

Rajab-al-Murajjab

Rajab is the seventh month of the Islamic calendar. The name Rajab is derived from the word "Tarjeeb". The word Rajab has many meanings, one of which is "Ta'zeem" or respect.

This month is regarded as one of the sacred months (Al-Ashhur-al-hurum) in which battles are prohibited.

Also one of the rivers of Jannat is also known as Rajab.

In this blessed month of Rajab an event of great significance took place, the physical ascension - the Meraj - of Rasulullah ﷺ from Mecca Mukarramah to Baitul Muqaddas in Jerusalem and from there to beyond the seven Havens. Rasulullah ﷺ in that night passed such a point beyond which even Hazrat Jibraeel (Alayhis Salaam) could not proceed.

On this blessed night, the Muslims were given the greatest gift which is the five daily Salaah. It is for this reason that Salaah is termed "Me'raajul Mumineen" (Prayer is the Meraj of the believers).

When the Rasulullah ﷺ sighted the moon of Rajab, he used to recite the following dua:

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَبَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ

O Allah, make the months of Rajab and Sha'ban blessed for us, and let us reach the month of Ramadan (i.e. prolong our life up to Ramadan, so that we may benefit from its merits and blessings)

In another hadith Rasulullah ﷺ said, which means:

No doubt Rajab is a very honourable month in which the rewards of deeds is doubled. Whoever fasts one day in Rajab is as if he has fasted the whole year.

In another hadith Rasulullah ﷺ said, which means:

Rajab is Allah's month, Sha'ban is my month, and Ramadan is the month of my Ummah.

Someone then asked him: "O Messenger of Allah, what do you mean exactly, when you say that Rajab is Allah's month?" So he ﷺ explained:

[I call it Allah's month] because it is specifically associated with forgiveness, because in it the shedding of blood is brought to a halt, because in it Allah (Exalted is He) relents toward His Ambiya, because in it He rescues His Awliya from the hands of their enemies, and because anyone who fasts during this month becomes entitled to receive three things from Allah (Exalted is He). The first and second of these are forgiveness for all the sins which he has previously committed, and impregnable virtue [isma] for the remainder of his life. As for the third, he will be safe from thirst on the Day of the Greatest Review [Yawm al-'Ard al-Akbar]."

At this point a feeble old man stood up and said: "Ya Rasulallah, I am physically incapable of fasting through the whole of the month," so Rasulallah (Sall Allahu alaihi wa Aalihi wa Sallim) went on to say:

Fast during the first day of the month and during the day that comes in the middle of it, and also during the very last day of the month, for then you will be given the same reward as someone who has fasted through the whole of the month, since one good deed is equal in value to ten of the same kind.

Sayyidina Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilaani (Rahmatullah Alayhi) says that months and years are like trees. The spring season of the trees is Rajab, it bears fruit during Shabaan and the fruits are harvested during Ramadaan.

Lailat ar-Ragha'i

Lailat ar-Ragha'i is the first Friday night of the month of Rajab, as the Mala'ika (Angels) call it Night of Wishes [Lailat ar-Ragha'ib]. This is because by the time the first third of the night has elapsed, there will not be a single angel still at large in the heavens, nor in any region of the earth bar one. They will all be gathered together in the Ka'bah and the area immediately surrounding it. Allah (Exalted is He) will condescend to notice that they have assembled there, and He will say: "My angels, ask Me for whatever you wish!" Their response to this will be: "Our Rabb, the request we wish to make is that You grant forgiveness to those who faithfully keep the fast in Rajab," whereupon Allah (Exalted is He) will tell them: "That I have already done!"

Fasting During Rajab

We should fast as much as we possibly can fast during the month of Rajab. Sayyidina Anas  relates that Rasulallah  said:

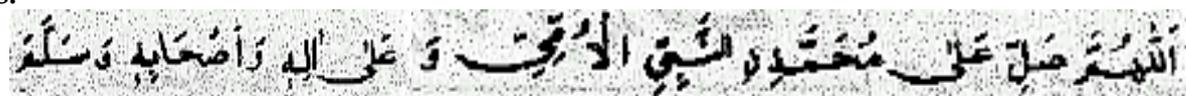
In paradise there is a river called Rajab. Whoever fasts for one day in Rajab, Allah will give him drink from this river.

Our beloved Rasulallah  has said, which means:

No one will go unrewarded if he fasts on Thursday, the first Thursday in Rajab, and if he then performs twelve extra rak'ahs during the period between Maghrib and 'Isha, i.e., during the first segment [atama] of the night of Friday.

In each rak'ah, he must recite Surah al-Fatihah once, then the Surah that begins with "Innaa anzalnaa-hu fee layla-til-qadr"¹ three times, and then the Sura that begins with "Qul HuwAllahu Ahad" twelve times.

The twelve rak'ahs must be divided into sets of two, with a salutation [taslima] to mark the conclusion of each pair. On completion the salah, invoke blessings upon me, by repeating seventy times:



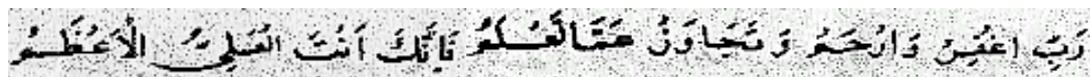
(O Allah, bestow blessings and a peace upon Muhammad, the Holy Nabi, and upon his family)

The perform sajdah, repeating seventy times while in sajdah:



(All-Glorious, All-Holy Rabb of the Angels and of the Spirit!)

Then rise from Sajdah and repeat seventy times:



(My Rabb, forgive and have mercy and pardon that which You well know, for You are the Mighty, the Supreme)

Then perform sajdah second time and repeat the words uttered during the first sajdah. Finally, still in sajdah, ask Allah to grant personal requests, for the requests will surely be fulfilled.

Our beloved Rasulallah ﷺ has said, which means:

By Him in whose Hand is my soul, I assure you that no servant [of His], whether manservant [abd] or maidservant [ama], will ever perform this particular salah-prayer without Allah forgiving all the sins of which that individual has ever been guilty, even if they are like the flecks of foam upon the ocean, as numerous as all the grains of sand, as heavy as the mountains, and as many as the drops of rain and the leaves on all the trees. On the Day of Resurrection [Yawm al-Qiyama], he will be allowed to intercede on behalf of seven hundred members of his family.

On the first night that worshipful servant spends in his grave, the reward for this salah-prayer will come to visit him [in the shape of a human being], with a cheerful face and an eloquent tongue.

"O my dear friend," it will say to him, "rejoice in the good tidings, for I am here to tell you that you have been delivered from every severe affliction!"

This will prompt the servant to exclaim: "Who are you? By Allah, I swear that I have never seen a man with a better-looking face than yours. Never have I heard a form of speech more charming than your way of speaking, and never have I smelled a fragrance more delightful than that of your perfume."

So then it will tell him: "O my dear friend, I am the reward for that salah-prayer, the one you performed on whichever night it was, in whichever month it was, in whichever year it was. I have come here tonight in order to fulfill your request, to entertain you in your solitary state, and to banish your loneliness from you.

Later on, when the trumpet is sounded, I shall provide you with shade to protect your head from the scorching heat on the Fields of the Resurrection [Arasat al-Qiyama].

So rejoice in the good tidings, for you will never be deprived of the blessing that comes from your Master [Maula].

Special dates in the month of Rajab

1st - Prophet Nuh (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his followers boarded the Ark.

4th - Wissal ; Hadrat Imam Shaf'i *Radi Allahu anhu*

5th - Urs ; Khawaja Hassan al Basri *Radi Allahu anhu*

6th - Urs ; Sultan al-Hind, Khawaja Muinuddin Hasan Chisti Ajmeri *Radi Allahu anhu*

9th - Urs ; Hadrat Sayyad Mukhtar Ashraf *Radi Allahu anhu*, Kicchocha Shareef

13th - Birth ; Hadrat Ali (Karam-Allahu Wajhu) Ka'aba Shareef

16th - Urs ; Hadrat Muhaddith al-A'zam *Radi Allahu anhu*, Kicchocha Shareef

22nd - Wissal ; Hadrat Imam Jafar Sadique *Radi Allahu anhu*

24th - Victory at Khaybar

27th - Miraj-un-Nabi Salla Allahu 'alayhi wa Sallam

27th - Wissal ; Hadrat Shaykh Junaid Baghdadi *Radi Allahu anhu*, Baghdad Sharif

27th - Urs ; Muhaddith Imam Tirmidhi *Radi Allahu anhu*

29th - Wissal ; Hadrat Imam Muhammad bin Idris Shafi'I *Radi Allahu anhu*