

ADVANTAGES OF THE MONTH OF *SHA'BAN*

23 JANUARY 2026 / 4 SHA'BAN 1447H

الْحَمْدُ 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 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 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,

Sha'ban is the eighth month in the Islamic calendar. This month is between the months of *Rajab* and *Ramadan*. It is named the month of *Sha'ban* because it has many advantages. Therefore, we should increase acts of worship and good deeds in this month as done by the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]).

Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 35 (*Surah Fatir*) Verse (ayat) 10:

مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعِزَّةَ فَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ جَمِيعًا ۗ إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ ۗ وَالَّذِينَ
يَمْكُرُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ ۖ وَمَكْرُ أُولَٰئِكَ هُوَ يُبْوَرُ

Which means: *Whoever seeks honour and power, then (let them know that) all honour and power belongs to Allah. To Him (alone) good words ascend, and righteous deeds are raised up by Him. As for those who plot evil, they will suffer a severe punishment. And the plotting of such (people) is doomed (to fail).*

This verse explains that true glory belongs only to Allah the Almighty. Glory does not lie in rank, wealth or worldly position, but in faith and righteous deeds done for the sake of Allah the Almighty with full servitude.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

According to some scholars, practices that are encouraged for us to do during the month of *Sha'ban* include:

First: Voluntary fasting

The Prophet (PBUH) observed more voluntary fasts in the month of *Sha'ban* than in any other month. He explained the virtues of fasting in this month in a *hadith* narrated by Imam An-Nasa'ie:

ذَٰكَ شَهْرٌ يَعْفَلُ النَّاسُ عَنْهُ يَغْنِي بَيْنَ رَجَبٍ وَرَمَضَانَ وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ تَرْفَعُ الْأَعْمَالُ فِيهِ إِلَى رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ فَأَحِبُّ أَنْ يَرْفَعَ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ

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.”*

Second: Repenting and seeking forgiveness

Allah has given special advantages on the night of *Nisfu Sha'ban* (middle of the Month) by promising forgiveness to all His servants except the polytheists and those who are hostile towards each other. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ibn Majah:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَيَطَّلِعُ فِي لَيْلَةِ النَّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَيَغْفِرُ لَجَمِيعِ خَلْقِهِ إِلَّا لِمُشْرِكٍ أَوْ مُشَاحِنٍ

Which means: “Allah looks down on the night of the middle of Sha’ban and forgives all His creation, apart from the idolater and those who are hostile.”

Third: Reading the Quran and helping those in need

Ibn Rajab Al-Hanbali stated: “When the month of Sha’ban comes, Muslims bow down to the Quran. They busy themselves with reading the Quran and spend their wealth to help the weak (*dhuafa*) and the poor to welcome the arrival of the month of Ramadan.”

Fourth: *Qada'* (replacement) of fasts

Saidatina A’ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim:

كَانَ يَكُونُ عَلَى الصَّوْمِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ فَمَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَقْضِيَ إِلَّا فِي شَعْبَانَ

Which means: “If I had some part of the fast of Ramadan to make up, I would not be able to atone for it except in Sha’ban.”

The head of the family should remind family members to make up for missed fasts before the start of *Ramadan*. It should be noted that voluntary fasting after mid-*Sha'ban* is prohibited except for those who have started fasting in the first half of *Sha'ban*.

Some scholars are of the view that increasing our worship during the month of *Sha'ban* is a preparation and training for the arrival of *Ramadan*.

Imam Dzun Nun Al-Mishri said:

رَجَبُ شَهْرُ الزَّرْعِ وَشَعْبَانُ شَهْرُ السَّقْيِ وَرَمَضَانُ شَهْرُ الْحَصَادِ وَكُلُّ يَحْصُدُ مَا زَرَعَ فَمَنْ ضَيَّعَ
الزَّرَاعَةَ نَدِمَ يَوْمَ الْحَصَادِ

Which means: “*Rajab is the month for giving up sins, Sha'ban is the month for doing acts of obedience, and Ramadan is the month for waiting for gifts and honors.*”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

From today's *khutbah* (sermon), we can conclude that:

First The advantages of the month of *Sha'ban* and night of *nisfu Sha'ban* (the middle of *Sha'ban*) are established based on the *hadith* of the Prophet (PBUH).

Second We are encouraged to ask for forgiveness from Allah the Almighty in this blessed month and to increase our acts of worship such as fasting, praying/supplicating, reading the Quran, etc.

Third We should increase our charity and help those in need.

Fourth We are encouraged to increase our worship in the month of *Sha'ban* in preparation and training for the month of *Ramadan*.

بَارِكَ 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 الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.