

VIRTUES OF THE MONTH OF SHA'BAAN

& THE SHAB-E-BARAAT

Sha'baan (شعبان), the eighth month of the Islamic calendar, is associated with various blessings and virtues. During this month, Muslims should be preparing for the great month of Ramadaan. It is said that when the month of Rajab began, RasulAllah^{SAW} would make the following prayer:

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَيَلْعَنَّا رَمَضَانَ

*Oh Allâh! Bless us in Rajab and Sha 'baan
and cause us to reach Ramadaan. [Bayhaqi]*

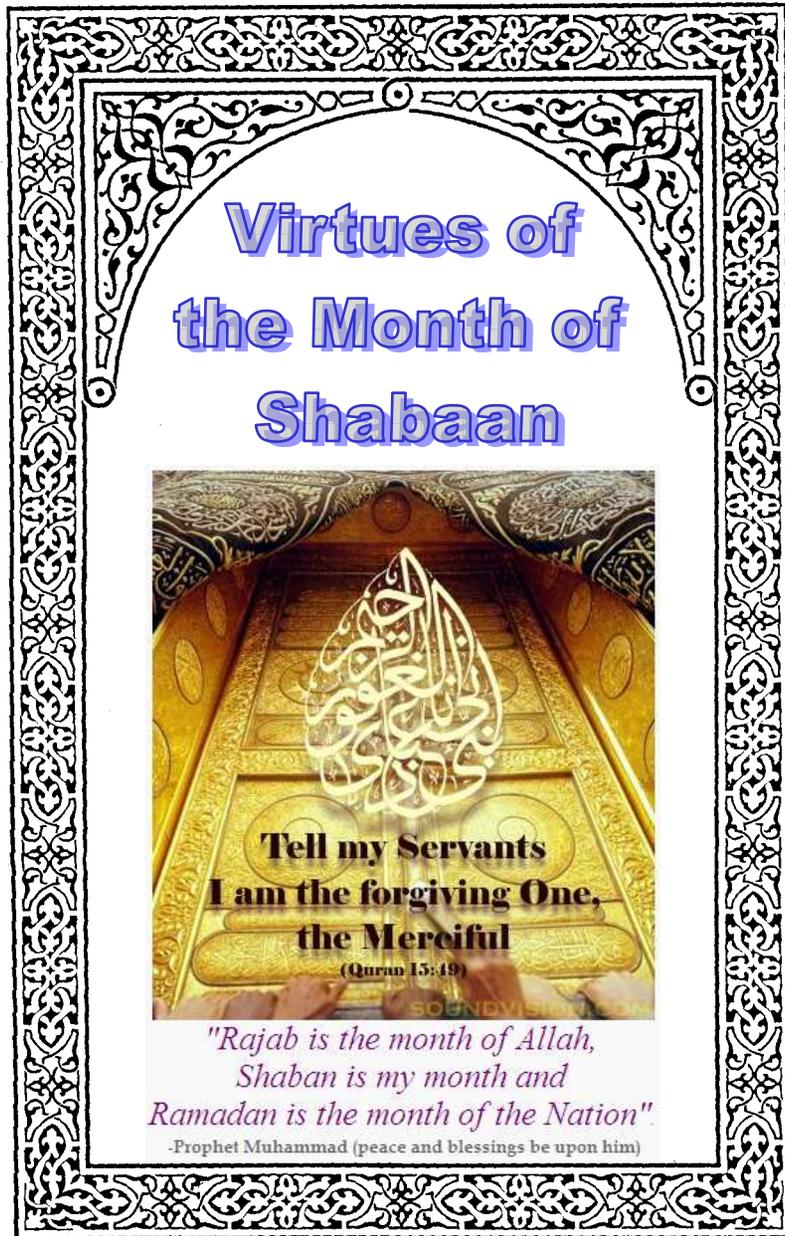
RasulAllah^{SAW} also advised the Muslims to be diligent in sighting the moon of Sha'baan, in order to be sure about the beginning of Ramadaan. [Tirmidhi]

The month of Sha'baan is a blessed month and Allah^{SWT} grants many blessings to people who offer special prayers in this month. The night of 15th Sha'baan (Shab-e-Baraat) is of special significance. On this night Allah^{SWT} distributes Rizq (sustenance) to His servants and informs the angels of all the forthcoming blessing and calamities written for us.

Hadrat `Ali^{RA} reported that RasulAllah^{SAW} said: "When it is the fifteenth night of Sha'baan, observe prayer during the night and observe fast during the day; for Allâh^{SWT} descends to the heaven of the world as the sun sets and says: Is there anyone to seek forgiveness so that I should forgive him? Is there anyone to seek sustenance so that I should provide him? Is there anyone in trouble so that I may relieve him? And so on and so forth, until the dawn breaks." [Ibn Mâjah]

Abu Bakr^{RA} narrated that RasulAllah^{SAW} said: On this night Allah^{SWT} asks if there is anyone asking for forgiveness so that He could forgive him; and if there was anyone asking for good health so that He could give him good health. On this day Allah^{SWT} opens 300 doors of blessings and makes the Hellfire haram on His servants who make special prayers this night."

Ayesha^{RA} reported that RasulAllah^{SAW} said: "Do you know (how rewarding) is this night?" – meaning the fifteenth night of Sha'baan. She said: Allâh's Messenger, what lies therein? Thereupon he said: "It is in this very night that the record is prepared of every human being who has to be born during the year, and the record is prepared of every human being who has to die during the current year, and (it is during this night) that deeds (of the people) are lifted (to the heaven) and their provisions descend." RasulAllah^{SAW} also said: "None would be able to get into Paradise except by the mercy of Allâh^{SWT}." He said it three times. [Bayhaqi]



Abu Musa Ash'ari^{RA} that RasulAllah^{SAW} said: "Allâh^{SWT} looks down on the middle night of Sha'baan and forgives all His creation except a polytheist or one who is hostile." [Ibn Mâjah]

'Ayshah^{RA} narrated that RasulAllah^{SAW} said: O Ayshah, this is the Nisfu Sha'baan (middle of Sha'baan) night. During (this night) all the deeds of the world and its slaves are raised up (and presented to Allah^{SWT}). Allah^{SWT} gives freedom from Hell to the number of people equal to the hair on the sheeps of Bani Kalb (Tribe of Kalb). O Ayshah, will you give me permission tonight (to perform worship)? I said: yes. He then stood for salaah. He did a brief qiyam (stood briefly). He recited Surah Al Fatihah and a small Surah and then fell into prostration for half the night. Then he stood up and performed the 2nd Raka'ah like the first one and fell into prostration. His prostration lasted till Fajr. I kept watching and became frightened that Allah^{SWT} may have taken his soul. When a long time elapsed I went close to him and touched the sole of his feet and he moved and I heard him say:

**"Allaahumma innee A'oozu bi 'Afwika min 'iqaabika
wa a'oozu bi ridaaka min sakhatika
wa a'oozu bika minka jalla wajhuka.
Laa uhsee thanaan 'alaika 'Alaa Nafsik."**

"O My Allah, I seek Your protection of Your forgiveness
from Your punishment,
and protection of Your pleasure from Your anger
and I seek protection in Your Majestic Face.
I cannot enumerate Your Praises as only You can".

I said: "O RasuAllah^{SAW}, I heard you doing Zikr as I have never seen you do it before." He^{SAW} said: "Have you its knowledge?" I said: "yes." He^{SAW} said memorize (these words) and teach them (to others). Jibreel^{AS} told me to do this Zikr in the sajdah (prostration). [Ghuniyatuttaalibeen]

'Ali^{RA} narrated that the RasuAllah^{SAW} said: "When the 15th of Sha'baan arrives, do Qiyamul Lail (spend the night in worship) that is, perform Nawaafil (salaah) and fast during the day because Allah^{SWT} descends upon the skies of the world after the sunset and proclaims: 'Is there anyone who desires salvation so that I forgive him, anyone who beseeches for provision I will give it to him, anyone who is a victim of misfortunes, I will give him freedom from them? He continues to proclaim this till the daybreak.'" [Ibn Maaja]

Abu Hurairah^{RA} narrated that RasulAllah^{SAW} said: "Jibreel^{AS} came to me in the night of middle of Sha'baan and told me: "O Muhammad^{SAW} please raise your blessed head towards the sky." I asked him what is this night? He said: "This is the night in which Allah^{SWT} opens 300 doors out of the doors of his

Grace & Blessings and forgives every person who does not join partners with him, does not practice Black Magic, is not an alcohol drinker, who does not insist upon interest, adultery and fornication. Those (who commit these sins) are not forgiven until they do Taubah (Repent). When ¼ of the night had passed by, Jibreel^{AS} came down and said: "O Muhammad^{SAW} please raise your blessed head", & I raised my head to find the doors of Paradise open and an angel speaking out from the first door: "(There is) good news for the person who turns tonight (to worship)." Another angel calls out from the 2nd door (of Paradise): "Happy will become the person who prostates tonight." Another angel calls out from the 3rd door: "Happy will be the person who does D'uaa (Supplication) tonight." Another angel calls out from the 4th door: "Happy will be those who do Zikr tonight." Another Angel from the 5th door calls out: "Happy will be the person who sheds tears with the fear of Allah^{SWT} tonight." Another angel calls out from the 6th door: "Happiness is for all Muslims tonight." From the 7th door an angel calls out: "Is there any one with a need, his need will be fulfilled." From the 8th door an angel calls out: "Is there any one who would ask for forgiveness and he will be forgiven." I then asked Jibreel^{AS}: "How long will these doors (of Paradise) be open?" Jibreel^{AS} said: "From the beginning of the night to daybreak." Then he said: "O Muhammad the number of people given freedom from the Fire is equal to the hair on all the sheep of (Bani) Kalb (The tribe of Kalb). [Ghuniyatut Talibeen]

Whoever performs, in the month of Sha'baan, 8 Rak'at Nafl and in each Rak'at recites Surah Al Ikhlâas 11 times, with one Salaam (at the end of the 8 Rak'ats) and makes D'ua to Allah to pass on the thawaab (rewards) to the soul of Hadrat Fatima^{RA}, She says I will not step into Paradise until I intercede (for the one who did this Salat). [Risaalah Fadaailush Shuhoor.]

Recommended Prayers

Following are some recommended prayers. One may choose to offer some or all of them.

1. Begin the day's worship by taking a bath with the intention of offering the Shab-e-Baraat prayers (if not possible, do Wudu.) Offer 2 Rakaat Salaat Nafl, Tahyatal Wudu. In each rakaat, after Surah Fatihah, recite Ayatal Kursi once and Surah Ikhlâas three times.
2. Soon after Asr prayers and before sunset:
 - a. Recite Astaghfar 70 times;

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ
Astaghfirul-laahal-lazee La ilaaha il-lal-laahu,
wal Haee-yul Qae-yumo wa atoobu alaih.

b. Recite: *Ya Haeeyu Ya Qaeeyum* 101 times.

c. Recite 40 times:

لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ

*laa haula, wa la quw-wata
il-la bil-laahil 'alee-yil 'azeem*

3. After Maghrib prayers, offer 6 Rakaat Salaat Nafil, two at a time. With Allah^{SWT}'s blessing, InshAllah the first two are for long life, the next two for riddance from calamities, and the last two for riddance from dependence on any human being. After each two rakaat, recite Surah Yasin once, or Surah Ikhlas 21 times, and then recite Dua Nisf Sha'baan.
4. After 'Isha prayers, offer 2 Rakaat Salaat Nafil, for Allah^{SWT}'s bounties of Rizq (sustenance). In each rakaat, after Surah Fatihah, recite Ayatal Kursi once and Surah Ikhlas 15 times. After the prayers, recite Darood (Salatan Nabee) 100 times.
5. Offer 8 Rakaat Salaat Nafil (two at a time), for seeking Allah^{SWT}'s forgiveness of our sins. In each Rakaat, after Surah Fatihah, recite Surah Qadr once, and Surah Ikhlas 25 times.
6. Offer 8 Rakaat Salaat Nafil (four at a time.) In each rakaat, after Surah Fatihah, recite surah Ikhlas 10 times. It is said that Allah^{SWT} appoints many angels to bring good news of admission to Paradise and protection from the suffering of the grave to people who offer these prayers.
7. Offer 14 Rakaat Salaat Nafil (two at a time.) In each Rakaat, after Surah Fatihah, recite Surah Kafiroon once, Surah Ikhlas once, Surah Falaq once, and Surah Naas once. After each two Rakaat, after Salaam, recite Ayatal Kursi once and the last Ayah of Surah Tauba once. It is said that Allah^{SWT} grants any Dua of the person who offers these prayers.
8. Recite Quran and do Zikr of Allah in abundance during the night.
9. Fast on the 15th of Sha'baan, Allah^{SWT} InshAllah will pardon 50 years of his sins.

Dua Nisf Sha'baan

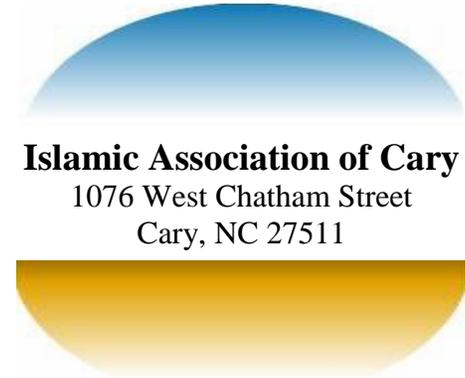
اللَّهُمَّ يَا ذَا الْمَرْنِ وَلَا يُسْنُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ
وَالْإِكْرَامِ يَا ذَا الطَّوْلِ وَالِإِنْعَامِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
أَنْتَ ظَهَرَ الْأَجِينَ طُوجَارَ الْمُسْتَجِيرِينَ وَ
أَمَانَ الْخَائِفِينَ اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتُ كَتَبْتَنِي عِنْدَكَ
فِي أُمَّ الْكِتَابِ شَقِيًّا أَوْ فَحْرًا أَوْ مَطْرُودًا أَوْ
مُقْتَرًّا عَلَيَّ فِي الرِّزْقِ فَأَحْمِ اللَّهُمَّ بِفَضْلِكَ
شَقَاؤِي وَجُرْبَانِي وَطُرْدِي وَأَقْبِتْ أَرْزُقِي وَأَنْبِئِي
عِنْدَكَ فِي أُمَّ الْكِتَابِ سَعِيدًا مَرْمُوزًا وَمَوْفِقًا
لِلْخَيْرَاتِ فَإِنَّكَ قُلْتَ وَقَوْلِكَ الْحَقُّ طِنِي كِتَابِكَ
الْمُنْزَلِ طَعْلِي لِسَانِ نَبِيِّكَ الْمُرْسَلِ طَسْمَحُوا اللَّهُ مَا
يَشَاءُ وَيُشِئُ طَعْنُ عِنْدَهُ أُمَّ الْكِتَابِ إِلَهِي بِالتَّجَلِّي
الْأَعْظَمِ فِي لَيْلَةِ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَهْرِ سَعْبَانَ الْمَكْرَمِ
الَّتِي يُفْرَقُ فِيهَا كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ وَيُبْرَمُ أَنْ تَكْتِفَ
عَنَّا مِنَ الْبَلَاءِ وَالْبُلُوَاءِ مَا نَعْلَمُ وَمَا لَا نَعْلَمُ
وَأَنْتَ يَا أَعْلَمُ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْأَعَزُّ الْأَكْرَمُ طَوَصَلَّى اللَّهُ
تَعَالَى عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ
وَالحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ○

DU'A NISF SHA'BAN

Allahumma Yaa Dhal Manni walaa yumannu 'Alayh ● YaaDhal Jalaali wa'l Ikraam ● Yaa zhat-Tawli wa'l In'aam ● Laa Ilaaha illa anta● Zahru'llaajeen wa jaaru'l mustajeereen wa amaanu'l khaaifeen ● Allahumma in kunta katabtanee 'Indaka fee Ummil Kitabi ● Shaqiyyan aw mahruman aw matrudan aw muqattaran 'alayya fi'rrizqi ● Fa'mhuAllahumma biFadlika ● Shaqaawatee wa hirmaanee wa tardee wa'qtitaara rizqee ● Wa-athbitnee 'Indaka fee Ummil Kitabi ● Sa'eedan marzuqan muwaffaqan li'lkhayraati Fa Innaka Qulta wa Qawluka'l Haqq ● Fee Kitabika'l munzal 'alaa lisaani Nabiiyika'l Mursal ● Yamhullahu maa Yashaa'u wa yuthbit Wa 'Indahu Ummul Kitab ● Ilaahi Bittajalli'l A'zam ● Fee laylatin-nisfi min shahri Sha'ban al-Mukarram ● Allatee yufraqu feehaa kullu amrin hakeemin wa yubram ● An takshifa 'annaa mina'l ballaa'i wa'l balwaai ● Maa na'lamu wa maa laa na'lam ● Wa anta bihi a'lam Innaka anta'l A'azzu'l Akram ● Wa Sallallahu Ta'ala 'alaa Sayyidina Muhammad-in ● Wa 'alaa aalihi wa as'haabihi wa sallam ● Wa'l Hamdu Lillahi Rabbi'l 'Aalameen ●

SUPPLICATION ON THE NIGHT OF 15th SHA'BAN

O Allah! You shower favors on everyone. And no one can do You any favor. O the Possessor of Majesty and Honor, O the Distributor of bounty and rewards. There is no one worthy of worship except You. You help the fallen. And provide refuge to the refugees. And give peace to those who are in fear. O Allah! If in the Mother of All Books that is with You, You have written me down as someone who is doubtful of achieving salvation, or deprived, or rejected or without enough sustenance, then, O Allah, with Your Grace, remove all of these misfortunes from me and in the Mother of All Books that is with You establish me as someone who is blessed, with abundant provision and charitable good deeds. Indeed, what You said in The Book You sent through the tongue of Your Blessed Prophet is true that Allah changes and establishes what He wants, and with Him is the Mother of All Books. O My Lord! For the sake of Your Divine Manifestation, on this fifteenth night of the blessed month of Sha'ban, in which You issue all Wise and irrevocable decrees, remove from us all calamities and hardships, those that we know about as well as those that we don't, while You know everything. Truly, You are the Most Powerful, Most Generous. And may Allah the Exalted shower blessings and peace upon Sayyidina Muhammad, and on his family and his companions And all praise is for Allah, Lord of the worlds.



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