

At the approach of the Months of Rajab & Sha'baan

With the sighting of the crescent of Rajab, Rasulullah (*sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*) would anticipate and begin preparations for the month of Ramadaan. (2 months in advance) Sayyiduna Anas Ibn Maalik (r.a.) reports that Rasulullah (*Sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*) would recite the following supplication at the approach of the Month of Rajab:

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَبَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ

Allahumma baarik lanaa fee Rajaba wa Sha'baana wa balligh-naa Ramadaan

Translation: Oh Allah! Grant us Barakah (Blessing) during (the months of) Rajab and Sha'baan, and allow us to reach Ramadaan.

(Shu'abul-Imaan, Ibnu Sunni #660 also see Al-Azhkaar.)

Rajab is the 2nd of the 4 sacred months in the Islamic Calendar which are referred to as: "*Al-Ash-hurul hurum*" (*Surah Tawbah, verse: 36*)
(The others are: *Zhul-Qa'dah, Zhul-Hijjah and Al-Muharram*)

Explaining their significance the 'Ulamaa mention that during these months, good deeds are more virtuous and evil deeds are more detestable to Almighty Allah. (*Lataaiful-Ma'arif, pg.163*)

Note: There are no specific types of Salaah etc. that are prescribed for the Month of Rajab. (*ibid*)

As for Sha'baan, **special significance has been mentioned in authentic Ahadith concerning the 15th night.** Rasulullah (*Sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*) is reported to have said: "Certainly Almighty Allah forgives everyone on this night except those who ascribe partners to Him and those who harbor enmity for others". (*Sahih Ibn Hibbaan #5665, Al-Targheeb, vol.3 pg.459, Majma'uz-zawaaid, vol.8 pg.65 & Lataaiful-Ma'arif, pg.194*)

Imaam Shafi'e (r.a.) has stated: "I have heard that du'as are accepted by Almighty Allah on five nights:

- 1) The night of Jumu'ah, 2 ; 3) The nights of the two 'Eids, 4) **The first night of Rajab,** 5) **The middle (15th) night of Sha'baan,**
(*Lataaiful Ma'arif, pg. 196*)

Imaam 'Ataa Ibn Yasaar (r.a.)- a distinguished Tabi'ee- said: " After Laylatul Qadr, there is no other night more virtuous than **the middle (15th) night of Sha'baan ."** (*Ibid, pg. 197*)