

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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Preface

There are numerous Hadīths on the merits of the months of Rajab, Sha'bān and Ramadān. A famous Hadīth often heard is from the Holy Prophet 1 who says: *Indeed Rajab is the month of Allah, Sha'bān is my month, and Ramadān is the month of my Ummah.*

While the community is cognizant about the significance and the excellence of Holy Ramadān, there is an apparent dearth of literature on the great significance and distinction of the months of Rajab and Sha'bān in English. A number of manuals have been published on the *a'māl* (observances and acts of worship) to be performed in these two months. We humbly feel, that there is a dire need of a booklet on the significance of Rajab and Sha'bān and the specific actions recommended in them.

This book is a collection of selected forty Hadīths on the merits of Rajab and Sha'bān, most of which have been drawn from two renowned manuals of supplications:

- 1) *Iqbāl al-A'māl* of Sayyid Radi al-Dīn Abul Qāsim 'Ali b. Mūsā b. Ja'far b. Muhammad b. Tāwūs (d. 664 AH) 2 volumes, Tehran 1988.
- 2) *Mafātih al-Jinān* by Shaykh 'Abbās al-Qummī (d. 1359 AH), Beirut 1992/1412.

References to all Hadīths have been taken from *Jāmi' al-Aḥādīth*, Version 3.5 from Noor Software, Qum. Complete list of these works and their compilers are as follows (in alphabetical order):

- Al-Āmālī of Sadūq* by Muhammad b. Ali Ibn Bābwayh al-Sadūq (d. 381 AH)
- Al-Āmālī of Tūsī* by Muhammad b. al-Hasan al-Tūsī (d. 460 AH)
- Al-Kāfi fī 'Ilm al-Dīn* in 4 volumes by Muhammad b. Ya'qūb b. Ishāq al-Kulaynī (d. 329 AH)
- Bihār al-Anwār* in 110 volumes by 'Allāmah Muhammad Bāqir Majlisī (d. 1111 AH)
- Man lā Yahduruhu al-Faqīh* in 4 volumes by Muhammad b. Ali Ibn Bābwayh al-Sadūq
- Misbāh al-Mutabajjid wa Silāh al-Mut'abbid* by Muhammad b. al-Hasan al-Tūsī
- Tabdhīb al-Abkām* in 10 volumes by Muhammad b. al-Hasan al-Tūsī
- Tafsīl Wasā'il al-Shi'ab ilā Tafsīl Masā'il al-Sharī'ah*, in 29 volumes by Shaykh Muhammad b. al-Hasan Hurr al-'Āmilī (d. 1104 AH)
- Thawāb al-A'māl wa Iqbāl al-'Amāl* by Muhammad b. Ali Ibn Bābwayh al-Sadūq
- Zād al-Ma'ād Miṣṭāh al-Jinān* by 'Allāmah Muhammad Bāqir Majlisī

We are grateful to Sh. Tahir Ridha Jaffer of Qum al-Muqaddas for checking the translation of these Hadīths and providing relevant suggestions. Sayyid Ali Quli Qarai also kindly shared the sections on the "Observances of Rajab and Sha'bān" from his forthcoming English translation of *Mafātih al-Jinān* which proved useful for this work. May the Almighty reward them both in this world and in the Hereafter!

Introduction

The months of Rajab and Sha'bān are months of worship that prepare believers for the Month of Ramadān, the holiest of all months. Together, these three months form the Months of Eminence (*Shuhūr al-Sharaf*).

Fasting during these months is highly recommended, as is evident from many of the following Hadīths. These *mustahab* fasts are a preparation for the *wājib* fasts to come during the month of Ramadān. At that time, believers fast in obedience to an obligatory command of Allah (swt). However, it is the *mustahab* fasts that reveal the extent of devotion of the believer to see if he/she is willing to go through the hardship of fasting, even though it may not be mandatory. Furthermore, there is an opportunity for a believer to fast even some of his/her obligatory fasts (e.g. *qadhā* fasts, fasts of *nadhar* etc) for which he would enjoy not only the benefits of fasting in these holy months but also discharge his obligations of performing *wājib* fasts. In addition, there are certain highly recommended A'māl during this month where consecutive fasting for a certain number of days are required (e.g. in A'māl of Umm Dāwūd) which is highly beneficial.

The following Hadīths show how Allah, *subhānahu wa-Ta'ālā*, allows the believer to get closer to Him, and raises his status during the months of eminence through actions such as fasting, selected prayers, charity, pilgrimage . . . etc. These Hadīths were first published in 2014 in a booklet form and now being posted ALI website for the benefit of all Mu'minīn. We pray to the Almighty Allah *'azza wa-jall* to accept this meager effort!

It is through such special opportunities that a believer reaches a rank which would ordinarily be out of reach for him. Thus the actions encouraged by the Hādīths below are the ladders which we must climb onto, to gain success and victory with Allah (swt).

May the Almighty make us from among those who hasten to ascend to spiritual heights!

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Understanding the *thawāb* for acts of worship

This booklet contains a selection of Hādīths on the significance and rewards of fasting, praying, supplicating, pleading for forgiveness, giving alms, and other good deeds performed during the months of Rajab and Sha'bān. As you read through the booklet, the immense rewards promised for various acts of worship (*ibādāt*) may astound you. It may be difficult to comprehend, for instance, how a simple act like fasting one day in these months, pleading Allah for forgiveness (*istighfār*), or reciting a short supplication can result in so much reward. How can one receive, for instance, a river in Paradise (see Hadīth No. 6 below), or a promise to enter Paradise (Hadīth # 31), through one single act of worship? To better understand the promised rewards, keep the following points in mind:

1) Preparations for the Holy Month of Ramadān entail serious efforts. The actions recommended in Rajab and Sha'bān are a preparation for the Holy month. Even in the Du'ā welcoming the month of Rajab, the Messenger of Allah said: *O Allah! Bless us in Rajab and Sha'bān and makes us reach the month of Ramadān* (Hadīth #2); meaning that since the Almighty has given His servant the opportunity of witnessing Rajab and Sha'bān, He should grant him Divine success in performing good deeds to be blessed with witnessing the Holy month. Since it is necessary that a believer makes the most of the Holy Ramadān to benefit as much as possible from the Divine bounties of that month, the actions in the months preceding it are also very important. To emphasize this importance, Allah, through His Messenger and chosen Imams, encourages believers with intense rewards even before the Holy month begins.

2) The Divine Generosity has no limits. What may seem huge to us is really not significant in the eyes of Allah. Our limited minds cannot fully comprehend the huge numbers and amounts, but for the Almighty it is not much. In Du'ā al-Ifitāh, Imam Mahdī al-Qā'im (af) when beseeching from the limitless bountines of Allah says: *Though it is a lot for me, while it is easy and insignificant for You* (وَهُوَ عِنْدِي كَثِيرٌ، وَهُوَ عَلَيْكَ سَهْلٌ يَسِيرٌ). The rain of blessings which pour down upon a believer who has pleased Allah is without measure.

3) The *thawāb* of the Hereafter cannot be compared with measures of this world. Human beings understand according to the normal measures and proportions of everyday life. Even though that type of language may be used because that is what people know, the actual concept is beyond anything of this world. The Quran talks about the Day of Judgment: *The angels and the spirit ascend to Him on a Day the measure of which is fifty thousand years* (Q70:4) -

تَعْرُجُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ مِقْدَارُهُ خَمْسِينَ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ

Such a long Day seems incomprehensible, but shows how different the Hereafter really is.

We are all aware of the importance which Allah gives to *Laylatul Qadr* in the Quran. He puts forward a question: *And what will explain to you what the Laylatul Qadr is?* Immediately, He says in the next verse: *The Laylatul Qadr is better than thousand months* (Q 97:3). Imam al-Bāqir (a) explains this verse aptly: *A good deed in it of saying prayers, giving Zakāt and other types of good (actions), is better than the deed (preformed) in thousand months which do not contain Night of Qadr in them; for had Allah not multiplied the deeds for believers, they would be unable to reach [salvation], but Allah (swt) multiplies for them the good deeds* (*Thawāb al-A'māl*, p. 92).

1. Rajab is month of Allah, and Sha'bān is Prophet's month

عَنْ أَبِي سَعِيدٍ الْخُدْرِيِّ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص)... أَلَا وَإِنَّ رَجَبَ شَهْرَ اللَّهِ وَشَعْبَانَ شَهْرِي وَشَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ شَهْرُ أُمَّتِي أَلَا وَمَنْ صَامَ مِنْ رَجَبٍ يَوْمًا إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا اسْتَوْجَبَ رِضْوَانَ اللَّهِ الْأَكْبَرَ وَأَطْفَى صَوْمُهُ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ غَضَبَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَأَغْلَقَ عَنْهُ بَابًا مِنْ أَبْوَابِ النَّارِ . . .

It has been narrated by Abī Sa'īd al-Khudrī that the Messenger of Allah (s) said: Indeed Rajab is the month of Allah, Sha'bān is my month, and Ramadān is the month of my *ummah*. Surely, whoever fasts a day in Rajab, he/she: secures Allah's greatest pleasure, the fast of that day stifles the wrath of Allah – the Mighty and Sublime, and one of the gates of hell is closed for him/her (Hadith No.1; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Wasā'il*, Hadīth 13887)

2. Rajab and Sha'bān are gateways to Holy Month of Ramadān

وَرُوي أَنَّهُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ كَانَ إِذَا رَأَى هِلَالَ رَجَبٍ قَالَ: اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ، وَبَلِّغْنَا شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ، وَأَعِنَّا عَلَى الصِّيَامِ وَالْقِيَامِ، وَحِفْظِ اللِّسَانِ، وَغَضِّ البَصْرِ، وَلَا تَجْعَلْ حَظَّنَا مِنْهُ الْجُوعَ وَالْعَطَشَ.

It has also been narrated that upon sighting the crescent of Rajab he (i.e. The Messenger of Allah) (s) said:

Allahumma bārik lanā fī Rajabin wa-Sha'bāna, waballighnā shahra Ramadāna, wa-a'innā 'alas-siyāmi walqiyām, wabifzil-lisān, waghaddil-basari, walā taj'al hazẓanā minbul-ju'u wal 'atash

O Allah! Bless us in Rajab and Sha'bān and makes us reach the month of Ramadān. Help us [in these months] with fasting, standing [for prayers], guarding the tongue, casting down the gaze [with modesty], and do not make our [only] share in it [the experiencing of] hunger and thirst. (Hadith No.2; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Bihār* 95:376)

3. Rajab is the month of *istighfār* and Sha'bān is the month of *salawāt*

عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ (ع) قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص) رَجَبُ شَهْرُ الْإِسْتِغْفَارِ لِأُمَّتِي أَكْثَرُوا فِيهِ مِنَ الْإِسْتِغْفَارِ فَإِنَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ وَشَعْبَانَ شَهْرِي اسْتَكْثَرُوا فِي رَجَبٍ مِنْ قَوْلِ اسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ وَسَلُّوا اللَّهَ الْإِقَالََةَ وَالتَّوْبَةَ فِيمَا مَضَى وَالْعِصْمَةَ فِيمَا بَقِيَ مِنْ آجَالِكُمْ وَأَكْثَرُوا فِي شَعْبَانَ مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ عَلَى نَبِيِّكُمْ - إِلَى أَنْ قَالَ وَإِنَّمَا سُمِّيَ شَعْبَانُ شَهْرَ الشَّفَاعَةِ لِأَنَّ رَسُولَكُمْ يَشْفَعُ لِكُلِّ مَنْ يُصَلِّي عَلَيْهِ فِيهِ ...

Abū 'Abdillāh (al-Sādiq) (a) said: The Messenger of Allah (s) has said, 'Rajab is the month of *istighfār* (i.e. pleading for forgiveness from Allah) for my Ummah, (so) do a lot of *istighfār* in it *for surely He is All-forgiving and All-merciful* (Q, 6:54, 165), and Sha'bān is my month. Say in Rajab many times: *Astaghfirullah* (i.e. I plead for God's forgiveness) and beseech Allah for the overlooking and the repentance of what has passed, and protection for the remainder of your lives. And in Sha'bān recite a lot of *salawāt* (i.e. send blessings) on your Prophet. And he said: Indeed Sha'bān is known as the Month of Intercession, for Your Messenger intercedes on behalf of one

8. Rajab *al-Asamm*

عَنْ أَبِي سَعِيدِ الْخُدْرِيِّ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص): أَلَا إِنَّ رَجَبًا شَهْرُ اللَّهِ الْأَصَمُّ وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ عَظِيمٌ وَإِنَّمَا سُمِّيَ الْأَصَمَّ لِأَنَّهُ لَا يُقَارِبُهُ شَهْرٌ مِنَ الشُّهُورِ حُرْمَةً وَفَضْلًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَكَانَ أَهْلُ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ يُعَظِّمُونَهُ فِي جَاهِلِيَّتِهَا فَلَمَّا جَاءَ الْإِسْلَامُ لَمْ يَزِدْ إِلَّا تَعْظِيمًا وَفَضْلًا...

Abū Sa'īd al-Khudhrī reports that he heard the Messenger of Allah (s) saying: Behold, Rajab - the 'silent,' is the month of Allah, and it is a great month. It has been named as *al-Asamm* only because no other month can be compared with it in sanctity and merits with Allah. The people of the Age of Ignorance (*jābiliyya*) (also) used to revere it during their ignorance. When Islam came, it increased it in greatness and excellence. (Hadith No.8; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Wasā'il* H. 13887)

9. Rajab is a Rope that Connects Allah with His servants

عَنِ النَّبِيِّ (ص): إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى نَصَبَ فِي السَّمَاءِ السَّابِعَةِ مَلَكًا يُقَالُ لَهُ الدَّاعِي، فَإِذَا دَخَلَ شَهْرَ رَجَبٍ يُنَادِي ذَلِكَ الْمَلِكُ كُلُّ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْهُ إِلَى الصَّبَاحِ: طُوبَى لِلذَّاكِرِينَ! طُوبَى لِلطَّائِعِينَ! وَيَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: أَنَا جَلِيسٌ مَنْ جَالَسَنِي، وَمُطِيعٌ مَنْ أَطَاعَنِي، وَعَافِرٌ مَنْ اسْتَغْفَرَنِي، أَلشَّهْرُ شَهْرِي، وَالْعَبْدُ عَبْدِي، وَالرَّحْمَةُ رَحْمَتِي، فَمَنْ دَعَانِي فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ أَجَبْتُهُ، وَمَنْ سَأَلَنِي أَعْطَيْتُهُ، وَمَنْ اسْتَهْدَانِي هَدَيْتُهُ، وَجَعَلْتُ هَذَا الشَّهْرَ حَبْلًا بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ عِبَادِي، فَمَنْ اعْتَصَمَ بِهِ وَصَلَ إِلَيَّ.

The Holy Prophet(s) said: Allah has appointed an angel in the seventh heaven, who is known as *al-Dā'ī*. When the month of Rajab enters, that angel announces every night of the month till daybreak: blessings be on those who remember Allah; blessings be on those who are the obedient! And Allah, the Exalted, says: I am in the company of the one who sits in My presence, I respond to the one who obeys Me and forgive the one who seeks My forgiveness. This month is My month, and the servant is My servant, and the mercy is My mercy. So whoever calls upon Me in this month, I will answer him; whoever asks Me, I will give him; whoever seeks My guidance, I will guide him. And I have made this month a rope between Myself and My servants. So whoever holds on to it will reach Me. (Hadith No.9; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; Bihār 95:377)

10. Prophetic Supplication at Sighting the Crescent of Rajab

مَرْوِي عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ (ص) أَنَّهُ كَانَ يَقُولُ: اللَّهُمَّ أَهْلُهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْأَمْنِ وَالْإِيمَانِ وَالسَّلَامَةِ وَالْإِسْلَامِ، رَبِّي وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ.

At the sighting of the crescent of Rajab, the Messenger of Allah (s) used to say:

Allāhumma abillāhu ‘alaynā bil-amni wal-īmāni wassalāmati wal-islām, Rabbī warabbukallāhu ‘azza wajall.

O Allah! Let the new moon come to us with safety and faith, peace and submission. [O new moon!] My Lord and your Lord is Allah, the Mighty and Sublime. (Hadith No.10; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Amālī of Tūsī* 495)

11. Recite al-Fātiha seven times when sighting the crescent of Rajab

قَالَ (ص): وَيُسْتَحَبُّ أَنْ يُقْرَأَ عِنْدَ رُؤْيَةِ الْهِلَالِ سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ سَبْعَ مَرَّاتٍ، فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ قَرَأَهَا عِنْدَ رُؤْيَةِ الْهِلَالِ عَافَاهُ اللَّهُ مِنْ رَمَدِ الْعَيْنِ فِي ذَلِكَ الشَّهْرِ.

The Prophet (s) has said, it is recommended (*mustahab*) to recite Surat al-Fātiha seven times upon seeing the crescent [of Rajab.] Whosoever recites it at the sighting of the crescent, Allah will protect him from the inflammation of the eyes in that month. (Hadith No.11; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Bihār* 95:376)

12. Ghusl on three nights of Rajab

عَنِ النَّبِيِّ (ص): مَنْ أَدْرَكَ شَهْرَ رَجَبٍ فَاعْتَسَلَ فِي أَوَّلِهِ وَأَوْسَطِهِ وَآخِرِهِ خَرَجَ مِنْ ذُنُوبِهِ كَيَوْمِ وُلِدَتْهُ أُمُّهُ.

The Holy Prophet (s) said: Whoever witnesses the month of Rajab and performs *ghusl* (major ablution) on the 1st, 15th and the last night of the month, he will exit from his sins, the way he was on the day his mother gave birth to him. (Hadith No.12; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Wasā'il* H. 3803)

13. Ziyārah of Imam al-Husayn (a) on the first night of Rajab

مَنْ زَارَ الْحُسَيْنَ بْنَ عَلِيٍّ عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلَامُ أَوَّلَ يَوْمٍ مِنْ رَجَبٍ غَفَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُ الْبَتَّةَ.

Imam Ja'far al-Sādiq (a) said: Whoever performs *ziyārah* of Imam Husayn b. 'Ali (a) on the first day of Rajab, Allah will definitely forgive him.

(Hadith No.13; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; from *Tabdhīb* 6:48)

14. Rewards of fasting in Rajab

عَنْ مُوسَى بْنِ جَعْفَرٍ (ع): ... مَنْ صَامَ يَوْمًا مِنْ رَجَبٍ تَبَاعَدَتْ عَنْهُ النَّارُ مَسِيرَ سَنَةٍ وَمَنْ صَامَ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ وَجِبَتْ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ.

Imam Mūsā b. Ja'far (a) said: . . . Whosoever observes a fast in Rajab, is distanced from the Fire (of the Hell) a distance of one year; and whoever fasts three days [in Rajab], Paradise is made obligatory on him.

(Hadith No.14; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Wasā'il* H. 13882).

15. Fasting different days in Rajab

عَنِ الرَّضَا (ع): مَنْ صَامَ أَوَّلَ يَوْمٍ مِنْ رَجَبٍ رَغِبَةً فِي ثَوَابِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَجِبَتْ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ، وَمَنْ صَامَ يَوْمًا فِي وَسْطِهِ شَفَعَ فِي مِثْلِ رَبِيعَةٍ وَمُضَرَ، وَمَنْ صَامَ يَوْمًا فِي آخِرِهِ جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ مِنْ مُلُوكِ الْجَنَّةِ، وَشَفَعَهُ فِي أَبِيهِ وَأُمِّهِ، وَابْنِهِ، وَابْنَتِهِ، وَأَخِيهِ وَأُخْتِهِ، وَعَمِّهِ وَعَمَّتِهِ، وَخَالِهِ وَخَالَتِهِ، وَمَعَارِفِهِ وَجِيرَانِهِ، وَإِنْ كَانَ فِيهِمْ مُسْتَوْجِبٌ لِلنَّارِ.

Imam 'Ali al-Ridā (a) said: Whoever fasts on the first day of Rajab, desiring reward from Allah – the Mighty and Sublime, Paradise becomes obligatory on him. Whoever fasts a day in the middle of Rajab will be granted intercession even in matters like [those of] the tribes of Rabī'ah and Mudhar; and whoever fasts a day in the last part of Rajab, Allah – the Mighty and Sublime, makes him amongst the owners of Paradise and grants intercession for his father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, acquaintance and neighbor – even if among them are those deserving the Hellfire. (Hadith No.15; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Amali of Sadūq* 10;)

16. Do not miss fasting on 27 Rajab

عَنِ الْقَاسِمِ بْنِ يَحْيَى عَنْ جَدِّهِ الْحَسَنِ بْنِ رَاشِدٍ قَالَ: قَالَ الصَّادِقُ جَعْفَرُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلَامُ: لَا تَدَعْ صِيَامَ يَوْمِ سَبْعَةِ وَعِشْرِينَ مِنْ رَجَبٍ، فَإِنَّهُ الْيَوْمُ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَتْ فِيهِ النُّبُوَّةُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَثَوَابُهُ مِثْلُ سِتِّينَ شَهْرًا لَكُمْ.

It has been reported by Qāsim b. Yahyā from his grandfather al-Hasan b. Rāshid, “Imam Ja'far b. Muhammad (a) said: do not abandon the fasting of the 27th Day of Rajab, for it is the day on which the prophethood was bestowed upon Muhammad 1; and its reward is equivalent to [fasting for] sixty months for you.” (Hadith No.16; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Faqih* 2:90; *Wasā'il* H. 13808).

In another Hadith it has been mentioned:

رَوَى الرَّيَّانُ بْنُ الصَّلْتِ قَالَ: صَامَ أَبُو جَعْفَرٍ الثَّانِي (ع) لَمَّا كَانَ بِبَغْدَادَ يَوْمَ النِّصْفِ مِنْ رَجَبٍ وَيَوْمَ سَبْعٍ وَ عِشْرِينَ مِنْهُ وَصَامَ جَمِيعَ حَشْمِهِ ...

Al-Rayyān b. al-Salt narrates that when Imam Abū Ja'far II (al-Jawād) (a) was in Baghdad, he fasted in the middle of Rajab and on the 27th Day of Rajab, and so did his entire clan of [Banī] Hāshim. (Hadith No.16; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Misbāh* 2:814; *Iqbal* 676; *Wasā'il* H. 10196)

17. Significant reward of fasting in the last days of Rajab

رَوَى ابْنُ بَابُوَيْهِ بِسَنَدٍ مُعْتَبَرٍ عَنْ سَالِمٍ قَالَ: دَخَلْتُ عَلَى الصَّادِقِ (ع) فِي رَجَبٍ وَقَدْ بَقِيَتْ مِنْهُ أَيَّامٌ، فَلَمَّا نَظَرَ إِلَيَّ قَالَ لِي: يَا سَالِمُ، هَلْ صُمْتَ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ شَيْئاً؟ قُلْتُ: لَا وَاللَّهِ يَا بَنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، فَقَالَ لِي: فَقَدْ فَاتَكَ مِنَ الثَّوَابِ مَا مَعْلَمٌ مَبْلَغُهُ إِلَّا اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ. إِنَّ هَذَا شَهْرٌ قَدْ فَضَّلَهُ اللَّهُ وَعَظَّمَ حُرْمَتَهُ وَأَوْجَبَ لِلصَّائِمِينَ فِيهِ كَرَامَتَهُ. قَالَ: فَقُلْتُ لَهُ: يَا بَنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، فَإِنْ صُمْتُ مِمَّا بَقِيَ مِنْهُ شَيْئاً هَلْ أَنَا أَفْؤُزُ بِبَعْضِ ثَوَابِ الصَّائِمِينَ فِيهِ؟ فَقَالَ: يَا سَالِمُ، مَنْ صَامَ يَوْماً مِنْ آخِرِ هَذَا الشَّهْرِ كَانَ ذَلِكَ أَمَاناً مِنْ شِدَّةِ سَكَرَاتِ الْمَوْتِ، وَأَمَاناً لَهُ مِنْ هَوْلِ الْمُطَّلَعِ وَعَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ، وَمَنْ صَامَ يَوْمَيْنِ مِنْ آخِرِ الشَّهْرِ كَانَ لَهُ بِذَلِكَ جَوَازاً عَلَى الصِّرَاطِ، وَمَنْ صَامَ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ مِنْ آخِرِ هَذَا الشَّهْرِ أَمِنَ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْفَرَجِ الْأَكْبَرِ مِنْ أَهْوَالِهِ وَشِدَائِدِهِ، وَأُعْطِيَ بَرَاءَةً مِنَ النَّارِ.

Ibn Bābwayh narrates from an authentic report from Sālim, who said:

I visited Imam Ja'far al-Sādiq (a) in the month of Rajab while there still remained a few days for the month to end. On seeing me, he said, 'Sālim, have you fasted at all during this month?'

I said, 'No, by Allah, O son of the Messenger of Allah.'

He said to me, 'you have missed a reward whose full extent is known to none except Allah, the Almighty and Sublime. Allah has preferred this month and has magnified its sanctity, taking it upon Himself to honour those who fast it.'

I said to him, 'O son of the Messenger of Allah, if I were to fast part of the remaining days of this month, will I attain some of the reward of those who have fasted in it?'

He said, 'Sālim, whoever fasts a single day of the latter part of Rajab, it will save him from the severity of the throes of death, and it will be safety for him from the horrors that appear after death and from the torments of the grave. Whoever fasts two days of the latter part of this month, he will cross over the *sirāt* (the bridge over hell) with ease. And whoever fasts three days of the latter part of this month will be secure from the terrors and calamities of the Day of the Great Fear and will be granted immunity from hell.' (Hadith No.16; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Āmālī of Sadūq* 15; *Wasā'il* H. 13886)

18. Fasting the entire Rajab results in Divine Pleasure

عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ (ع): قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص): مَنْ صَامَ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ مِنْ رَجَبٍ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِكُلِّ يَوْمٍ صِيَامَ سَنَةٍ، وَمَنْ صَامَ سَبْعَةَ أَيَّامٍ مِنْهُ غُلِقَتْ عَنْهُ سَبْعَةُ أَبْوَابِ النَّارِ، وَمَنْ صَامَ ثَمَانِيَةَ أَيَّامٍ مِنْهُ فَتُحِتَ لَهُ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ الثَّمَانِيَّةِ، وَمَنْ صَامَ خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ يَوْمًا حَاسَبَهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى حِسَابًا يَسِيرًا، وَمَنْ صَامَ رَجَبًا كُلَّهُ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ رِضْوَانَهُ، وَمَنْ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ رِضْوَانَهُ لَمْ يُعَذِّبْهُ.

Abū ‘Abdillāh Imam al-Sādiq (a) narrate: “The Messenger of Allah 1 said: whoever fasts three days in Rajab, Allah will write for every fast [the reward] of fasting the entire year; and whoever fasts seven days in it, seven doors of the Hell are closed for him; and whoever fasts eight days in it, [all] the eight gates of Paradise are let open for him; and whoever fasts fifteen days [in Rajab], Allah will ease for him the accounting [on the Day of Resurrection], and whoever fasts all its days, Allah will write for him His pleasure (*ridwān*) and for whoever Allah prescribes His pleasure, He will never punish him. (Hadith No.17; 40 *Hadith on Rajab and Sha‘ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Misbāh* 2:797; *Iqbāl* 635)

In another Hadīth we read:

وَعَنْ سَلْمَانَ الْفَارِسِيِّ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ (ص): مَنْ صَامَ رَجَبًا كُلَّهُ أَنْجَاهُ اللَّهُ مِنَ النَّارِ، وَأَوْجَبَ لَهُ الْجَنَّةَ.

Salmān al-Fārsī narrates on the authority of the Messenger of Allah (s): Whoever fasts the entire month of Rajab, Allah will save him from the Fire [of Hell] and make Paradise obligatory on him. (Hadith No.17; 40 *Hadith on Rajab and Sha‘ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; *Wasā’il*, H. 13897).

19. Those who cannot fast in Rajab

In a lengthy Hadīth attributed to the Holy Prophet 1 wherein he mentioned rewards of fasting each and every day in Rajab:

قِيلَ: يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ فَمَنْ عَجَزَ عَنْ صِيَامِ رَجَبٍ لِضَعْفٍ أَوْ لِعِلَّةٍ كَانَتْ بِهِ أَوْ امْرَأَةً غَيْرَ طَاهِرَةٍ يَصْنَعُ مَاذَا لَيْنَالٍ مَا وَصَفْتَ؟ قَالَ: يَتَصَدَّقُ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ بِرَغِيفٍ عَلَى الْمَسَاكِينِ وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ إِنَّهُ إِذَا تَصَدَّقَ بِهَذِهِ الصَّدَقَةِ يَنَالُ مَا وَصَفْتَ وَأَكْثَرُ، لِأَنَّهُ لَوْ اجْتَمَعَ جَمِيعُ الْخَلَائِقِ عَلَى أَنْ يُقَدَّرُوا قَدْرَ ثَوَابِهِ مِنْ أَهْلِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ مَا بَلَعُوا عَشْرَ مَا يُصِيبُ فِي الْجِنَانِ مِنَ الْفَضَائِلِ وَالذَّرَجَاتِ. قِيلَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ (ص): فَمَنْ لَمْ يَقْدِرْ عَلَى هَذِهِ الصَّدَقَةِ يَصْنَعُ مَاذَا لَيْنَالٍ مَا وَصَفْتَ؟ قَالَ: يُسَبِّحُ اللَّهَ عَزَّ جَلَّ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ مِنْ رَجَبٍ إِلَى تَمَامِ ثَلَاثِينَ يَوْمًا بِهَذَا التَّسْبِيحِ مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ: سُبْحَانَ إِلَهِ الْجَلِيلِ، سُبْحَانَ مَنْ لَا يَنْبَغِي التَّسْبِيحُ إِلَّا لَهُ، سُبْحَانَ الْأَعَزِّ الْأَكْرَمِ، سُبْحَانَ مَنْ لَبَسَ الْعِزَّ وَهُوَ لَهُ أَهْلٌ.

It was said to (the Holy Prophet):

What should a person do if he cannot fast on account of being weak, or due to other reasons, or a woman who is not clean [because of to her menses]? Can they achieve what you have described [of great rewards of fasting]?

He 1 said, 'Let them give in charity a loaf of bread to the needy for every fast. By the One in Whose control is my soul, if they offer this *sadaqah* they would get what I had described [of rewards] and more.

Surely, if all the the creatures in the heavens and earth were to come together, they would not be able to count one tenth of the total merits and ranks earned [for this] in the heavens.'

He was asked, "O Messenger of Allah (s), if a person cannot afford to give this *sadaqah*, what should he do?"

He said: "Then let him glorify Allah – the Mighty and Sublime, everyday till the completion of 30 days, with the following *tasbīh* one hundred times:

Subhāna lā-ilāhal-jalīl, subhāna man lā yambaghīya-tasbīh illā labu, subhānal-a‘azzil-akram, subhāna man labisal-i‘zza, wa buwa labu abl.

Glory be to Allah, the Sublime. Glory be to One who alone deserves glorification. Glory be to the Honorable, the Generous. Glory be to One who has worn the robe of honor, and He is worthy of it." (Hadith No. 19; 40 *Hadith on Rajab and Sha‘ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Āmālī of Sadūq* 539; *Wasā‘il* H. 13905).

20. Daily Salāt for Rajab

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص): مَنْ صَلَّى فِي رَجَبٍ سِتِّينَ رُكْعَةً فِي كُلِّ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْهُ رُكْعَتَيْنِ: يقرأُ فِي كُلِّ رُكْعَةٍ مِنْهُمَا فَاتِحَةَ الْكِتَابِ مَرَّةً، ﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ﴾ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ، وَ﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ﴾ مَرَّةً، فَإِذَا سَلَّمَ مِنْهُمَا رَفَعَ يَدَيْهِ وَقَالَ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ، يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ وَهُوَ حَيٌّ لَا يَمُوتُ، بِيَدِهِ الْخَيْرُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ، وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ، وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ وَآلِهِ؛ وَبِمَسْحِ بِيَدَيْهِ وَجْهَهُ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سُبْحَانَهُ يَسْتَجِيبُ الدُّعَاءَ، وَيُعْطِي ثَوَابَ سِتِّينَ حَجَّةً وَسِتِّينَ عُمْرَةً.

The Messenger of Allah 1 said: whoever prays [a total of] 60 rakā‘at in Rajab, two rakā‘at every night [as prescribed below], Allah will respond to his supplication and will grant him the reward of sixty Hajj and sixty ‘umrahs.

[The prayer to be said as follows]: In every rak'ah, say after al-Fātiha [Sūrat] *Qul yā ayyubal-kāfirūn* thrice, and [Sūrat] *Qul huwallāhu Abad* once. After the completion of the prayers, raise your hands and say:

Lā ilāha illallāh wabdahu lā sharika lah, labul-mulku walahul-Hamd, yuhyi wayumit, wahuwa Hayyun lā yamūt, biyadibil-khayr wa huwa 'alā kulli shay'in qadīr, wa ilayhil-masīr. Walā hawla walā quwwata illā billāhil-'aliyyil-'azīm. Allabumma swallī 'alā Mubammadin wa āli Mubammadin-nabiyyil-amīni wa-ālihi.

There is no god but Allah – the absolute One without a partner. For Him is the praise. He gives life and causes death; He is [always] living, never dies. In His hand is the good, and He has power over everything. To Him is the way. There is no power or strength, except with Allah- the Sublime, the Great. O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad- the trustworthy Prophet, and his progeny.

Thereafter wipe your face with your hands. (Hadith No. 20; 40 *Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbāl* 630; *Wasā'il* H. 10160)

21. Simple prayer for Rajab

عَنْ سَلْمَانَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص) مَنْ صَلَّى لَيْلَةً مِنْ لَيَالِي رَجَبٍ عَشْرَ رَكَعَاتٍ يَفْرَأُ فِي كُلِّ رَكَعَةٍ فَاتِحَةَ الْكِتَابِ ﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ﴾ مَرَّةً ﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ﴾ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ غَفَرَ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى لَهُ كُلَّ ذَنْبٍ عَمِلَ وَسَلَفَ لَهُ مِنْ ذُنُوبِهِ وَكَتَبَ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى لَهُ بِكُلِّ رَكَعَةٍ عِبَادَةَ سِتِّينَ سَنَةً، وَأَعْطَاهُ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ سُورَةٍ قَصْرًا مِنْ لُؤْلُؤَةٍ فِي الْجَنَّةِ ...

From Salmān: “The Messenger of Allah (s) said: Whoever recites 10 rakā‘at [i.e. 5 prayers of 2 rakā‘at each] in the nights of Rajab, reciting the Opening (sūrah) of the Book, and (sūrah) *Qul yā ayyuba al-Kāfirūn* once and (sūrah) *Qul huwallāhu abad* thrice, Allah will forgive all the sins he has committed, and for every Rak‘ah Allah will write for him worship of 60 years, and for every sūrah [recited] Allah will give him a palace of pearl in paradise. . .” (Hadith No. 21; 40 *Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbāl* 630; *Wasā'il* H. 10161)

22. Reciting al-Ikhlās in prayer

عَنِ النَّبِيِّ (ص) قَالَ مَنْ قَرَأَ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَجَبٍ ﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ﴾ مِائَةً مَرَّةً فِي رَكَعَتَيْنِ فَكَأَنَّمَا صَامَ مِائَةَ سَنَةٍ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَأَعْطَاهُ اللَّهُ مِائَةَ قَصْرِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ كُلُّ قَصْرِ فِي جِوَارِ نَبِيِّ مِنَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ (ع) .

The Holy Prophet 1 said: Whoever recites in any one night of Rajab one hundred times [Sūrat] *Qul huwallāhu abad* in a two rakā‘at prayer, it would be as if he has fasted for a hundred years in the way of Allah, and Allah will grant him one hundred palaces in Paradise, each of which would be in the neighborhood of one of the Prophets (a). (Hadith No. 22; 40 *Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbāl* 630; *Wasā'il* H. 10162)

23. Astounding reward of saying *lā ilāha illāh* in Rajab

وَعَنْهُ (ع) مَنْ قَالَ فِيهِ: (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ) أَلْفَ مَرَّةٍ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ مِائَةَ أَلْفِ حَسَنَةٍ، وَبَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ مِائَةَ مَدِينَةٍ فِي الْجَنَّةِ

He (i.e. the Holy Prophet (s)) said: One who says in it (i.e. in Rajab) one thousand times *lā ilāha illāh* (i.e. there is no god but Allah), Allah will write for him one hundred thousand good deeds and make for him one hundred cities in Paradise (Hadith No. 23; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbal* 648; *Wasā'il* H. 13908).

24. How to do *Istighfār* in Rajab?

عَنِ النَّبِيِّ (ص): مَنْ قَالَ فِي رَجَبٍ: (أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ) مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ وَخَتَمَهَا بِالصَّدَقَةِ، خَتَمَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَالْمَغْفِرَةِ، وَمَنْ قَالَهَا أَرْبَعِ مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ أَجْرَ مِائَةِ شَهِيدٍ. فَإِذَا لَقِيَ اللَّهَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَقُولُ لَهُ قَدْ أَقْرَزْتَ بِمُلْكِي فَتَمَنَّ عَلَيَّ مَا شِئْتَ حَتَّى أُعْطِيكَ فَإِنَّهُ لَا مُقْتَدِرَ غَيْرِي

The Holy Prophet (s) said:

'Whoever says in Rajab, one hundred times:

Astaghfirullāhal-ladhī lā ilāha illā huwa wāhdahu lā sharīka labu wa atūbu ilayh

I plead for forgiveness from Allah, besides Whom there is no god other than Him. He is alone without any associate and I turn to Him in repentance

Followed by offering charity (*sadaqah*), Allah will reward him with mercy and forgiveness. And whoever recites it (i.e. the above *istighfār*) four hundred times, Allah will write for him the reward of a hundred martyrs. And when He meets Allah on the Day of Resurrection, He will tell him, 'you have indeed settled in My kingdom, so ask for whatever you wish for none has authority besides Me.' (Hadith No. 24; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbal* 648; *Wasā'il* H. 13907)

25. Reward of Good deeds increased manifold in Rajab

قَالَ أَبُو الْحَسَنِ مُوسَى بْنُ جَعْفَرٍ: رَجَبٌ شَهْرٌ عَظِيمٌ يُضَاعِفُ اللَّهُ فِيهِ الْحَسَنَاتِ وَيَمْحُو فِيهِ السَّيِّئَاتِ ...

Imam Abū 'l-Hasan Mūsā b. Ja'far (a): Rajab is a great month wherein Allah multiplies [the reward] of good deeds and erases the evil deeds... (Hadith No. 25; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Faqih* 2:92; *Iqbal* 634)

26. The 'Umrah of Rajab is the best

عَنْ مُعَاوِيَةَ بْنِ عَمَّارٍ فِي الصَّحِيحِ عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ (ع) قَالَ: الْمُعْتَمِرُ يَعْتَمِرُ فِي أَيِّ شَهْرِ السَّنَةِ شَاءَ، وَأَفْضَلُ الْعُمْرَةِ عُمْرَةُ رَجَبٍ.

From Mu'āwiyah b. 'Ammār on the authority of Abū 'Abdillāh (al-Sādiq) A: A pilgrim can perform 'Umrah¹ in any month during the year, [but] the best 'Umrah is the 'Umrah of Rajab. (Hadith No. 26; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Kāfi* 4:536; *Wasā'il* H. 19258)

In another Hadīth al-Sādiq was asked:

أَيُّ الْعُمْرَةِ أَفْضَلُ عُمْرَةٌ فِي رَجَبٍ أَوْ عُمْرَةٌ فِي شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ؟ فَقَالَ: لَا بَلْ عُمْرَةٌ فِي شَهْرِ رَجَبٍ أَفْضَلُ.

Which 'Umrah is better: The 'Umrah of Rajab or the 'Umrah in the month of Ramadān? So, he said, 'No, rather the 'Umrah of Rajab is better.' (Hadith No. 26; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Faqih* 2: 453; *Wasā'il* H. 19248)

27. Dhikr during 'Umrah

وَاعْتَمَرَ عَلِيُّ بْنُ الْحُسَيْنِ (ع) فِي رَجَبٍ فَكَانَ يُصَلِّي عِنْدَ الْكَعْبَةِ عَامَّةً لَيْلِهِ وَنَهَارِهِ وَيَسْجُدُ عَامَّةً لَيْلِهِ وَنَهَارِهِ وَكَانَ يُسْمَعُ مِنْهُ فِي سُجُودِهِ - عَظُمَ الذَّنْبُ مِنْ عَبْدِكَ فَلِيْحَسِّنِ الْعَفْوُ مِنْ عِنْدِكَ

Imam Ali b. al-Husayn (a) (once) performed the 'Umrah in Rajab. He would pray night and day beside the Ka'bah, and be in prostration during the night and the day. He was heard saying the following *dhikr* in [his] prostration:

'Adumadh-dhanbu min 'abdika Falyabsunil-'afwu min 'indika.

Your servant's sin is enormous, So it will be gracious of You to pardon [him].

(Hadith No. 27; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Misbāh* 2: 801)

28. Great Merits of Sha'bān

عَنْ سَعِيدِ بْنِ جُبَيْرٍ عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص) وَقَدْ تَذَاكُرُوا عِنْدَهُ فَضَائِلَ شَعْبَانَ فَقَالَ شَهْرٌ شَرِيفٌ وَهُوَ شَهْرِي وَحَمَلَةُ الْعَرْشِ تُعْظَمُهُ وَتَعْرِفُ حَقَّهُ وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ يُزَادُ فِيهِ أَرْزَاقُ

¹ Lesser pilgrimage to the House of Allah in Makkah

الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَهُوَ شَهْرُ الْعَمَلِ فِيهِ يُضَاعَفُ الْحَسَنَةُ بِسَبْعِينَ وَالسَّيِّئَةُ مَحْطُوطَةٌ وَالذَّنْبُ مَغْفُورٌ وَالْحَسَنَةُ مَقْبُولَةٌ وَالْجَبَّارُ جَلَّ جَلَالُهُ يُبَاهِي فِيهِ بِعِبَادِهِ وَيَنْظُرُ إِلَى صِيَامِهِ وَصُومِهِ وَقِيَامِهِ وَفِيَّاهِهِ بِه حَمَلَةَ الْعَرْشِ...

From Sa'īd b. Jubayr, from Ibn 'Abbās who reported that people mentioned about the merits of Sha'bān in the presence of the Messenger of Allah (s), so he said: it is a distinguished month and it is my month, the carriers of 'arsh (Divine Throne) sanctify it and know its right, and it is the month in which sustenance is increased for the believers. [Sha'bān] is the month of performing deeds, the good is multiplied seventy times and the evil is diminished, the sins are forgiven, the good deeds are accepted. [In this month] the Omnipotent (God) -the Exalted (and) the Majestic, takes pride in it at His servants, and looks at those who frequently fast in it and those who frequently pray in it, and boasts about them to the carriers of 'arsh. (Hadith No. 28; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbāl* 684; *Wasā'il* H. 13952)

29. Istighfār during Sha'bān

أَخْبَرَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ الْحَسَنِ بْنِ عَلِيِّ بْنِ فَضَالٍ عَنْ أَبِيهِ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ عَلِيَّ بْنَ مُوسَى الرِّضَا عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلَامُ يَقُولُ: مَنْ اسْتَغْفَرَ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى فِي شَعْبَانَ سَبْعِينَ مَرَّةً غَفَرَ اللَّهُ ذُنُوبَهُ وَلَوْ كَانَتْ مِثْلَ عَدَدِ النُّجُومِ.

'Ali b. al-Hasan b. 'Ali b. Faddāl narrated from his father, who said: I heard 'Ali b. Mūsā al-Ridā A saying, "whoever seeks forgiveness from Allah – the Blessed and Exalted, in Sha'bān seventy times, Allah will forgive his sins even if they were equal to the number of stars." (Hadith No. 29; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Amālī of Sadūq* 17; *Bihār* 94:90)

In another Hadīth, Ibrāhīm b. Maymūn asked Imam al-Ridā (a):

فَمَا أَفْضَلُ الدُّعَاءِ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ فَقَالَ الْإِسْتِغْفَارُ إِنَّ مَنْ اسْتَغْفَرَ فِي شَعْبَانَ - كُلَّ يَوْمٍ سَبْعِينَ مَرَّةً كَانَ كَمَنْ اسْتَغْفَرَ فِي غَيْرِهِ مِنَ الشُّهُورِ سَبْعِينَ أَلْفَ مَرَّةٍ قُلْتُ كَيْفَ أَقُولُ: قَالَ قُلْ أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ وَأَسْأَلُهُ التَّوْبَةَ.

What is the best supplication in this month? So he (the Imam) replied: 'doing *istighfār*; surely whoever does *istighfār* seventy times in Sha'bān, is like one who does *istighfār* seventy thousand times in other months.' I asked him: How should I say it? He said, '(simply) say: *astaghfirullah wa as'aluhut tambah* -I plead Allah for forgiveness and I beseech repentance from Him.' (Hadith No. 29; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Bihār* 94:91; *Wasā'il* H. 13982)

Another version of doing *istighfār* is:

عَنْ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ أَبِي حَمَزَةَ عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ (ع) قَالَ: مَنْ قَالَ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ سَبْعِينَ مَرَّةً أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ وَ أَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ كُتِبَ فِي الْأُفُقِ الْمُبِينِ قُلْتُ وَمَا الْأُفُقُ الْمُبِينُ قَالَ قَاعُ بَيْنَ يَدَيِ الْعَرْشِ فِيهِ أَنْهَارٌ تَطْرُدُ فِيهِ الْقِدْحَانُ عَدَدَ النُّجُومِ.

Muhammad b Abū Hamza reports that Abū 'Abdillāh (Imam al-Sādiq) (a) said: Whoever says everyday in Sha'bān 70 times:

Astaghfirullāhballadhī lā ilāha illā huwar-rahmānur-rahīm al-bayyul qayyūm, wa-atūbu ilayhi

I seek forgiveness from Allah, besides Whom there is no god, the All-beneficent, the All-merciful, the Living One, the All-sustainer, and I turn to him penitently!

[his name] is inscribed in the Manifest Horizon (*al-ufūq al-mubīn*).² I asked, 'what is *al-ufūq al-mubīn*? He (a) said: it is a place in front of the Throne (of Allah) in which rivers flow [and] in which there will be as many of the two [types of] goblets [made of gold and silver] as the number of stars in the sky. (Hadith No. 29; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Thawab* 165; *Misbah* 2:829; *Wasa'il* H 13980)

30. Giving *sadaqah* in Sha'bān

سَعْدُ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بِإِسْنَادِهِ إِلَى دَاوُدَ بْنِ كَثِيرٍ الرَّقِّيِّ قَالَ: سَأَلْتُ أَبَا عَبْدِ اللَّهِ جَعْفَرَ بْنَ مُحَمَّدٍ الصَّادِقِ (ع) عَنْ صَوْمِ رَجَبٍ؛ فَقَالَ: أَيْنَ أَنْتُمْ عَنْ صَوْمِ شَعْبَانَ، فَقُلْتُ لَهُ: يَا بْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ مَا ثَوَابُ مَنْ صَامَ يَوْمًا مِنْ شَعْبَانَ؟ فَقَالَ: الْجَنَّةُ وَاللَّهُ، فَقُلْتُ: يَا بْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ مَا أَفْضَلُ مَا يُفْعَلُ فِيهِ؟ قَالَ: الصَّدَقَةُ وَالِاسْتِغْفَارُ، وَمَنْ تَصَدَّقَ بِصَدَقَةٍ فِي شَعْبَانَ رَبَّاهَا اللَّهُ تَعَالَى كَمَا يُرِيِّي أَحَدُكُمْ فَصِيْلَهُ حَتَّى يُوَايِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَقَدْ صَارَ مِثْلَ أَحَدٍ.

From Sa'ad bin Abdullāh from Dawūd bin Kathīr al-Raqqī. He said: 'I asked Abū Abdillāh, Ja'far bin Muhammad al-Sādiq (a) about fasting in Rajab. He said, "what is your position with regards to fasting in Sha'bān?" I said to him, 'O son of the Messenger of Allah, what is the reward of fasting a day in Sha'bān?' He said, "Paradise, by Allah." Then I said, 'O son of the Messenger of Allah, what is the best [deed] to perform in it?' He said, giving *sadaqah* (charity) and doing *istighfār* (seeking forgiveness); for whoever gives charity in the month of Sha'bān, Allah will nurture it the way one of you nurtures his baby camel, until he will meet it on the Day of Resurrection while it is like (the mountain of) Uhud. (Hadith No. 30; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbal* 685; *Wasa'il* H. 13983)

31. Rewards of fasting in Sha'bān

The Holy Prophet (s) said:

شَعْبَانُ شَهْرِي مَنْ صَامَ يَوْمًا مِنْ شَهْرِي وَجَبَتْ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ، وَمَنْ صَامَ يَوْمَيْنِ مِنْهُ كَانَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مَعَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَ الصِّدِّيقِينَ، وَمَنْ صَامَ كُلَّ الشَّهْرِ وَأَوْصَلَهُ بِرَمَضَانَ كَانَتْ تَوْبَتُهُ مِنْ كُلِّ صَغِيرَةٍ وَكَبِيرَةٍ وَ إِنْ كَانَ دَاخِلًا فِي دِمٍ حَرَامٍ فَإِنَّهُ يَنْفَعُهُ.

Sha'bān is my month; whosoever fasts a day from my month, Paradise becomes obligatory for him. And one who fasts two days from it, he will be (in the company) of the Prophets and the Truthful on the Day of Resurrection. And one who fasts the entire month, joining it with Ramadān, then it would be repentance against

² Cf. Holy Quran verse 81:23

all major and minor sins, even if he was involved in wrongful killing; the fast will benefit him. (Hadith No. 31; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Zādul Ma'ād* 45)

Imam al-Sādiq (a) when enumerating the benefits of fasting in Sha'bān said:

حَتَّىٰ إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَدْخُلُ فِي الدَّمِ الْحَرَامِ فَيَصُومُ شَعْبَانَ فَيَنْفَعُهُ ذَلِكَ وَ يُغْفَرُ لَهُ.

Even if a person who has unlawful blood on his hands it would benefit him and will be forgiven [of his crime]. (Hadith No. 31; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Thawāb* 59; *Wasā'il* H.13954)

32. Benefits of fasting in Sha'bān

عَنِ الصَّادِقِ جَعْفَرِ بْنِ مُحَمَّدٍ ع قَالَ صِيَامُ شَعْبَانَ ذُخْرٌ لِلْعَبْدِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَمَا مِنْ عَبْدٍ يُكْتَبُ الصِّيَامَ فِي شَعْبَانَ إِلَّا أَصْلَحَ اللَّهُ لَهُ أَمْرَ مَعِيشَتِهِ وَكَفَاهُ شَرَّ عَدُوِّهِ وَإِنَّ أَدْنَىٰ مَا يَكُونُ لِمَنْ يَصُومُ يَوْمًا مِنْ شَعْبَانَ أَنْ تَجِبَ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ

Imam Ja'far al-Sādiq said: Fasting of Sha'bān is a treasure stored for a servant on the Day of Resurrection. There is no servant who fasts a lot in Sha'bān except that Allah improves his livelihood and protects him from the mischief of his enemy. The minimum what a person gets from fasting a day in Sha'bān is Paradise. (Hadith No. 32; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbāl* 684)

In another Hadith the Prophet (s) said:

وَمَنْ صَامَ أَرْبَعَةَ أَيَّامٍ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ وَسَّعَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ فِي الرَّزْقِ . . .

Whoever fasts four days in Sha'bān, Allah will expand for him his sustenance. (Hadith No. 32; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'bān; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbāl* 690)

33. Fasting on the 1st Sha'bān

عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ أَنَّهُ قَالَ مَنْ صَامَ أَوَّلَ يَوْمٍ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ وَجَبَتْ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ الْبَتَّةَ وَمَنْ صَامَ يَوْمَيْنِ مِنْهُ نَظَرَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ فِي دَارِ الدُّنْيَا وَدَامَ نَظَرُهُ إِلَيْهِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَمَنْ صَامَ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ زَارَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ فِي عَرْشِهِ فِي جَنَّتِهِ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ

Abū 'Abdillāh (Imam al-Sādiq) said: whoever fasts on the first day of Sha'bān, paradise will surely become obligatory on him. One who fasts two days from it, Allah will look at him [with mercy] everyday and night in this world, and this (Divine) look will continue in the Paradise. And one who fasts three days [in Sha'bān], he will be able to visit Allah – the Mighty and Majestic, at His Throne in the Paradise everyday. (*Al-Faqih*, 2:92; *Thawāb* 59; *Iqbāl* 685).

34. Fasting on Thursdays in Sha'bān

عَنْ مَوْلَانَا عَلِيِّ بْنِ أَبِي طَالِبٍ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ: تَنْزِيْنُ السَّمَاوَاتِ فِي كُلِّ حَمِيْسٍ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ، فَتَقُوْلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ: إِلَهْنَا اغْفِرْ لِصَائِمِهِ وَأَجِبْ دُعَائِهِمْ ...

From our master 'Ali bin Abī Tālib: The Messenger of Allah 1 said, "The heavens are adorned on every Thursday in Sha'bān, and the angels say: Our Lord, forgive those who fast in it, and answer their prayers." (Hadith No. 34; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbāl* 688; *Wasā'il* H. 10177)

35. Reasons for fasting in Sha'bān

أَبُو عَبْدِ اللَّهِ (ع) يَقُوْلُ سَمِعْتُ أَبِي قَالَ: كَانَ أَبِي زَيْنُ الْعَابِدِينَ (ع) إِذَا دَخَلَ شَعْبَانَ جَمَعَ أَصْحَابَهُ فَقَالَ مَعَاشِرَ أَصْحَابِي أَتَدْرُونَ أَيُّ شَهْرٍ هَذَا، هَذَا شَهْرُ شَعْبَانَ وَكَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص) يَقُوْلُ - شَعْبَانُ شَهْرِي أَلَا فَصُومُوا فِيهِ مَحَبَّةً لِنَبِيِّكُمْ وَتَقَرُّبًا إِلَى رَبِّكُمْ فَوَ الَّذِي نَفْسُ عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ بِيَدِهِ لَسَمِعْتُ أَبِي الْحُسَيْنِ بْنِ عَلِيٍّ (ع) يَقُوْلُ سَمِعْتُ أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ (ع) يَقُوْلُ مَنْ صَامَ شَعْبَانَ مَحَبَّةً نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ (ص) وَتَقَرُّبًا إِلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ أَحَبَّهُ اللَّهُ وَقَرَّبَهُ مِنْ كَرَامَتِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَ أُوجِبَ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ

Abū 'Abdillāh (al-Sādiq) A said that I heard my father saying: When Sha'bān arrived, my father Zayn al-'Ābidīn A used to gather his companions and say, 'O my companions! Do you realize which month this is? This is the month of Sha'bān, and the Messenger of Allah 1 used to say: Sha'bān is my month, so fast in this month as a sign of love for your Prophet and to get closer to your Lord; by the One in whose hand is the life of Ali b. al-Husayn A that my father al-Husayn b. Ali αω said that he heard Amīrul Mu'minīn A saying: One who fasts in Sha'bān out of love for the Messenger of Allah 1 and to get closer to Allah – the Mighty and Sublime, Allah loves him and showers His generosity upon him on the Day of Resurrection and makes Paradise obligatory for him. (Hadith No. 35; 40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Bibār* 94: 82; *Zādul Ma'ād* 45)

36. Follow the Holy Prophet 1 in fasting during Sha'bān

عَنْ صَفْوَانَ بْنِ مِهْرَانَ الْجُمَّالِ قَالَ: قَالَ لِي أَبُو عَبْدِ اللَّهِ (ع): حُتَّ مَنْ فِي نَاحِيَتِكَ عَلَى صَوْمِ شَعْبَانَ. فَقُلْتُ: جُعِلْتُ فِدَاكَ تَرَى فِيهَا شَيْئًا؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ، إِنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ (ص) كَانَ إِذَا رَأَى هَلَالَ شَعْبَانَ أَمَرَ مُنَادِيًا فَنَادَى فِي الْمَدِينَةِ: يَا أَهْلَ يَثْرِبَ ! إِلَيَّ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ، أَلَا إِنَّ شَعْبَانَ شَهْرِي، فَرَحِمَ اللَّهُ مَنْ أَعَانَنِي عَلَى شَهْرِي، ثُمَّ قَالَ: إِنَّ أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ (ع) كَانَ يَقُوْلُ: مَا فَاتَنِي صَوْمُ شَعْبَانَ مُنْذُ سَمِعْتُ مُنَادِي

رَسُولِ اللَّهِ (ص) يُنَادِي فِي شَعْبَانَ، وَلَنْ يَفُوتَنِي أَيَّامٌ حَيَاتِي صَوْمُ شَعْبَانَ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى، ثُمَّ كَانَ (ص) يَقُولُ: صَوْمُ شَهْرَيْنِ مُتَتَابِعَيْنِ تَوْبَةً مِنَ اللَّهِ.

Safwān al-Jammāl narrates that: “Imam al-Sādiq A asked me to encourage others regarding fasting in Sha'bān. So I said, ‘May I be sacrificed for you, do you see any [benefit] in it?’ He said, ‘Yes, when the Messenger of Allah saw the crescent of Sha'bān, he would ask a person to announce in Madīna: O People of Yathrib, I am Allah’s Messenger to you and Sha'bān is my month. May Allah have mercy on the one who helps me regarding my month!’

Then (Abu ‘Abdillāh) said, ‘Amīrul Mu’minīn (a) used to say: Ever since I heard the announcer of the Prophet, I have never missed fasting in Sha'bān and *Inshā’ Allah* I will never miss the fast of Sha'bān all my life.’ Then the Imam (a) used to say that, ‘Fasting two consecutive months is a means of seeking repentance (*tawbah*) from Allah.’” (Hadith No. 36; *40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Misbāh* 2: 825; *Iqbal* 683; *Wasā'il* H. 13976)

37. Fasting on the last three days of Sha'bān

وَقَالَ الصَّادِقُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ: مَنْ صَامَ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ مِنْ آخِرِ شَعْبَانَ وَوَصَلَهَا بِشَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى لَهُ صِيَامَ شَهْرَيْنِ مُتَتَابِعَيْنِ.

Imam al-Sādiq said: “Whoever fasts the last three days of Sha'bān and joins it to the month of Ramadān, Allah will write for him [the reward of] two consecutive months. (Hadith No. 37; *40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Al-Faqih* 2:94; *Iqbal* 723)

38. Prayer for Thursdays in Sha'bān

عَنْ مَوْلَانَا عَلِيِّ بْنِ أَبِي طَالِبٍ (ع) قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص) قَالَ: تَتَزَيَّنُ السَّمَاوَاتُ فِي كُلِّ خَمِيسٍ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ . . . فَمَنْ صَلَّى فِيهِ رُكْعَتَيْنِ يَقْرَأُ فِي كُلِّ رُكْعَةٍ فَاتِحَةَ الْكِتَابِ مَرَّةً وَ﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ﴾ مِائَةً مَرَّةً فَإِذَا سَلَّمَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ مِائَةً مَرَّةً قَضَى اللَّهُ لَهُ كُلَّ حَاجَةٍ مِنْ أَمْرِ دِينِهِ وَدُنْيَاهِ

From our master Alī b. Abī Tālib : The Messenger of Allah (s) said: Heavens are adorned every Thursday in (the month of) Sha'bān . . . Whoever performs two rak‘at prayers, reciting in every rak‘ah the opening chapter of the Book (i.e. Sūratul Hamd) followed by one hundred times (sūrah of) *Qul huwallāhu ahad*, and after the prayers says one hundred times *salamāt* on the Holy Prophet, Allah will fulfill his all needs (*hajāt*) in the affair of his religion and world. (Hadith No. 38; *40 Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbal* 688; *Wasā'il* H.10177)

39. The Ahlul Bayt (a) and the 15th Night of Sha'bān

عَنْ جَعْفَرِ بْنِ مُحَمَّدٍ الصَّادِقِ (ع) قَالَ: سُئِلَ الْبَاقِرُ (ع) مِنْ فَضْلِ لَيْلَةِ النَّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ، فَقَالَ: هِيَ أَفْضَلُ لَيْلَةٍ بَعْدَ لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ، فِيهَا يَمْنَحُ اللَّهُ الْعِبَادَ فَضْلَهُ، وَيَغْفِرُ لَهُمْ بِمَنْه، فَاجْتَهِدُوا فِي الْقُرْبَةِ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى فِيهَا، فَإِنَّهَا لَيْلَةٌ آتَى اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ أَنْ لَا يَرُدَّ فِيهَا سَائِلًا مَا لَمْ يَسْأَلِ اللَّهُ مَعْصِيَةً، وَإِنَّهَا اللَّيْلَةُ الَّتِي جَعَلَهَا اللَّهُ لَنَا أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ بَارِئًا مَا جَعَلَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ لِنَبِيِّنَا صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ، فَاجْتَهِدُوا فِي الدُّعَاءِ وَالثَّنَاءِ عَلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى...

Ja'far bin Muhammad al-Sādiq said: "Al-Bāqir A was asked about the greatness of the night of 15th of Sha'bān. He replied, "It is the best night after Laylatul Qadr. In it Allah grants the servants with His Grace, and forgives them through His favor. So strive to achieve closeness to Allah in it, for it is the night in which Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, has obligated on Himself not to turn away a beseecher so long as he does not ask for anything sinful. It is a night which Allah has made [it a blessing] for us the Ahlul Bayt Γ just as He made Laylatul Qadr for our Prophet, blessing of Allah be on him and his family. So strive in it with supplications and praise of Allah, the Exalted..." (Hadith No. 39; 40 *Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Misbāh* 2:831; *Iqbāl* 695; *Wasāil* H. 10183)

40. Ziyarat of Imam al-Husayn A on the 15th Night of Sha'bān

عَنْ أَبِي حَمزَةَ الثُّمَالِيِّ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ عَلِيَّ بْنَ الْحُسَيْنِ عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلَامُ يَقُولُ: مَنْ أَحَبَّ أَنْ يُصَافِحَهُ مِائَةٌ أَلْفِ نَبِيِّ وَارْبَعَةٌ وَعِشْرُونَ أَلْفِ نَبِيٍّ، فَلْيَزِرِ الْحُسَيْنَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ لَيْلَةَ النَّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ، فَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ وَأَرْوَاحَ النَّبِيِّينَ يَسْتَأْذِنُونَ اللَّهَ فِي زِيَارَتِهِ فَيَأْذَنُ لَهُمْ، فَطُوبَى لِمَنْ صَافِحَهُمْ وَصَافِحُوهُ، مِنْهُمْ خَمْسَةٌ أَوْلُوا الْعَزْمَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ: نُوحٌ وَإِبْرَاهِيمُ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى وَمُحَمَّدٌ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَيْهِمْ أَجْمَعِينَ، قُلْتُ: لِمَ سُمُّوا أَوْلُوا الْعَزْمَ؟ قَالَ: لِأَنَّهُمْ بُعِثُوا إِلَى شَرْقِهَا وَغَرْبِهَا وَجَنِّهَا وَإِنْسِهَا.

Abū Hamza al-Thumālī has narrated: I heard 'Ali bin al-Husayn (a) say, "Whoever wishes to shake hands with one hundred and twenty four thousand Prophets, then let him visit al-Husayn A on the 15th Night of Sha'bān. Surely the angels and the souls of the Prophets seek permission of Allah to visit him [on this night], and they are granted the permission. Fortunate is he who shakes hands with them, and they shake hands with him. From them are the five Ulul 'Azm Prophets: Nūh, Ibrāhīm, Mūsā, 'Īsā, and Muhammad, blessings of Allah be on him and on all of them." I asked: why have they been named Ulul 'Azm? He replied, "because they were sent to [inhabitants of] the East and the West of the (earth) and to the Jinn and the humans." (Hadith No. 40; 40 *Hadith on Rajab and Sha'ban*; Academy for Learning Islam; taken from *Iqbāl* 710; *Bihār* 11:58)