

Sha'baan Newsletter

1st SHA'BAAN 1440 = SAT 6th APRIL 2019

IMPORTANCE OF THE MONTH OF SHA'BAAN AND ITS VIRTUES

According to the sayings and practices of the Prophet (S.A.W), the whole month of Sha'baan (the immediate month before Ramadan) is a virtuous month. It is reported in several authentic Hadeeths that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) used to fast for most part of this month.

Anas (ra) reports that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) was asked, "Which fast is the most meritorious after the fasts of Ramadhan?" He (S.A.W) replied, "Fasts of Sha'baan in honour of Ramadhan." *(Tirmidhi)*

When Usaama bin Zaid (ra) asked the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) the reason why he fasts so frequently in Sha'baan, he replied, "Sha'baan is a month between Rajab and Ramadhan neglected by many people, whilst it is the very month during which the (annual) deeds are presented before the Lord of the universe. Hence, I love to see my deeds being presented at a time when I am in the state of fasting." *(Nasaai)*

Aishah (ra) says, "The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) used to fast for almost the whole month of Sha'baan." When she asked whether Sha'baan was his favourite month to fast, The Prophet (S.A.W) replied, "In this month Allah prescribes a list of people dying in the forthcoming year. Therefore, I love to see my name being written on the list whilst I am fasting." *(At-Targheeb wat-Tarheeb, Vol 2, P.122)*

VIRTUES OF LAYLAT-UL -BARAA'AH (THE NIGHT OF EMANCIPATION)

Although the whole month of Sha'baan is virtuous, however, the night between 14th and 15th of Sha'baan **(from Magrib on Friday 19th April to the beginning time of Fajr on Saturday 20th April)** is even more blessed. It is well known by "Laylatul-Baraa'ah" or "Shab-e-Baraa'at" - The Night of Freedom from Hellfire.

During this night people are bestowed by Allah's very special mercy. Strong sinners on repentance are forgiven and granted exemption from the Fire of Hell. Callers for help are immediately supported and comforted, and all duas are responded to.

The Messenger of Allah (S.A.W) has said, "Indeed during the 15th night of Sha'baan, Allah descends to the first Heaven (in the manner He best knows) and forgives more people than the total number of hair found on all the sheep of Banu Kalb (put together)." *(Tirmidhi, P.156 – Ibn Majah, P.100)*

Despite Allah's mercy and forgiveness being encompassing on this night, nonetheless the following people cannot be forgiven even on this occasion until they resolve the issue; one who associates partners with Allah, one who harbours hatred in his heart for another, one who cuts off ties and relations, one who leaves his clothes hanging below his ankles (as a sign of pride), one who disobeys his parents, and one who is addicted to drinking.

Also during this night every individual's file containing his accurately recorded deeds, of both good and evil are submitted in the court of Allah – The Master – The Judge of all judges.

Thus the Prophet (S.A.W) has said, "During this night all the children (decreed) to be born throughout the coming year, as well as those (decreed) to die in the forthcoming year are written down. Also during this night the (people's) deeds are raised (submitted to Allah) and their sustenance for the following year (its quantity and means) is sent down (decided and disclosed to the Angels)." (*Baihaqi, Mishkaat, P.115*)

HOW SHOULD WE SPEND THE NIGHT?

1. The whole night (**from Magrib on Friday 19th April to the beginning time of Fajr on Saturday 20th April**) is holy and virtuous. Therefore remain awake for as long as you can throughout the night, especially during the second part of the night.
2. The night will be celebrated **on Friday 19th April at Yorkshire Muslim Academy, Bland Street, S4 8DG. Durood sharif & dhikr majlis will take place from just before Magrib at 7:45pm followed by a special talk in English and Urdu after Magrib.** This will be followed by **various acts of collective worship (tilaawat, dhikr), nafl salaah etc throughout the night.** Sisters are also welcome to attend at Yorkshire Muslim Academy with segregated facilities available.
3. At least for today (**i.e. from Magrib on Friday 19th April till Magrib on Saturday 20th April**) offer all your salaats with Jama'ah in the Masjid.
4. Make up with everyone who you have fallen out with and please your parents. Otherwise you may be deprived from the blessings of this night.
5. Turn to Allah with sincere repentance. Shed tears and express guilt over your sins. Humbly beg Allah's forgiveness and make a firm intention of not repeating the same. Strictly abstain from **all types of major and minor sins.**
6. Make lengthy duas with utmost humbleness and humility, begging Allah for all spiritual and worldly needs for yourself and others.
7. There are no particular salaats recommended tonight other than Tahajjud. You may read Tahajjud in two's or four's prolonging each rakaat as long as possible. Perform various other Ibaadats, such as reciting the Qur'aan, dhikr (tasbeeh etc) and durood shareef. It is also desirable to visit the dead and pray for their forgiveness.
8. Following the celebration of the 15th night of Sha'baan, Masjid Umar will be **celebrating the fasting of the 15th of Sha'baan i.e. Saturday 20th April.**

N.B. Excused women should not feel deprived. They should also engage themselves in as much repentance, duas, dhikr and durood shareef as possible throughout the night.

Finally we pray to Allah to grant us all His very special forgiveness, to enshroud us in His infinite mercy and to accept all our duas, dhikr and Ibaadats during this month.

AMEEN

This newsletter has been prepared by Masjid Umar / YMA, Sheffield