

RAMAḌĀN

THE THREE HOLY MONTHS OF
RAJAB, SHA‘BĀN, RAMAḌĀN
ON FASTING, PRAYER AND
OTHER MATTERS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I THE THREE HOLY MONTHS OF RAJAB, SHA‘BĀN, RAMAḌĀN

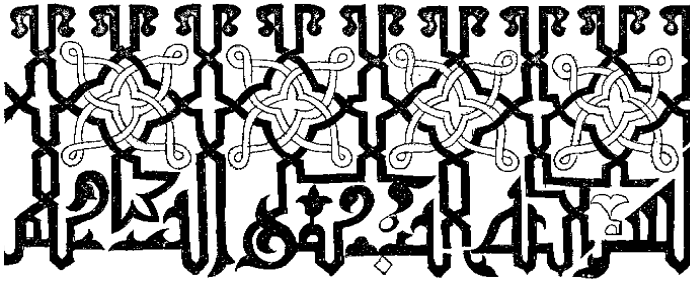
| | |
|--|----|
| Love of Allah ﷻ and His Prophet ﷺ | 7 |
| Rajab | 9 |
| The Night of Mi‘rāj, the Prophet’s Ascent to the Heavens | 11 |
| Sha‘bān | 13 |
| RamaḌān | 18 |
| About the Tarāwīḥ Prayer | 27 |
| The Holy Night of Power, Laylat al-Qadr | 32 |
| The Story of Samsun | 33 |
| About I‘tikāf | 41 |
| When RamaḌān is About to End | 42 |
| About Zakāt al-Fitr | 43 |
| The Six Days of Shawwāl | 47 |

PART II ON FASTING, PRAYER AND OTHER MATTERS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| About Prayer | 53 |
| The twelve Farā‘iḍ of Prayer | 60 |
| About Wuḍū’ (ritual ablution) | 64 |
| On Ghusl (ritual bathing) | 66 |
| The Postures of Prayer | 67 |
| Four Points to Observe | 69 |

R A M A Ḍ Ā N

| | |
|--|----|
| About Ṣalawāt, Prayers of Praise On the Holy Prophet | 71 |
| The Excellence of the Nation of Muḥammad ﷺ | 73 |
| Special Prayers and Recitals During the Holy Months | 74 |



Love of Allah ﷻ and His Prophet ﷺ

WHOOEVER LOVES ALLAH will remember Him often, and Allah will remember the one who loves Him with Grace and Mercy. He will lead him into Paradise in the company of His prophets and saints, and will grant him the vision of His Divine Majesty.

Whoever loves the Holy Prophet ﷺ often recites prayers of praise upon him. This will turn into a blessing for him, it will become as a tree laden with fruit. He will become deserving of the Holy Prophet's intercession and enter into Paradise in his company.

According to the Holy Prophet's eminent companion ANAS, may Allah be pleased with him, the Holy Prophet – peace and blessings be upon him – once said: “Whoever loves my *sunna* (usage, example), he loves me as well; and whoever loves me will be together with me in Paradise.”

IBN ‘ABBĀS – may Allah be pleased with him – relates that the Holy Prophet said: “Whoever upholds one act of my *sunna* at the time when my nation will be in decline, will receive the

reward of one hundred martyrs.” His companions then asked him: “O Prophet of Allah, what is the reward of a martyr?” The Holy Prophet answered: “A person who gave his life for Allah (i. e. a martyr), will become the intercessor for four hundred others who are deserving of hellfire. At the end of time, when my nation has been corrupted, Allah will grant hundred-fold reward to anyone adhering to my *sunna*.” The companions then asked: “And what will be the reward for also performing the *farā’id* (obligatory actions) in that time?” The Holy Prophet replied: “The reward for this will be immeasurably great by human standards, and Allah Almighty alone knows how He will reward such a person.”

Rajab

THE MONTH OF RAJAB is the seventh month of the Islamic calendar year and is termed *shabru llāb*, the month of Allah ﷻ. Whoever fasts three days during this month, will drink from that river of Paradise, which according to the description of our Holy Prophet is “whiter than milk, sweeter than honey, and cooler than snow.”

Another tradition relates that whoever fasts one day during Rajab will become free of sins as a newborn child; whoever fasts two days, his father and mother will be forgiven their sins; whoever fasts three days will be spared three great calamities: the punishment of the grave, leaving this life without faith, and the darkness of the grave. If one fasts for four days during Rajab, he will be made safe from the wretched Dajjāl (Antichrist). There are great rewards for fasting any day in Rajab. One who fasts six days during this month is rewarded as if he had been with the Holy Prophet at the Battle of Badr. The seven gates of Hell are closed for one who has fasted seven days of Rajab, and the eight gates of Paradise are opened for the one who has fasted eight days.

In the month of Rajab Allah ﷻ gives seventyfold reward for every act of worship. If one reads one *juz*' of Qur'ān (the thirtieth part), he will be rewarded as if he had read seventy *juz*'. For every *rak'a* of prayer, he will be rewarded as if for seventy *rak'āt*. For every repetition of the Holy Name, he will be rewarded as if for seventy repetitions. It is recommended to recite *istaghfiru llāb* seventy thousand times in the course

of this month, for Rajab is a month of mercy and forgiveness. It is also commendable to pray thirty sets of two *raka'āt* in honour of this month, whenever the time is convenient, for example after the sun has risen, at the time of *isbrāq*. In these *raka'āt*, after the *Fātiḥa*, one recites *Qul yā ayyuhā l-kāfirūn* and *Qul būma llāhu aḥad* thrice.

If one has fasted the entire month of Rajab, a heavenly angel calls out to him: "O servant of the Lord! The eight gates of Paradise are open to you, enter through whichever you wish!" There are some very pious people who fast the entire three months, from the beginning of the month of Rajab to the end of Ramaḍān. It is also said that hellfire will not be permitted to touch anyone who repeats every day *lā ilāba illā llāh* a thousand times, and *lā ilāba illā llāh, Muḥammadu r-rasūlu llāh* one hundred times until the end of Ramaḍān, 100,000 repetitions in all. It is possible to dedicate this recitation to another person who will then be granted safety from the fires of Hell.

The name of the month Rajab is written with the Arabic letters "rā", "jīm" and "bā". "Rā" stands for "raḥma", mercy, compassion, "jīm" stands for "jurm", offense, sin, and "bā" stands for "birr", Allah's Grace and Mercy. The Lord speaks: "My servant's sin stands between My Mercy and My Grace." It is enveloped by His Grace and Mercy and thus forgiven. This is the meaning of the month of Rajab.

The Night of Mi‘rāj, the Prophet’s Ascent to the Heavens

THIS IS THE NIGHT before the twenty-seventh day of Rajab. It was in this night that the Holy Prophet ﷺ was led into Paradise on the heavenly steed, the Burāq. It was during this night that the five daily prayers were made obligatory for the Muslims, as well as the fast of Ramaḍān and the giving of *zakāt*. The Holy Prophet was shown and given all this during his visit to the sixth heaven. Therefore it is a very holy night for us. In this night the gates of Paradise are opened and every prayer is granted by the unending Mercy and Compassion of our Lord Almighty.

There is one *ḥadīth* in which it is recommended to pray twenty *raka‘āt* in this night. In the first *rak‘a* one prays “*Qul hū*” after the *Fātiḥa*. After this prayer one is to recite “*Allābumma ṣalli ‘alā Muḥammadin wa ‘alā āli Muḥammadin wa sallim*” one hundred times, and one hundred times “*Istaghfiru llāb*”. Then one performs a *sajda*, prostration, asking Allah to grant all one’s wishes and desires in this world and the next. For the honour of this holy night, in which the Prophet stood before the Throne of the Almighty, all prayers will be granted. If one is not granted what one has asked for in this life, one will receive a thousand times more in the life to come ...

In the city of al-Quds (Jerusalem) there once lived a particularly pious and God-fearing woman. Whenever the month of Rajab dawned, she would exchange her ordinary dress for an old and worn gown. She would perform all her praying and fasting