

VIRTUES OF THE SACRED MONTH OF RAJAB

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PREFACE

The following information has been excerpted from *Al-Ghunya li-Taalibi Tareeq al-Haqq* by Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be pleased with him); translated from the Arabic by Haaji Muhtar Holland into Sufficient Provision for Seekers of the Path of Truth. (Al-Baz Publishing, Inc., Florida, 1997)

Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be pleased with him) is *Sultan-ul-Awliya*, i.e. Crown of the Saints and most erudite scholar of the Islamic tradition, and the fountainhead of the Qadri Spiritual Order. He was born in the Iranian district of Gilan, south of the Caspian Sea, in 470 Hijri (1077-8 CE). Having lived a life of extreme piety, sacrifice, service, and devotion to Allah Almighty and His Messenger ﷺ, he passed onto the Realm of Divine Beatitude on the 11th of Rabi-uth-Thani, 561 Hijri (1166 CE). He rests in the city of Baghdad, Iraq. His blessed mausoleum is a place of pious visitation from devotees around the world.

The intent of this brief document is to bring to the attention of our readers the great spiritual benefits of these blessed nights and days, and to encourage them to derive these benefits by practicing the prescribed acts of worship.

We welcome your feedback and comments.

Thank You.

IECRC Staff



In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful
Prayers and Peace upon His Noble Messenger ﷺ

VIRTUES OF RAJAB

When Allah Almighty created the world He made time into 12 months and designated four of them as sacred, i.e. months which were to be treated with great reverence, and one in which sin is to be avoided more than ever and its benefits to be reaped through superogatory worship. Rajab is the 7th month of the Islamic calendar and is one of the four sacred months, the other three being Dhul-Qa'dah, Dhul-Hijjah, and Muharram, the 11th, 12th, and 1st months of the Islamic lunar calendar, respectively. Rajab is distinct in that it is the sacred month that stands alone whereas the other three fall in succession. The word "Rajab" by definition means one that is honored. It's Arabic roots are "Ra" which stands for the "Rehmat" or Mercy of Allah Almighty; "Jeem" which stands for "Jood" which is the Generosity of Allah Almighty; and "Ba" which stands for "Bir" which is the Goodness of Allah Almighty. The sacred month of Rajab is therefore filled from beginning till end with benefits for the believer from his or her Lord: Mercy without punishment, Generosity without restraint, and Goodness without harm. Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani ؒ mentions in his *Ghunya* that Rajab is the month for forsaking sins, Sha'baan is the month for action and fulfillment of one's oath, and Ramadan is for truth and purification. He ؒ furthermore writes that Rajab is the month for repentance, Sha'baan is the month for hard work, and Ramadan is the month to gain nearness. Furthermore he writes that Rajab is for sanctity (*hurmat*), Sha'baan is for service (*khidmat*), and Ramadan is for blessings (*ni'mat*).

Rajab is a great month as is evident from the following Hadeeth of the Holy Prophet ﷺ as related by Hazrat Abu Hurayra ؓ:

"Sha'baan is my month, Rajab is the month of Allah Almighty, and Ramadan is the month of my Community. Sha'baan is the expiator, while Ramadan is the purifier."

When the Companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ asked the meaning of "... Rajab is the month of Allah Almighty...", He ﷺ explained that this month has been made special for the Mercy of Allah Almighty, that fighting and killing is strictly forbidden in this month, and that Allah Almighty has accepted the repentance of Prophets in this month [on behalf of their communities as Prophets are sinless (*ma'soom*)]. Furthermore, Allah Almighty has protected His Friends (*Awliya*) from the mischief of the His enemies [i.e. the evildoers]. If a person fasts in this month, Allah Almighty blesses them with three things:

- Forgiveness of past sins
- Protection against future sins
- Protection against the thirst of the Day of Judgment

An old man asked the Holy Prophet ﷺ what he could do as he was not physically capable of fasting the entire month. Upon this the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that if he fasted on the 1st, 15th and last day of Rajab he would be rewarded as though he fasted the entire month because each good deed is rewarded in ten folds. The Holy Prophet ﷺ went on to exhort to not be heedless of the first Friday eve of Rajab as the angels have named this night “*Laylatul Raghaib*”. The reason for this is that during the third portion of this night all the angels of the earth and skies gather around the Holy Kaba in praise of Allah Almighty. Allah Almighty asks them what it is that they desire upon which the angels respond that they pray that Allah Almighty forgives all those who fast during the month of Rajab. Allahu Akbar!



THE SPECIAL PRAYER OF THE FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT OF RAJAB

The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that whoever fasts on the first Thursday of Rajab and then prays the following prayer between *Maghrib* and *Isha*, i.e on the eve of Friday (i.e on *Laylatul Raghaib*):

- 12 cycles in sets of two reciting Surah Al-Qadr (i.e. *Inna anzalnahu fi laylatil Qadr*) three times and Surah Al-Ikhlās (i.e. *Qul huwa Allahu ahad*) 12 times, and recites Darood Shareef 70 times at the end of each of the 2 cycles and then recites some special prayers (found in the *Ghunya*),

Allah Almighty forgives all his or her sins even if they are like the foam on the ocean, the grains of desert sand, the weight of the mountains, the drops of rain, or the leaves of trees. In addition, intercession is accepted from 700 members of this person’s family on the Day of Judgment. This prayer will come in the form of a person to the deceased when he or she is in the grave and congratulate them saying that they have been granted freedom from every hardship [in the Hereafter]. The deceased person will ask who this person is mentioning that he or she has not seen a person more handsome, nor heard a voice more sweet nor smelt a person more fragrant. Upon this the person will respond that he is this [Rajab] prayer that the person had done and had come to take care of his or her needs and be his or her companion in their loneliness and time of anxiety [in the *Barzakh*]. Furthermore when the trumpet is blown this prayer will be a shade on the deceased in the Plain of *Hashr* and good news to the performer of this prayer that Allah Almighty does not overlook any good deed.



THE SPECIAL 30 CYCLES PRAYER OF RAJAB

Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadri Jilani رضى الله عنه further relates a Hadeeth in his famous book *Ghunya* that the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ saw the crescent for the month of Rajab and said that if a believing Muslim man or woman performs 30 cycles of ritual prayer reciting in each cycle after Surah *Al-Fatiha*:

- Surah *Al-Ikhlās* (i.e. *Qul huwa Allahu ahad*) three times, and

- Surah Al-Kafirun (*Qul ya ayyuhal kafirun*) three times, then Allah Almighty will forgive all their sins, grant them the reward of fasting for an entire month, their name will be included amongst the praying people of the upcoming year, everyday as many good deeds will be written down for them as the rewards earned by a martyr of *Badr*, and everyday they will receive the reward of one year of worship, and be increased in 1000 ranks. Further more if someone fasts & prays the entire month, they will be freed from the fire of hell and Paradise will be made incumbent upon them, and they will also be blessed with nearness to Allah Almighty. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that these above mentioned benefits were related to Him ﷺ by Hazrat Jibreel *alayhis salaam* who further said that this prayer differentiates between the disbelievers, hypocrites and the believers as the hypocrites don't perform this prayer. When the Holy Prophet ﷺ was asked about the method of performing this prayer He ﷺ said that 10 cycles should be performed in the beginning of Rajab, 10 cycles in the middle and 10 cycles at the end. At the end of each 10 cycles, the following supplications should be made:

At the end of the first 10 cycles raise your hand and say the following words and rub your face:
La ilahha illa Llahu Wahdahu La sharika Lahu Lahu l-mulku Wa lahu l-hamdu Yuhyi wa yumitu Wa Huwa Hayyun la yamut Bi-yadihi l-khair Wa Huwa ala kulli shai in Qadeer Allahumma la mani'a li-ma aataita wa la mu'tiya li-ma mana'ta wa la yanfa'u dhal-jaddi minkal-jadd

At the end of the second 10 cycles raise your hand and say the following words and rub your face:

La ilaha illa Llahu Wahdahu La sharika Lahu Lahu l-mulku Wa lahu l-hamdu Yuhyi wa yumitu Wa Huwa Hayyun la yamut Bi-yadihi l-khair Wa Huwa ala kulli shai in Qadeer Ilahan Wahidan Ahadan Samadan Fardan Witra La yattakhidhu sahibatan Wa la walada

At the end of the last 10 cycles raise your hand and say the following words and rub your face:

La ilaha illa Llahu Wahdahu La sharika Lahu Lahu l-mulku Wa lahu l-hamdu Yuhyi wa yumitu Wa Huwa Hayyun la yamut Bi-yadihil-khair Wa Huwa ala kulli shai in Qadeer Salla Llahu ala Sayyidina Muhammadin wa ala alihit-tahirin La hawla Wala quwwata Illa bi Llahi l-Aliyyi l-Azim

After reciting the above, one should entreat Allah Almighty for our needs and our prayers will be accepted, insha Allah. Allah Almighty will make 70 ditches between the one who performs this prayer and hell, each ditch being as wide as the distance between the earth and the sky. Allah Almighty will also grant the reward of 1000 cycles for each cycle performed, freedom from the fire of hell will be written, and the walk over the *Pul Sirat* will be made easy, insha Allah. After relating this Hadeeth, the Holy Prophet ﷺ went into prostration and began to weep out of deep gratitude for the immense blessings associated with this prayer.



VIRTUES OF FASTING IN RAJAB

There is great benefit in fasting the first day of Rajab and spending its first night (which precedes the day) in worship. Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani رحمته writes in his *Ghunya* that the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ mentioned the following benefits for fasting different number of days of Rajab:

- Fasting on the 1st of Rajab is like fasting its entire month. It also becomes the cause of 60 years of sins being forgiven.
- Fasting for 7 days makes the 7 doors of hell close on the fasting person
- Fasting for 8 days makes the 8 doors of Paradise open for the fasting person
- Fasting for 10 days makes one's bad deeds get transformed into good deeds
- Fasting for 15 days facilitates ease for ones reckoning on the Day of Judgment
- Fasting for 18 days makes a call come from heaven that says that Allah Almighty has forgiven all the previous sins of the fasting person and exhorts the person to now begin good deeds
- Fasting for the entire 30 days earns the pleasure of Allah Almighty and freedom from His punishment

Alhamdulillah!



VIRTUES OF THE 27TH OF RAJAB: ISRA WAL MIRAJ

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ
إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَنَّا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ
مِنَ عَائِيَّتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿١﴾

“Purity is to Him Who took His bondman in a part of the night from the Sacred Mosque to the Aqsa Mosque around which We have placed blessings, in order that We may show him Our great signs; indeed he is the listener, the beholder.” (This verse refers to the physical journey of Prophet Mohammed – peace and blessings be upon him - to Al Aqsa Mosque and from there to the heavens and beyond. The entire journey back to Mecca was completed within a small part of the night.)

[Al-Quran, 17:1]

It is the belief of the *Ahle Sunnah wal Jama'ah* that the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ traveled from Mecca to Jerusalem where He ﷺ led all the Prophets in prayer (The *Israa'*), and then ascended (The *Miraj*) through the seven heavens to the station of *Qaba Qausayn aw Adna*, i.e. close to Allah Almighty two bow's length or less, in both body and soul. It was a station that was beyond the reaches of Angel *Jibreel* and the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was delivered to that unfathomable station on the soul of Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani رحمته الله عليه. This historic journey occurred on the 27th of Rajab and is the great night in which the Muslim *Ummah* was bestowed the gift of the 5 prayers which was originally 50 in number. However due to the mercy and *Waseela* (connection) of the Holy Prophet ﷺ it was reduced in number but maintains its rewards in the original. In other words when we pray 5 times a day we are rewarded for 50 prayers, Subhan Allah!

The 27th of Rajab, both its night and day holds great blessings for the believers. Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani رحمته الله عليه writes in the *Ghunya* that the scholars have deemed the following 14 nights for all night worship (please note that the Islamic night precedes the day), and fasting :

1. The 1st of Muharram
2. The 10th of Muharram (Ashura)
3. **The 1st of Rajab**
4. **The 15th of Rajab**
5. **The 27th of Rajab**
6. The 15th of Sha'ban
7. The 1st of Shawwal (Eid-ul-Fitr)
8. The 9th of Dhul Hijjah (Arafa)
9. The 10th of Dhul Hijjah (Eid-ul-Adha)
10. The 21st of Ramadan
11. The 23rd of Ramadan
12. The 25th of Ramadan
13. The 27th of Ramadan
14. The 29th of Ramadan

It is narrated on the authority of Hazrat Abu Huraira رضي الله عنه that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

"If someone keeps the fast on the twenty-seventh day of Rajab, he will be credited with the same reward as that which is earned by fasting for sixty months." And it was on this day that Jibraeel alayhis salaam first came down to invest the Holy Prophet ﷺ with Messengership (Risala).

Also, Hazrat Abu Huraira and Hazrat Salman al-Farisi رضي الله عنهما said that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

"Rajab contains a very special day and a very special night. If someone fasts during that day, and keeps vigil throughout that night, he will be entitled to a reward like the one that would be

earned by a person who fasted for a hundred years, and who kept vigil throughout all the nights in that period."

It is narrated from Hazrat Al-Hasan al-Basri (21 Hijri - 110 Hijri, may Allah have mercy on him), who said:

"Whenever the twenty-seventh of Rajab came around, Abdullah ibn Abbas radi Allahu anhumu would start the day as a mu'takif [i.e. someone who follows the practice called i'tikaf, meaning withdrawal into a state of seclusion in order to concentrate on religious devotions, especially while fasting]. He would devote the whole morning to prayer, upto and including the obligatory ritual prayer at noon [Dhuhr]. After performing the noon prayer, he would stroll about for a little while to stretch his legs, then he would perform an extra salat-prayer consisting of four cycles. In each cycle [rak'a], he would recite Surah Al-Fatiha one time only, then Surah Al-Falaq & Surah An-Naas [Al-Mu'awwidhataan], also one time only, then Surah Al-Qadr [#97] three times, and then Surah Al-Ikhlaas fifty times. He would then devote himself to continuous supplication [du'a], until it was time to perform the obligatory late-afternoon ritual prayer ('Asr). 'This,' he used to say, 'is exactly what Allah's Messenger sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam always did on this particular day.'"

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DUA

We pray that Allah, Most Glorified and Exalted is He, by the *Waseela Mubarak* (blessed connection) of His Beloved Prophet (Prayers and Peace be upon Him) increases our understanding of the significance of this great month and accepts our worship therein. May He forgive our faults and make us true servants of His Noble Friends (*Awliya Kiram*, may Allah be pleased with them all). Aameen.



Please handle this document with care & respect as it contains the Blessed Names of Allah ﷻ & His Beloved Prophet ﷺ.