

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: ذَاكَ شَهْرٌ يَغْفُلُ النَّاسُ عَنْهُ بَيْنَ رَجَبٍ وَرَمَضَانَ، وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ

تُرْفَعُ فِيهِ الْأَعْمَالُ إِلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَأُحِبُّ أَنْ يُرْفَعَ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ

Respected Believers,

Today's khutbah will focus on the virtue of the blessed month of Sha'ban and the preparations we should make during this month. Yesterday evening, the sacred month of Rajab came to an end, and we have entered the second of the three holy months, Sha'ban. Sha'ban is a harbinger of the blessed month of Ramadan and a period of spiritual preparation. It is a great opportunity for us to utilize this month with sincerity and devotion, rather than wasting it in negligence.

Hadhrat Usama (may Allah be pleased with him) asked the Prophet ﷺ, '*O Messenger of Allah! I have never seen you fast in any month as much as I have seen you fast in the month of Sha'ban.*' The Prophet ﷺ replied, '*In the month of Sha'ban, between the months of Rajab and Ramadan, people become negligent. It is such a month that deeds are presented to the Lord of the Worlds in this month. And I love for my deeds to be presented while I am fasting.*' (Nasai, Sawm 70)

Our elders say, '*Rajab is the month of sowing seeds, Sha'ban is the month of watering, and Ramadan is the month of harvest. A person reaps what he sows. If he neglects his farming, he will regret it on the day of harvest.*'

Sha'ban is the month of preparation for the blessed month of Ramadan. In this month, we have the Night of Bara'at, when deeds are presented to Allah. Additionally, significant events such as the Kaaba being designated as the qibla and the miraculous splitting of the moon occurred in the month of Sha'ban.

Dear Believers, As we leave behind the month of Rajab, let us make the most of the blessed month

of Sha'ban, which heralds the arrival of Ramadan. Let us send abundant blessings and peace upon the Prophet ﷺ in this month. Moreover, let us prepare both materially and spiritually for the month of Ramadan. While preparing our bodies for the fast of Ramadan with voluntary fasts, it is also very important to refresh our knowledge of the fiqh of fasting. For indeed, learning the knowledge of any obligatory act of worship is itself obligatory. Many deeds are wasted due to ignorance. Our religion prohibits ignorance and makes knowledge obligatory.

The elders say, '*Knowledge without action is worthless and even a sin. However, worship without knowledge leads a person to deviation and misguidance, and eventually, it makes that person a laughingstock for Shaytan.*'

The first command in the Quran is "**Read!**" Furthermore, Allah commands us, "**Do not be among the ignorant**" (Al-An'am 35) and "**Turn away from the ignorant**" (Al-A'raf 199), thus prohibiting ignorance.

Allah Almighty says, "**Can the blind and the seeing be equal? Will not those endowed with intellect remember?**" (Az-Zumar 39)

Our Prophet ﷺ said, "**Acquiring or teaching an hour's worth of knowledge is better than worshipping until dawn.**" (Kanz al-Ummal)

My brothers, may Allah make these blessed days auspicious for us and grant us health, well-being, and safety until the month of Ramadan.

I will conclude my khutbah with a hadith: "**A sin committed by a knowledgeable person is recorded as one sin, while for an ignorant person, it is recorded as two sins. The knowledgeable person is punished for his sin, while the ignorant person is punished both for the sin he committed and for not seeking knowledge.**" (Daylami)