

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَعْفُو عَنِ السَّيِّئَاتِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا
إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ،
وَصَفِيَّهُ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَخَلِيلُهُ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ
وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

All praise is due to Allah, who accepts repentance from His servants and forgives sins. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship, except for Allah alone without any partners or peers. I also witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family, his Companions, and all those who will follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

Understanding Sha'ban

وَرَبُّكَ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيَخْتَارُ

Allah (Exalted is He) has said: Your Lord creates and chooses what He wills. (28:68)

- From among the Angels: He selected Jibrael, Mika'il, Israfil and Azra'il, then He chose Jibrael from these four
- From all the companions, He selected Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and His preferred choice was Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه
- From all the Prophets, He selected Ibrahim, Musa, Esa and Muhammad ﷺ, then of these He chose Muhammad ﷺ
- From all of the months He chose Sha'ban to ordain the annual deeds

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ

“Indeed we revealed the Qur'an on a blessed night, verily We are ever-warning. On this night, every matter of wisdom is ordained” (44:3-4)

The word Sha'ban is spelt with five letters:

The ش stands for Sharaf – Nobility

The ب for Birr – Piety

The ن for Nur - Radiant Light

The ع for 'Uluww - Greatness

The ل for Ulfa – Intimacy

Understanding Sha'ban

- There are four instances when our actions ascend to Allah: the daily record, weekly record, yearly record, and the whole life record.
- The daily record ascends twice, the actions of the night and the actions of the day. Therefore the Prophet ﷺ would seek forgiveness in the morning and the evening.
- The weekly record also ascends twice, every Monday and Thursday. Therefore the Prophet ﷺ would fast every Monday and Thursday stating:
"يَوْمَ الْاِثْنَيْنِ وَيَوْمَ الْخَميسِ ذَانِكَ يَوْمَانِ تُعْرَضُ فِيهِمَا الْأَعْمَالُ عَلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ فَأُحِبُّ أَنْ يُعْرَضَ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ"
"Deeds are shown to Allah on Mondays and Thursdays, and I like my deeds to be shown when I am fasting." (Tirmidhi)
- Sha'ban is the month where last year's account of good and bad actions for every individual ascends to Allah.

Sayyidnah Usamah ibn Zayd رضي الله عنه reports

ذَلِكَ شَهْرٌ يَغْفُلُ النَّاسُ عَنْهُ بَيْنَ رَجَبٍ وَرَمَضَانَ، وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ تُرْفَعُ فِيهِ الْأَعْمَالُ إِلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، فَأُحِبُّ أَنْ يُرْفَعَ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ

"I said, 'O Messenger of Allah, I do not see you fasting in any other month like you fast in Sha'ban.' He رضي الله عنه said, 'That is a month to which people do not pay attention, between Rajab and Ramadan, and it is a month in which deeds are lifted up to the Lord of the Worlds. I like for my deeds to be lifted up when I am fasting.'" (Al-Nisai)

Understanding Sha'ban

Reflect on what you did in the past year and try to remember the actions that will be put forth before Allah ﷻ

- How many sins have you committed this year?
- Did you protect your hands/feet from taking into haram?
- Did you stop your tongue/actions from falling you to haram?
- How much good did you enjoin?
- How much evil did you forbid?

In this month and on the 15th Sha'ban many people have made **Jannah** obligatory upon them due to the good they did, while others have made **Jahannam** obligatory upon them due to the evil they committed. Which one are you?

We are near mid-Sha'ban, so make sure you make full use of it, repent and seek forgiveness from Allah for all your sins and shortcomings, so that they are forgiven before they ascend to your Him.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يَنْزِلُ لَيْلَةَ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا فَيَغْفِرُ لِأَكْثَرِ مِنْ عَدَدِ شَعْرِ غَنَمِ كَلْبٍ

“Verily Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, comes down to the heaven of the world in the middle night of Sha'ban and forgives sins more abundantly than the hairs of the goats of Banu Kalb” (Al-Tirmidhi)