٍ

Which means: “Verily, Allah looks down in middle night of Syaaban and He forgives all of His creatures, except for an idolater or one filled with malice.”

Traditionally many mosques and suraus organize the recitation of Surah Yasin in congregation either once or three times on the night of Nisfu Syaaban, In fact,

this practice was not only introduced in the archipelago, but was practiced by previous Muslims including in the land of Sham. In the book *Fadhai'l al-Syuhur wa al-Ayyam*, Imam al-Nablusi Rahimahullah stated that among the practices of the righteous on the night of Nisfu Syaaban after Maghrib, was to recite Surah Yasin three times..

Imam Ibnu Rajab al-Hanbali Rahimahullah said: *“On the night of Nisfu Syaaban, the Tabi'in from among the people of Sham venerated it and earnestly performed their worship on that night. They performed the Sunnah prayers in the Mosque on the night of Nisfu Syaaban.”*

Imam al-Shafi'i is of the view that the night of the middle of Syaaban is one of the nights when prayers are answered.

Dear brothers and sisters,

This is one of the blessings found in the month of Syaaban, which is the gateway to the arrival of the month of Ramadan. Many scholars have stated the position of worship in this month, such as the position of the sunnah prayer rawatib qabliyyah before the compulsory (*fard*) prayer. It is not surprising that the salafussaleh (*the pious/virtuous/righteous predecessors*) would increase their righteous practices in this month of Syaaban in preparation for entering the feast of worship in the month of Ramadan.

According to Sayyidina Anas bin Malik: *“Indeed, when the month of Syaaban entered, Muslims in his time would open their copies of the Quran and read it (a lot in preparation for Ramadan).”*

Imam Ibnu Hajar al-Asqalani said: *“It is narrated that some of the salaf would pay zakat on their wealth in the month of Syaaban with the aim that the poor who were less able could fast during the month of Ramadan.”*

Usamah bin Zayd Radiallahu Anhu said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Nasaie:

“O Messenger of Allah, I have never seen you fasting in any month as you fast in the month of Syaaban.” So the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “That is the month that most people neglect, which is between Rejab and Ramadan. It is also the month in which all deeds are raised to the Lord of the Worlds. Therefore, I like it when my deeds are raised while I am fasting.”

Based on this hadith, it is recommended (*sunat*) to fast during the month of Syaaban, including the day of Nisfu Syaaban, as the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) hoped that his deeds would be accepted while he was fasting.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us call on all Muslims to:

FIRST: Liven up the night of Nisfu Shaaban and the month of Syaaban with various acts of worship, such as helping those in need, reading the Quran, increasing sunnah fasting and other practices.

SECOND: Remind each family member, especially women, to make up (*qada*) for the fasting immediately if it has not been done.

THIRD: It is also reminded in the final qaul of the Shafi'i Mazhab that fasting after the middle of the month of Syaaban is not legally forbidden but discouraged (*makruh*) for anyone who is not used to fasting the previous day.

FOURTH: Increase acts of worship in this month, especially on the night of Nisfu Syaaban by organizing Quran recitation events such as the recitation of Surah Yasin or a zikir event. Ask for forgiveness from Allah on the night of Nisfu Syaaban, because according to the hadith, the sins of His servants will be forgiven on that night except for the polytheists who associate partners with Allah and those who are hostile to each other.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In conclusion, Muslims are encouraged to enliven the night of Nisfu Syaaban by fasting during the day and worshipping, praying and asking for forgiveness from Allah the Almighty at night because it is one of the nights when prayers are answered.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا ۗ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

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، وَلِسَانِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

