

THE VIRTUES OF NISFU (mid) SYAABAN

30 JANUARY 2026M / 11 SYAABAN 1447H

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 عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

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

Let us increase our piety towards Allah the Almighty by carrying out all His commands and abandoning all His prohibitions. May we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this world and the Hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us be grateful for being present in the month of Syaaban; one of the honored months in Islam. It was customary for Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) to increase acts of worship, especially voluntary prayers and fasting during this month. This tradition was also practiced by the Companions and the pious predecessors (*salafussoleh*), who regarded the month of Syaaban as a festival of worship, such as increasing the recitation of the Qur'an, as preparation for the coming of Ramadan.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In addition, among the proofs of Allah the Almighty's overflowing mercy towards us is that He has granted special virtues on the night of Nisfu Syaaban. In a hadith narrated by Ibn Majah, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَيَطَّلِعُ فِي لَيْلَةِ النُّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَيَغْفِرُ لَجَمِيعِ خَلْقِهِ إِلَّا لِمُشْرِكٍ أَوْ مُشَاجِرٍ

Which means: *“Allah turns towards His creation in the Night of mid syaaban and He forgives all of them except for a polytheist and one carrying hostility”*

According to the Hijri calendar, Nisfu Syaaban in our country will fall at Maghrib on Monday next week. It is a tradition for many suraus and mosques to organize the communal recitation of Surah Yasin on the night of Nisfu Syaaban. This practice is not only observed in our region, but was also carried out by Muslims of the past, including in the land of Sham (Syria and its surroundings). In the book *Fadhā'il al-Shuhūr wa al-Ayyām*, Imam Abdul Ghani bin Ismail al-Nabalusi stated that among the practices of the righteous on the night of Nisfu Syaaban after Maghrib is to recite Surah Yasin three times.

Imam Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali said: “On the night of Nisfu Syaaban, the Tabi'in among the people of Sham revered it and strove earnestly in worship on that night. They performed voluntary prayers in the mosque on the night of Mid-Sha'ban.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us resolve to enliven the night of Nisfu Syaaban with acts of worship. At the same time, let us strive to avoid being among the two groups who will not be looked upon by Allah the Almighty on that night i.e. those who associate partners with Allah the Almighty and those who harbor enmity towards others. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 4 (Surah al-Nisa'), verse 48:

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

Which means: *“Indeed, Allah does not forgive associating others with Him in worship, but forgives anything else of whoever He wills. And whoever associates others with Allah has indeed committed a grave sin.”*

In addition, let us avoid harboring grudges or feelings of enmity towards others, especially towards family members, neighbors, and those closest to us. Remember that repentance is the path to seeking forgiveness for sins committed against Allah the Almighty, but sins committed against fellow human beings require forgiveness from those individuals themselves. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 47 (Surah Muhammad), verses 22–23, which means:

“Now if you hypocrites turn away, perhaps you would then spread corruption throughout the land and sever your ties of kinship! These are the ones who Allah has condemned, deafening them and blinding their eyes.”

Dear brothers and sisters,

In addition to increasing acts of worship, Muslims are also encouraged to supplicate on the night of Nisfu Syaaban. According to Imam al-Shafi'i, Nisfu Syaaban is one of the nights in which prayers are answered. In a hadith qudsi narrated by Ibn Majah, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, which means:

“When the night of Mid-Sha'ban arrives, then worship during its night and fast during its day. Indeed, Allah's mercy descends to the lowest heaven at sunset. Then Allah says: ‘Behold, whoever seeks forgiveness from Me, I will forgive him; whoever asks Me for provision, I will grant him provision; whoever asks Me for health, I will grant him health; behold this, behold this, until the break of dawn.’”

Dear brothers and sisters,

In concluding today's sermon, let the entire Muslim community to:

FIRST: Enliven the night of Nisfu Syaaban with remembrance of Allah (*zikir*), recitation of the Qur'an, prayers, charity, and other acts of devotion, with pure faith and avoiding enmity among fellow human beings.

SECOND: Enliven the night of Nisfu Syaaban with acts of worship such as the recitation of Surah Yasin or gatherings of remembrance of Allah in mosques and suraus. Meanwhile, the head of the family should encourage family members to engage in remembrance at home.

THIRD: Make up (*qada'*) the fasts that were missed in the previous year before the arrival of Ramadan.



