

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SHAABAN
31 JANUARY 2025 / 01 SHAABAN 1446H

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ 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، اِتَّقُوا 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 *Shaaban* is the month between the months of *Rajab* and *Ramadan*. In this special month we are advised to increase our act of worship such as fasting and praying to Allah the Almighty.

One of the special features of the month of *Shaaban* is fasting. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him [PBUH]) used to fast in this month more than in any other month except *Ramadan*. In Sahih Al-Bukhari, *Sayyidatina* Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said:

كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - يَصُومُ حَتَّى نَقُولَ لَا يُفْطِرُ، وَيُفْطِرُ حَتَّى نَقُولَ لَا يَصُومُ، وَمَا رَأَيْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - اسْتَكْمَلَ صِيَامَ شَهْرٍ قَطُّ إِلَّا رَمَضَانَ، وَمَا رَأَيْتُهُ فِي شَهْرٍ أَكْثَرَ مِنْهُ صِيَامًا فِي شَعْبَانَ

Which means: “Allah’s messenger used to fast to such an extent that we thought he would never break his fast, and he would go without fasting to such an extent that we thought he would never fast. I never saw Allah’s messenger fast a complete month except in Ramadan, and I never saw him fast more in any month than in Shaaban.”

The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) also said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam An-Nasa’i which means: “That is a month to which people do not pay much attention, between Rajab and Ramadan. It is a month in which the deeds are taken up to the Lord of the worlds, and I like that my deeds be taken up when I am fasting.”

These *hadiths* show that the Prophet (PBUH) strongly emphasized increasing the practice of fasting in the month of *Shaaban*, including on the day of *Nisfu Shaaban*, because it is a month that receives special attention from Allah the Almighty. This also illustrates how important it is to utilize this month to improve our worship before the blessed month of *Ramadan*. Among the reasons that we are asked to fast a lot in this month is in preparation and training for the month of *Ramadan*.

At this time, the head of the family should advise his wife and daughters to make up for the fasts they missed before the start of *Ramadan*. The month of *Shaaban* is the last chance for them to make up for the fasts before the start of *Ramadan*. It should be noted that voluntary fasts after mid-*Shaaban* are *makruh* (not recommended) except for those who started fasting in the first half of *Shaaban*.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The 15th night of the month of *Shaaban* also known as the night of *Nisfu Shaaban* is a special night in which we should increase our acts of worship. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ibn Hibban:

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

Which means: “Allah the most High looks down on the middle night of *Shaaban* and forgives all His servants, except a polytheist or one who is hostile.”

This *hadith* shows that Allah the Almighty is very forgiving. We are encouraged to increase our prayers to Allah the Almighty on the night of *Nisfu Shaaban*. It is undeniable that this night has advantages and that there is forgiveness and special acceptance for those who ask for forgiveness and those who pray to Him. This *hadith* is supported by what Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 4 (*Surah An-Nisa*) Verse (*ayat*) 48:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ افْتَرَىٰ إِثْمًا عَظِيمًا

Which means: “Allah does not forgive the joining of partners with Him: anything less than that He forgives to whoever He will, but anyone who joins partners with Allah has concocted a tremendous sin.”

Based on this verse, we are strongly urged to stay away from polytheism because polytheism is an unforgivable sin and prevents our prayers from being answered by Allah the Almighty. In addition, Imam As-Shafie said in the book of *Al-Umm* that praying on the night of the 15th of *Shaaban* is definitely accepted.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Those who are hostile will not be forgiven by Allah the Almighty. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim from Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) which means: “*The gates of Paradise will be opened on Mondays and on Thursdays, and every servant [of Allah] who associates nothing with Allah will be forgiven, except for the man who has a grudge against his brother. [About them] it will be said: Delay these two until they are reconciled; delay these two until they are reconciled.*”

Based on this *hadith*, we should stay away from acts of hostility towards each other. Avoid endless disputes. There is no benefit in arguing, especially among Muslims. Instead, we should make peace in all disputes that occur.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In conclusion, the advantages of the month of *Shaaban* and the night of the 15th of *Shaaban* are proven based on the *hadith* of the Prophet (PBUH). We are encouraged to increase our acts of worship such as fasting, remembering Allah, praying and asking for forgiveness from Allah the Almighty. May He give us strength in performing our worship and protect us from doing evil things. Ask forgiveness from Allah the Almighty as He commands us to do so as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 71 (*Surah Nuh*) Verse 10:

فَقُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا

Which means: “*I said, ‘Ask forgiveness of your Lord: He is ever forgiving.’*”

بَارَكَ اللهُ 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 اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.