

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ
بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَؤُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ : اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَبَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ

Respected Muslims!

Endless praise and gratitude be to our Lord, who has once again brought us to the threshold of the blessed three months, the beginning of sacred times. The topic of today's khutbah will be the noble month of Rajab al-Sharif, which revives hearts with its mercy and spiritual abundance, and its precious night, Laylat al-Ragha'ib.

Tomorrow, Saturday, December 20th, with the evening prayer, we will enter the first of the three months, the noble month of Rajab al-Sharif. On Thursday night, December 25th, we will be honored with Laylat al-Ragha'ib (the Night of Wishes), a night when the gates of mercy are flung wide open, supplications are not turned back, and spiritual abundance is showered upon hearts.

This blessed night is a divine favor, a grace, and a manifestation of mercy from our Lord upon us. For this is the blessed night when the Mercy to the Worlds, our Master Muhammad al-Mustafa ﷺ, was conceived in his mother's womb. In this respect, Laylat al-Ragha'ib is both a beginning and a night of glad tidings for the Ummah.

Valuable Believers!

Our Lord says in the Noble Qur'an regarding His Beloved Muhammad al-Mustafa ﷺ: ***"There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you and to the believers is kind and merciful."*** (At-Tawbah, 128)

Therefore, we too, by following the path of our Master, that monument of compassion and mercy ﷺ, must enliven these sacred nights not with heedlessness, but with worship.

Dear Brothers!

Rajab al-Sharif is one of the four sacred (haram) months mentioned in the Noble Qur'an. This month is an exceptional period when mercy overflows, forgiveness expands, and tranquility descends upon hearts. The value of the sacred months is great in the sight of Allah. To respect these months, to avoid sins during them, and to cling to acts of worship is a special opportunity for the believer. For indeed, the punishment for sins committed in these months is severe, while the reward for good deeds is multiplied manifold.

Within Rajab al-Sharif, there are four blessed nights: The first night of the month is the night when the gates of mercy are opened.

Laylat al-Ragha'ib, the first Friday night, is the night when divine bounties shower down abundantly.

The 15th night of the month is the night of blessings.

The 27th night is Laylat al-Mi'raj (the Night of Ascension), when the heavens were opened for our Master ﷺ.

Dear Believers!

The month of Rajab al-Sharif is a month of repentance and seeking forgiveness. In this noble month, we must cleanse our tongues and hearts with repentance and, in the month of Sha'ban, prepare for the Sultan of Months, the Noble Ramadan, by sending abundant prayers and salutations upon the Prophet ﷺ.

In a noble hadith it is stated: ***"Whoever fasts one day at the beginning [first days], one day in the middle, and one day at the end [last days] of Rajab, it is as if he fasted the entire month."*** (Miftah al-Jannah)

The great saint, Dhun-Nun al-Misri (may Allah sanctify his secret) said: ***"Rajab is the month of sowing, Sha'ban is the month of watering, and Ramadan is the month of harvesting. Everyone reaps what they sow and receives the recompense of what they do. Whoever neglects sowing will regret it at harvest time. On the Day of Judgment, they will be in a very bad state."***

Come, let us increase our repentance and seeking forgiveness during these blessed days. Let us perform our prayers properly with due observance of their pillars (tadil-i arkan). Let us spend our free time by reciting the Noble Qur'an. Come, let us cleanse our hearts from malice, hatred, and worldly preoccupations and turn them towards our Lord. Let us make these nights the beginning of a renewal that will change our future.

I conclude our khutbah with the blessed supplication the Prophet ﷺ made when the three months began: ***"O Allah! Bless for us the months of Rajab and Sha'ban, and allow us to reach the month of Ramadan."*** (At-Tabarani, al-Mu'jam al-Awsat, IV/189)