

## SANKORE'



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا

All praises are due to Allah the Lord of the Worlds. The best blessings and most perfect peace be upon our master Muhammad and his family and Companions. May Allah be pleased with the masters among the Second Generation (*at-Taabi`uun*), the Right-Acting Scholars, the Four *Imams* who exercised independent judgment, the *awliyya*, especially the *Rajabiyuun*, those special *awliyya* named after this sacred month and with those who follow them until the Day of Judgment.

This insignificant letter is from the poorest slave in great need of the mercy of his Lord, *Amir* Muhammad Shareef bin Farid. It is a letter for the entire *Jama`at* and for all those who are concerned about this affair of ours.<sup>1</sup> I pray Allah that the month of *Rajab* finds you and the rest of the family in preparation for the sacred month of *Ramadan*. I also ask Allah ta`ala to make some of the men and women in our *Jama`at* from among the forty *awliyya* called after this sacred month: the *Rajabiyuun*. They are forty in every age whose number never exceeds or decrease from forty. Their spiritual state is that they are firmly established in the glorification of Allah. They are numbered among the unique ones (*al-afraad*) and are the masters of the Weighty Word referred to in Allah ta`ala's statement: "Verily We will give you a weighty word." They are called *Rajabiyuun* because the spiritual state of this station does not occur for them except in the month of *Rajab*, from the first that the new moon appears until the appearance of the new moon of *Sha`baan*. Then their spiritual state returns to its normal state and does not return until the month of *Rajab* returns from the following year. Few people know who these forty individuals are because they are scattered throughout the world. However they all know one another. Some of them are in Yemen, while some are in Syria, while some are in the wilderness.

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<sup>1</sup> This paper was first published in 2005, and was modified and edited a little to conform to the times we are in. At that time I was the *Amir* of the *jama`at* of *Shehu* Uthman ibn Fuduye` in the west, appointed by *Sultan* al-Hajj Abu Bakr ibn Muhammad Tahir ibn Muhammad Bello ibn Muhammad Attahiru ibn Ahmad Zaruku ibn Abu Bakr Atiku ibn *Shehu* Uthman ibn Fuduye`. Later in the year of 2005 I resigned from the position of *Amir* foreseeing the winds of tribulation which descended like locus. In 2007 the *jama`at* who remained loyal to their oath of allegiance and adherence to the *minhaj* of the *Shehu* chose al-Hajj Tahir Abdallah as our *Amir*, may Allah ta`ala strengthen him and make his feet firm.

Realize that Allah ta`ala has created certain months which are sacred, in which reward and punishment is multiplied for the one who attains them. Allah ta`ala says in His Infallible Qur'an:

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ  
حُرْمٌ.

“Indeed the numbers of the months with Allah are twelve months (established) in the Book of Allah from the Day Allah created the heavens and the earth. Four of the (months) are sacred.” Our scholars have said that these sacred months are *Rajab*, *Sha`baan*, *Dhu`l-Hijja* and *Muharram*.

Realize that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, recognized the sacredness and honor of the month of *Rajab* in many traditions. It has been related by al-Bayhaqi in his Shu`b al-Imaan and Ibn `Asaakir on the authority of Anas ibn Malik who said that whenever the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace would enter into the month of *Rajab* he would say

اللهم بارك لنا في رجب وشعبان وبلغنا رمضان،

“O Allah bless us in *Rajab*, *Sha`baan* and allow us to reach *Ramadan*.” Whenever the night of *Juma`* (Thursday night) would occur, he, may Allah bless him and grant him peace would say:

هذه ليلة غراء ويوم أزهر.

“This night is the night of ardent love and its day is a radiant day.”

The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace established *Rajab* as the month of Allah. This means that it is a month in which Allah ta`ala is glorified extensively. It has been related by Abu`l-Fatah Ibn Abi`l-Fawaaris in his Imaaliya on the authority of al-Hassan al-Basri in a tradition that is *mursal* that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said:

رجب شهر الله وشعبان شهري ورمضان شهر أمتي

“*Rajab* is the month of Allah, *Sha`ban* is my month and *Ramadan* is the month of my *Umma*.”

The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace made it highly recommended (*mustahaab*) to fast during this month of *Rajab* in many traditions. It has been related by Abu`l-Hassan Ali ibn Muhammad ibn Shuja` ar-Raja`I in his Fada`il Rajab and who narrators are verified on the authority of `Ata that `Urwa said to Abdullah ibn Umar: ‘Did the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace use to fast during *Rajab*?’ He said: ‘Yes and he used to honor it.’

Fasting in the month of *Rajab* opens the gates of Paradise, and opens the doors of acceptance of supplications. Our *shaykh* and the general of the armies of victory (*jaysh 'l-futuuh*) - *Shaykh* Abdullahi Dan Fuduye' said in his Kitab 'l-Mawaa'idha: "The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said:

"شَهْرُ رَجَبٍ شَهْرٌ عَظِيمٌ مَنْ صَامَ يَوْمًا فِيهِ فَكَانَ صَامَ سَنَةً، وَمَنْ صَامَ سَبْعَةَ أَيَّامٍ فَتُحْتَلُّ لَهُ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ الثَّمَانِيَةِ، وَمَنْ صَامَ عَشْرَةَ أَيَّامٍ مِنْهُ ثُمَّ سَأَلَ اللَّهَ حَاجَتَهُ أَعْطَاهُ اللَّهُ مَا سَأَلَهُ إِيَّاهُ، وَمَنْ صَامَ إِلَى إِخْرِهِ غَفَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُ مَا سَلَفَ مِنْ ذُنُوبِهِ وَبَدَّلَتْ سَيِّئَاتِهِ حَسَنَاتٍ."

"The month of *Rajab* is a tremendous month. Whoever fast a single day during it, is as though he fasted a year. Whoever fast seven days (during it) the eight gates of Paradise will open for him. Whoever fast ten days from it then ask Allah for his needs, Allah will give him what he ask. Whoever fast to the end of the month, Allah will forgive all of his sins which have passed and change his evils into good deeds."

Fasting in the month of *Rajab* closes the gates of Hell. It has been related by Abu Nu`aym and Ibn `Asaakir on the authority of Ibn Umar that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said:

من صام أول يوم من رجب عدل ذلك بصيام سنة، ومن صام سبعة أيام أغلق عنه سبعة أبواب النار، ومن صام من رجب عشرة أيام نادى مناد من السماء أن سل تعطه

"Whoever fast one day from the month of *Rajab* it is equivalent to fasting and entire year. Whoever fast seven days from it the seven gates of Hell Fires are closed for him. Whoever fast ten days from the month of *Rajab*, a caller will call out in the heavens: 'Ask and it will be given!'"

Fasting in the month of *Rajab* removes sins, raises one's spiritual rank and gives honor and safety on the Day of Judgment. The Prophet, blessings and peace be upon him said:

"مَنْ صَامَ رَجَبٌ فَلَهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ ثَلَاثَةٌ أَشْيَاءَ: [1] مَغْفِرَةٌ لِجَمِيعِ الذُّنُوبِ؛ [2] وَعِصْمَةٌ فِيمَا بَقِيَ مِنْ عُمُرِهِ وَأَمْنًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ عَطَشِ الْأَكْبَرِ."

"Whoever fast *Rajab* will have three things from Allah: [1] forgiveness of all sins; [2] divine protection from remains from his life-span; and [3] safety on the Day of Standing from the great thirst'."

Fasting in the month of *Rajab* is atonement for sins. It has been related by Abu Muhammad al-Khilaal in his al-Fada'il Rajab on the authority of Ibn `Abaas that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said:

صوم أول يوم من رجب مفارة ثلاث سنين، والثاني كفارة سنتيت، والثالث كفارة سنة، ثم كل يوم شهرا

"Fasting the first day of *Rajab* is atonement for sins for three years. Fasting the second day is atonement for two years. Fasting the third day is atonement for a year. While fasting everyday thereafter is atonement for each day for a month."

Fasting in the month of *Rajab* gains for the person a unique Divine drink in Paradise. It has been related by as-Shiraaazi in his al-Alqaab as well as al-Bayhaqi in his Shu`b al-Imaan on the authority of Anad ibn Malik that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said:

إن في الجنة نهرا يقال له رجب أشد بياضا من اللبن وأحلى من العسل من صام يوما من رجب  
شفاه الله تعالى من ذلك النهر

“Verily in Paradise there is a river which is called *Rajab* is whiter than milk and sweeter than honey. Whoever fast during the month of *Rajab*, Allah ta`ala will give him to drink from that river.”

The best time to fast and seek Allah’s forgiveness is the last part as the month approach the month of *Sha`baan*. It has been related by al-Bayhaqi in his Shu`b al-Imaan on the authority of Salman al-Farsi that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said:

في رجب يوم وليلة، من صام ذلك اليوم وقام تلك الليلة كان صام من الدهر مائة سنة وقام مائة  
سنة، وهو لثلاث بقين من رجب، وفيه بعث الله تعالى محمدا

“In the month of *Rajab* there is a day and night, that whoever fast its day and stand in prayer during its night, it will be as though he had fasted a time of one hundred years and stood in prayer during the night for one hundred years. It is the remaining last three days from *Rajab*. It was in this time that Allah ta`ala sent Muhammad.”

Fasting in the month of *Rajab* must be accompanied with fearful awareness of Allah ta`ala (*taqwa*). It has been related by Abu Muhammad al-Hassan ibn Muhammad al-Khilaal in his Fada’il Rajab on the authority of Abu Sa`id al-Khudri that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said:

رجب من شهور الحرم وأيامه مكتوبة على أبواب السماء السادسة، فإذا صام الرجل منه يوما  
وجدد صومه بتقوى الله نطق الباب ونطق اليوم، قالوا: يا رب اغفر له! وإذا لم يتم صومه بتقوى  
الله لم يستغفرا، وقيل: خدعتك نفسك.

“When a man fast a day in it and then renews his fasting by means of fearful awareness of Allah, the door speaks out as well as the day speak out on his behalf saying: ‘O Lord forgive him.’ When he does not complete his fasting with fearful awareness of Allah, they do not seek forgiveness of him and it is said to him: ‘You have deceived your own soul.’”

It is reprehensible according to the *shari`a* to fast the entire month of *Rajab*. It has been related by Ibn Maja, at-Tabarani in his al-Kabeer and Ibn Habaan in his as-Saheeh on the authority of Ibn `Abaas that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace forbade fasting the entire month of *Rajab*.

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It has been narrated by ad-Daylami on the authority of Ali ibn Abi Talib who said that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said:

((أكثرُوا من الاستغفار في شهر رجب فإن الله في كل ساعة منه عتقاء من النار، وإن الله مدائن

لا يدخلها إلا من صام شهر رجب))

“Do much seeking forgiveness in the month of *Rajab* for verily Allah has in every hour in it those who He frees from the Fire. Verily Allah has valleys that know one will enter except those who fast during the month of *Rajab*.”

It is highly recommended in the *sunna* to sacrifice a sheep during the month of *Rajab*. It has been related by at-Tabarani in his *al-Kabeer* on the authority of Mukhnaf ibn Salim that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said:

على أهل كل بيت أن يذبحوا شاة في كل رجب، وفي كل أضحى شاة.

“It is necessary that every people of a household sacrifice a sheep every *Rajab* and in every *Eid 'l-Adha* there is the sacrificing of a sheep.”

Realize believers that the month of *Rajab* is a month of sacrifice which is inexorably connected to the months of *Sha`baan* and *Ramadan*. Our spiritual master, *Shaykh* Muhy'd-Deen Abd'l-Qadir al-Jaylani said in his *al-Ghunyat Taalibi Tareeq'l-Haqq*:

“It is said that the month of *Rajab* is for abandoning of repulsive deeds, *Sha`baan* is for good deeds and fulfilling trust, and *Ramadan* is for truthfulness and purification. *Rajab* is the month of repentance to Allah, *Sha`baan* is the month of garnering the love of Allah, and *Ramadan* is the month of drawing near to Allah. *Rajab* is the month of recognizing the sanctity of Allah, *Sha`baan* is the month of diligent service to Allah, and *Ramadan* is the month of gathering blessings from Allah. *Rajab* is the month of worship of Allah, *Sha`baan* is the month of asceticism for the sake of Allah, and *Ramadan* is the month of spiritual increase from Allah. *Rajab* is the month of in which Allah multiplies good deeds, *Sha`baan* is the month in which Allah accepts atonement for evils, and *Ramadan* is the month in which Allah advances noble miracles. *Rajab* is the month of the foremost, *Sha`baan* is the month of thrift, and *Ramadan* is the month of those who are disobedient. Dhu'n-Nuun al-Misri, may Allah be merciful to him said: '*Rajab* is for abandoning destructive things, *Sha`baan* is for performing much acts of obedience, and *Ramadan* is for the expectation of noble miracles. Whoever does not abandon destructive things, does not perform acts of obedience, and does not expect noble miracles, then he is among the charlatans worse than rubbish.' He may Allah be merciful to him, also said: '*Rajab* is the month of planting the seeds, *Sha`baan* is the month of watering them, and *Ramadan* is the month of harvesting. One can only harvest what has been planted as one can only reap what is sown. Whoever forfeits the planting of seeds and tending to them will regret when the day comes for harvesting. His conjectures will fall far below the evils of his ending'.”

With the ending of his words I end this small treatise on the blessings, benefits and secrets of the month of *Rajab*. We ask Allah to help us to sacrifice our souls which commands to evil in the month of *Rajab* and allow us to enter the month of *Sha`baan* with high spiritual resolve. May Allah ta`ala accept our sacrifices and spiritual endeavors during these sacred months and help us to defend ourselves against those who envy us and who desire evil against us due to their envy. We ask Allah ta`ala to allow us to enter *Ramadan* unrestrained by outward sins and inward deceases of the heart. O Allah send blessings and peace upon our master Muhammad, his family and Companions to the number of the sacred days and nights of the month of *Rajab*; to the number of all those who are forgiven in the month of *Rajab*; to the number of all those who glorify You in the month of *Rajab*; to the number of all those who prostrate, bow down, sit and stand in prayer to You in the month of *Rajab*; to the number of all those who give *sadaqa*, charity and generous gifts in the month of *Rajab* and to the number of all those who visit Your House in Mecca and the grave of Your Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace in the month of *Rajab* – Amen O Lord of the worlds

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Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> *Rajab*, 1426  
August 6, 2005  
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