

ADVANTAGES OF REJAB

19 JANUARY 2024

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

وَأَشْهَدُ 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،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ 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 forgiven by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 9 (surah al-Taubah) verse 36:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ

السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرْمٌ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا فِيهِنَّ

أَنفُسَكُمْ

Which means: “Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve (lunar) months in the register of Allah (from) the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred. That is the correct religion (i.e. way), so do not wrong yourselves during them. And fight against the disbelievers collectively as they fight against you collectively. And know that Allah is with the righteous (who fear Him).”

In the verse that was recited just now, Allah the Almighty explained that there are twelve months in a year and Islam designates four of them as forbidden (*haram*) months. A forbidden month can be defined as a month that is highly respected because it is forbidden for anyone to fight or wage war during this month. Forbidden month also means holy month. These four forbidden months or holy months are Zulkaedah, Zulhijjah, Muharram and Rejab.

The month of Rejab is included in one of the special Islamic months because it is one of the forbidden months other than Zulkaedah, Zulhijjah and Muharram. In addition to the prohibition of fighting, we are also prohibited from committing cruelty or immorality such as organizing unbeneficial entertainment parties. Ibnu Abbas explained that: *“Injustice during the Sacred Months is worse and graver than injustice in other months. Likewise, good deeds done (in the forbidden months) are rewarded greater than in other months.”* This is what our society today needs to pay attention to.

Dear brothers and sisters

Based on this understanding, Muslims should make the forbidden months, including the month of Rejab that we are going through now, as a month of worship; in addition to making every effort to avoid all forms of sin and immorality. Entering the month of Rejab means that we are at the gates of Ramadan because there are less than two months left before we will celebrate this holy month. We should make this month of Rejab as a starting point for improving our good practices compared to months prior to this.

Muslims are strongly encouraged to fast during these holy months. Fasting can prevent us from immorality. Furthermore, fasting can be a training and preparation for us before the arrival of the month of Ramadan.

We can also commemorate and learn from various important events that occurred in the month of Rejab such as Isra' and Mikraj, the pioneering migration of Muslims to Abyssinia (Habsyah), the Battle of Tabuk and the

second liberation of the city of Baitul Maqdis by Sultan Salahuddin al-Ayubi. Rejab is also the month of Imam al-Shafie's birth and in the month of Rejab two very disheartening events occurred in the history of Muslims; namely the fall of the Ottoman Caliphate based in Turkey and Jerusalem to the hands of the Israel Zionist in 1948 AD.

Dear brothers and sisters

In conjunction with the month of Rejab, let us improve our relationship with Allah the Almighty by increasing our good deeds such as reading the Qur'an daily, reciting zikir, seeking forgiveness, making supplications, giving alms, performing obligatory prayers, fasting and purifying our hearts and preparing to welcome the arrival of the month of Ramadan which will approach soon. May this month of Rejab motivate us to become pious, faithful and righteous servants of Allah the Almighty.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ ﴿٧﴾ جَزَاءُ لَهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ ﴿٨﴾

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ 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.