

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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وصلاة والسلام على سيدنا محمد وأهل بيته الطاهرين وأصحابه المهتدين

The Sha'ban Advice



The following is an excerpt partially taken from the book *Kanz al-najah wal suroor* (The Treasures of Success & Happiness) by the erudite scholar and spiritual educator Sheikh Abd al-Majid ibn Sheikh Muhammad Ali Quds. This book is used specifically in the ancient city of Tarim and around the Muslim world for gaining insight on the blessings, special qualities and duas specific for each Islamic calendar month. May Allah benefit us by it, ameen!

Know that Sha'ban is from amongst the greatest of months, a month whose blessings are well known and its goodness readily present. Repentance in it is from amongst the best reaping for a believer, and worship in it is most profitable.

It is the month of the Prophet, upon him be peace, as mentioned in the hadith "*Rajab is the month of Allah, Sha'ban is my month, and Ramadan is the month of the Qu'ran*". It is the month in which he split the moon, and the verse "*Verily Allah and His Angels send blessings upon the Prophet. Oh you who believe! Send your prayers and blessings upon him and salute him well!*" {*Ahzab:56*} was revealed, hence it is the month of sending salawat upon the Prophet, so send your blessings upon him profusely!

It is also the month of the middle night of Sha'ban, the night in which the provisions of created beings are allotted. It is mentioned in the book *Tuhfat al-Ikhwan*: narrated from Ata' ibn Yasir, may Allah be pleased with him, that "...there is no night better after the night of Qadr than the 15th night of Sha'ban".

Note that after the decree of Allah is made apparent to the Angels there is no changing it, however before that it is in the Tablet (Lawh), where Allah can take from or add to it as He so wills, glory be to Him. Many *ahad* hadith narrate that it is the night in which Allah decrees all good works and provisions to those who seek it. The apparent wisdom behind this is of awakening desire and warning. Awakening desire to attain towards good works through obedience and action so felicity may be written for him, and warning of sin in that night out of fear that one may be considered amongst the dead heartened and that it be written for them like that for the remainder of the year.

It is reported in the book *Tuhfat al-Ikhwan* that the Messenger of Allah, upon him be peace, said "Verily Allah forgives all of the believers on this night, except the fornicator, the one who drinks alcohol and the one disobedient to his/her parents". From other hadith it can be gathered that this list be expanded to the one who associates partners with Allah (mushrik), the one who breaks family ties of kinship amongst others.

It is said that the first ten days of Rajab were preferred over other months due to the 1st night of Rajab, and the second ten days of Sha'ban were preferred over other months due to the 15th night, and that the last ten days of Ramadan were preferred over others due to the night of power (Qadr).

Note that the recommendation of praying 100 raka's of voluntary prayer (nafl), or anything similar, is an innovation and has no basis. It is more preferable to engage in *salat al-tasbih* as was taught by the Prophet to his uncle Abbas.

Duas

- Al-Alusi mentions in his *tafsir* a hadith related from ibn Abi Shayba in his collection the *Musanaf* that Abdullah ibn Mas'ud said "Never did a servant invoke Allah with this invocation except that Allah will widen for him his living". That invocation is mentioned below. It was the practice of scholarly communities to recite Ya-Sin in congregation three times with three different intentions, and reciting the following dua at the end of each completion of the Surah. The dua can be read together or by one person leading.

The first intention is for a long (and blessed) life (طول العمر), the second for repelling tribulations (دفع البلاء), the third is for being completely free from the need of people (استغناء من الناس).

The Dua:

In the name of Allah, most merciful, most compassionate. Prayers and blessings upon our master Muhammad, and his family and companions.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

O Allah, Tireless Owner of Bounty. O Owner of Sublimity, Honor, Power, and Blessings. There is no Allah except You, the Support of refugees and Neighbor of those who seek nearness, Guardian of the fearful.

اللَّهُمَّ يَا ذَا الْمَنِّ وَلَا يُمْنُ عَلَيْهِ، يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ، يَا ذَا الطُّولِ
وَالْإِنْعَامِ
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ ظَهَرَ اللَّاحِظِينَ، وَجَارَ الْمُسْتَجِيرِينَ، وَمَأْمَنَ الْخَائِفِينَ.

O Allah, if you have written in Your Book that I be abject, deprived, banished, and tight-fisted, then erase O Allah, through Your bounty, my misery, deprivation, banishment, and stinginess and establish me with You as happy, provided with blessings, for surely You have said—and Your Word is True—in Your Revealed Book on the tongue of Your Messenger, "Allah blots out or confirms what He pleases, and with Him is the Mother of Books." (13:39)

اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ كَتَبْتَنِي عِنْدَكَ فِي أُمَّ الْكِتَابِ شَقِيًّا أَوْ مَجْرُومًا أَوْ مَطْرُودًا
أَوْ مُقْتَرًّا عَلَيَّ فِي الرِّزْقِ فَأَمْحُ اللَّهُمَّ بِفَضْلِكَ شَقَاوَتِي وَحَرْمَانِي وَطَرْدِي
وَإِقْتَارَ رِزْقِي، وَأَثْبِتْنِي عِنْدَكَ فِي أُمَّ الْكِتَابِ سَعِيدًا مَرْزُوقًا مُوفِقًا
لِلْخَيْرَاتِ، فَإِنَّكَ قُلْتَ وَقَوْلُكَ الْحَقُّ فِي كِتَابِكَ الْمُنزَّلِ عَلَى لِسَانِ نَبِيِّكَ
الْمُرْسَلِ : يَمْحُوا اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيُثَبِّتُ وَعِنْدَهُ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ

My God, by the Great Manifestation of the Night of the middle of the Noble Month of Sha`bān "in which every affair of wisdom is made distinct and authorized,"(44:4) remove from us calamities—those we know and those we do not know, and Thou knowest best—for surely You are the Most Mighty, the Most Generous.

إِلَهِي بِالتَّجَلِّيِ الْأَعْظَمِ فِي لَيْلَةِ النَّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ الْمُكْرَمِ الَّتِي يُفْرَقُ
فِيهَا كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ وَيُبْرَمُ، أَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَكْشِفَ عَنَّا مِنَ الْبَلَاءِ مَا نَعْلَمُ وَمَا
لَا نَعْلَمُ وَمَا أَنْتَ بِهِ أَعْلَمُ، إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْأَعَزُّ الْأَكْرَمُ

May Allah bless Muhammad and his Family and Companions.

وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

- The following dua is attributed to the great Shaykh Abdul Qadir al-Jilani, which he composed specifically for the blessed night of the 15th :

Oh Allah, if you manifest Yourself to Your creation on the mid-night of Sha'ban

اللَّهُمَّ إِذَا أَطْلَعْتَ لَيْلَةَ النِّصْفِ مِنَ الشَّعْبَانَ عَلَى خَلْقِكَ،

Then bring unto us your relenting and protection

فَعُدْ عَلَيْنَا بِمَنِّكَ وَعِثِّقْ

And decree for us, by your bounty, abundant provision

وَقَدِّرْ لَنَا مِنْ فَضْلِكَ وَاسِعَ رِزْقِكَ

And let us be counted from amongst those who uphold your right in this night

وَاجْعَلْنَا وَمَنْ يَقُومُ لَكَ فِيهَا بِبَعْضِ حَقِّكَ

Oh Allah, whosoever you ordained for them death, then ordain with that your mercy for them

اللَّهُمَّ مَنْ قَضَيْتَ فِيهَا بَوَفَاتِهِ فَاقْضِ مَعَ ذَلِكَ لَهُ رَحْمَتِكَ

And whosoever you ordained for them a long life, then grant them Your favour with that

وَمَنْ قَدَّرْتَ طُولَ حَيَاتِهِ فَاجْعَلْ لَهُ مَعَ ذَلِكَ نِعْمَتِكَ

And realise for us what our hopes cannot

وَبَلِّغْنَا مَا لَا تَبْلُغُ الْأَمَانُ إِلَيْهِ

Oh Greatest before whom feet have stood, oh Lord of the worlds

يَا خَيْرَ مَنْ وَقَفَتِ الْأَقْدَامُ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Your mercy! Oh most Merciful of those who show mercy

بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ

And prayers of God, most High, be upon our master Muhammad, the best of His creation, and upon his family and companions.

وَصَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ خَيْرِ خَلْقِهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

- A formula for sending blessings (salawat) upon the Messenger of Allah, upon him be peace. It is mentioned in many books specialising in the unique qualities of salawat that the absolute minimum number to be read in one day should be 300.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ عَبْدِكَ وَرَسُولِكَ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ وَآلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Oh Allah may you send your blessings (prayers) upon our master Muhammad, your servant and messenger, the unlettered Prophet, and upon his family and companions