



First khutbah

My brothers and sisters, realise the life of this dunya is all temporary - the good of it and the bad of it and the first of it and the last of it. Today you laugh, tomorrow you will cry. Today you are with your loved ones and tomorrow you will not know whether you will see them again, this is why it's from the rahma of Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** and His knowledge and His wisdom that He has not made everything the same. Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** for the Believers, has made certain times and certain places more virtuous than others.

My brother and sisters we are now in the month of Sha'ban and it's not a normal month. It's the month before Ramadan and this month of Sha'ban is an important month with Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**.

The Ulema have mentioned that Sha'ban comes from the root word, sha'bah which is to create a branch which connects two things; it connects the holy month of Rajab, a sacred month, as well as the best of all months - Ramadan. Sha'ban is a month of establishing iman. Sha'ban is a month of preparation. Sha'ban is a month of fulfilling our wajibat. Sha'ban is a month of improving our nawafil. Sha'ban is a month of istigar and tawbah.

The Prophet **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** said in a hadith which has been reported in An - Nasa'i **رَحِمَهُ اللهُ** and Ahmad **رَحِمَهُ اللهُ**, and it is classed as hasan by Al - Albani **رَحِمَهُ اللهُ**, he **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** said:

ذَلِكَ شَهْرٌ

‘That is a month’ meaning Sha'ban

يَعْفُلُ النَّاسُ عَنْهُ

‘Where many people are negligent of’

بَيْنَ رَجَبٍ وَرَمَضَانَ

‘Between Rajab and Ramadan’

Rajab, even in the times of jahilia they used to see it as a sacred month. Ramadan is virtues are well known. The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is saying here a lot of people do not pay attention to the virtues of Sha'ban and the importance of Sha'ban. He said this way back then صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and what he said is true, because this continues to be the case until today. And in the same hadith he says صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ

Now here he is talking about the virtues of this month, Sha'ban is a month:

تُرْفَعُ فِيهِ الْأَعْمَالُ إِلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

‘Sha'ban in is a month where your deeds are raised and presented in front of the Lord of all of creation’

Meaning in this month, your name is going to be discussed with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى . In this month your name and your deeds are going to be discussed with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى . In this month, your deeds, the good of it and the bad of it, from the previous Sha'ban to this Sha'ban are raised to Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى , all the good deeds as well as all the sins and shortcomings. All the times when you had eman and your eman was strong and all of those times when you are negligent of Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى in this month, before the month of al - qadr which is Ramadan, your deeds, your name is discussed with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى . So he says صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in explaining the virtues of this month an encouragement for us all:

فَأُحِبُّ أَنْ يُرْفَعَ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ

‘I would love and during this month whilst my name is being discussed and my deeds are being presented, that I am fasting’

Meaning, Sha'ban is a month of optional fasting. Optional acts of goodness, before the fasting which is wajib. Meaning Sha'ban is a month where a person is not normal when it comes to his acts of worship. For he spoke the truth : يُرْفَعُ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ

ذَلِكَ شَهْرٌ يَغْفُلُ النَّاسُ عَنْهُ

‘That is a month which people they do not pay attention to’

They carry on as normal and they think before Ramadan they’ll be able to wake up, rather than the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has left the Sunnah which we have all neglected, which is to prepare in Sha’ban, a month of worship. A month of nawafil before the obligatory acts of worship in Ramadan.

My brothers and sisters, some of the Salaf used to weep a great deal in Sha’ban. Bakr Al-Muzani from the tabi’een رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, he said, ‘the deeds of Banu Adam, are being raised. If your deeds are raised are in them are istigfar, plenty of istigfar from the previous Sha’ban to this Sha’ban, then your deeds are lifted whilst they are shining with light. But, if your deeds are lifted in Sha’ban and there isn’t much good in them, there isn’t much istigfar in them, they are raised whilst they are dark and gloomy, without any goodness in it.’

Another one from the Salaf, Amr bin al-Qais رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, he would close his shop, he would leave off work in the month of Sha’ban and he would use this month to dedicate himself in reciting the Qur’an.

Anas bin Malik رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, he said, ‘the Believers, the Muslims they used to’, now he is talking about the Companions, ‘the Companions, when Sha’ban used to enter, they used to dedicate their time to the Musahif, to the Qur’an in order to prepare in recitation in this month, before the month that is coming ahead of them. And, they used to pay their zakat specifically in this month, in order to help the poor and the needy, to fast Ramadan.’ Anas bin Malik رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ he is saying here, ‘this is a month of reciting the

Qur'an, but it's also a month of sadaqah' - giving to the poor and needy so that they are not worried about Ramadan. They are not worried about food and drink in Ramadan, so that they will be able to fast Ramadan alongside those people who have plenty, with ease. Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه, also used to say, 'Congratulations! Congratulations, for the person who makes tawbah and rectifies himself before Ramadan.'

My brother and sisters, Sha'ban is a month of worship. It is also a month of reflecting where you are. It is a month where you admit to your Lord سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى that you are weak and if a person enters into Ramadan already making tawbah then this is a sign that his Ramadan will be successful, because Sha'ban is a month of preparing and building for the month that is ahead. Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى tells us in the Qur'an to make tawbha to Him:

وَتُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ٣١

**“O you believers - all of you - turn unto God in repentance, so that you might attain to a happy state” ayah an-Nur (The Light) 24:31**

Second khutbah

My brothers and sisters, the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said in a hadith which is saheeh, found in Muslim, 'anyone who says something about me which is not true':

فَلْيَتَّبِعُوا مَقْعَدَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ

'Let him take his seat in the hellfire'

In another hadith in Bukhari, he صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ says:

لَا تَكْذِبُوا عَلَيَّ

'Do not lie upon me'

فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ كَذَبَ عَلَيَّ فَلْيَلِجِ النَّارَ

‘Anyone who lies upon me, he will enter the fire’

Imam an - Nawawi رَحِمَهُ اللهُ says, ‘in this is proof to say that we are not allowed to fabricate statements and attribute them to the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.’ If a hadith is weak, if a hadith is fabricated, it is not permissible for a person to say that this is what our Messenger صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, or did, or that is part of the Sharia.

The reason why we are saying this my brother and sisters is because in Sha'ban, this time of year there are many a hadith which are circulated and attributed to the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ which are not true, specifically when it comes to the 15th of Sha'ban - all of these are hadith that have been mentioned have been weakened by the Ulema including Imam Bukhari, at - Tirmidi and others.

Ibn Rajab رَحِمَهُ اللهُ he said, that ‘ahadith which talk about the 15th of Sha'ban’, he says, ‘there are many that have been narrated and some of the Ulema have acted upon them. Whereas, the majority of the Ulema from Ahlul Hadith, have rejected those ahadith, those narrations which are attributed to the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in relation to the virtues of the 15th of Sha'ban. For instance we have Abdullah ibn Mubarak رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, one of the Imams of the Salaf, a person asks him, ‘is it true that Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى descends on the 15th of Sha'ban and He forgives people's sins?’ He said رَحِمَهُ اللهُ, ‘Oh, weak one! Are you talking about the 15th of Sha'ban? Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى descends every single night.’ And he called him weak and the reason why he called him weak, because of his laziness throughout the year and he wants to seek it on a night which he [the fabricators and believers of such hadiths] has attributed to the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ without any right.

## Khutbah - Sha'ban

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My brothers and sisters, Sha'ban is a month of worship. It is a virtuous month with Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**, this virtue cannot be tainted with innovation. So prepare now by following the Sunnah of the Prophet **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**. Understand how to get closer to Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**. Make tawbah to Him, because those people who make tawbah, will enter into Ramadan fresh away from their sins and mistakes and it will make it easy for them to do good deeds in the month which is beloved to Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**.

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**"One who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of its doer"- Saheeh Muslim vol.3, no.4665.**