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Title:

***“THE MERITS OF SHA‘BAAN:
PREPARATION FOR RAMADAAN”***

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JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR***

“THE MERITS OF SHA‘BAAN: PREPARATION FOR RAMADAN”

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ : مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعِزَّةَ فَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ جَمِيعًا إِلَيْهِ
يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ وَالَّذِينَ يَمْكُرُونَ
السَّيِّئَاتِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ وَمَكْرُ أُولَئِكَ هُوَ يُبَوِّرُ ﴿١٠﴾¹

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى
آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى
اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ
إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿١٠٢﴾²

Dear blessed Muslims,

I humbly implore all of us to altogether strive in increasing our *taqwa* of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* by performing all of His Commands and leaving out all of His prohibitions. May we all be bestowed

¹ Faatir 35:10

² Aal 'Imraan 3:102.

with happiness and success in this world and the Hereafter. Fellow audience are reminded to not use the cellular phone while the sermon is being delivered.

On this noble day, I will expound upon a *khutbah* titled **"THE MERITS OF SHA'BAAN: PREPARATION FOR RAMADAN."**

Dear blessed Friday audience,

We are truly grateful to Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* who has blessed us to be in the month of Sha'baan, truly a great month in Islam. This month is often neglected in its virtue by many Muslims, while it has its own special privilege. Rasulullah ﷺ strongly encouraged us to increase in our *'ibaadah* (worship) in this month, as spiritual preparation for the coming of Ramadaan.

In the *hadeeth* of Usaamah bin Zayd *radiyAllaahu 'anh*, he said to Rasulullah ﷺ :

"O Messenger of Allah, I do not see you fasting any month as much as Sha'baan."

Then Rasulullah ﷺ answered:

"ذَلِكَ شَهْرٌ يَغْفُلُ النَّاسُ عَنْهُ، بَيْنَ رَجَبٍ وَرَمَضَانَ، وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ تُرْفَعُ فِيهِ الْأَعْمَالُ إِلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، فَأُحِبُّ أَنْ يُرْفَعَ عَمَلِي، وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ."

"That is a month to which people do not pay much attention, between Rajab and Ramadaan. It is a month in which the deeds are taken

up to the Lord of the worlds, and I like that my deeds be taken up when I am fasting."

(an-Nasaa'i)

Dear beloved Friday attendees,

The merits of performing righteous deeds in the month of Sha'baan very much coincides with what Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* mentions in verse 10 of Soorah Faatir that was recited during the early part of the *khutbah*:

"Whoever desires honor [through power] - then to Allah belongs all honor. To Him ascends good speech, and righteous work raises it. But they who plot evil deeds will have a severe punishment, and the plotting of those - it will perish."

This verse clarifies that true glory belongs to Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* Alone, and whoever desires to have such honor must seek it through obedience unto Him. Honor is not upon one's rank, wealth, or worldly stature, but is due to *imaan* (faith) and righteous deeds that are performed with full devotion.

Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* has stated that every good word that affirms *imaan* and *Tawheed* (Oneness of Allah), along with righteous deeds will be raised up to Him. This indicates that every act of *'ibaadah* performed with sincere intention will not be rendered in vain, but instead it will be accepted and rewarded by Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*.

In the context of the month of Sha'baan, there are opinions stating that this month has its own merit because the annual record of deeds will be raised up by the angels to Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*. Therefore, it is the best time to increase in righteous deeds such as *salaah*, supererogatory fasting,

giving charity, reciting al-Qur'an, and engaging in *dhikr* (remembrance of Allah), so that they will be raised in a lofty status.

On the other hand, those that have plotted evil and neglected the opportunity to intensify their *'ibaadah*, Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* has reminded them with severe torment that awaits them. All evil plotted and carried out will not bring about any benefit and will instead result in destruction in this world and the Hereafter.

Dear respected Friday congregation,

Sha'baan is a phase for preparation that is only befitting for us to benefit from prior to the arrival of Ramadaan that is very much awaited. It provides the very opportunity for every Muslim individual to train the self in rectifying and intensifying acts of *'ibaadah*, as well as strengthening the spiritual discipline so that one can enter the month of Ramadaan with a cleansed heart and fortified soul.

Narrated Abu Salamah that 'A'ishah *radiyAllaahu 'anha* mentioned to him that:

"The Prophet (ﷺ) never fasted in any month more than in the month of Sha'baan. (It appeared as if) he observed fast throughout the whole of Sha'baan except a few (days). He used to say, "Do those deeds which you can do easily, as Allah will not get tired (of giving rewards) till you get bored and tired (of performing religious deeds)." The most beloved prayer to the Prophet (ﷺ) was the one that was done regularly (throughout the life) even if it were little. And whenever the Prophet (ﷺ) offered a prayer he used to offer it regularly."

(al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

This *hadeeth* teaches us upon the importance of taking a moderate and realistic approach in *'ibaadah*, so that we will not quickly become exhausted or disinterested. Verily, deeds that are done little but with *istiqamah* (steadfastness) are more precious in the sight of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* as compared to deeds that are done in tremendous amount but only occasionally.

Beloved Friday congregants,

Indeed, this month also provides us the avenue and opportunity to rectify our relationship with fellow humans, purifying our hearts from *hasad* (envy), enmity, and other *mazhmoomah* (blameworthy) traits that can obstruct forgiveness from Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*.

It was narrated from Abu Moosa al-Ash'ari *radiyAllaahu 'anh* that Rasulullah صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَيَطَّلِعُ فِي لَيْلَةِ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَيَغْفِرُ
لِجَمِيعِ خَلْقِهِ إِلَّا الْمُشْرِكِ أَوْ مُشَاحِنِ

"Allah looks down on the night of the middle of Sha'baan and forgives all His creations, except for the polytheist and one who is hostile."

(*ibn Maajah*)

From on this *hadeeth*, it is undeniable that the night of *nisf* Sha'baan (mid-Sha'baan) has its own virtues, where there is forgiveness and acceptance that are specific for those that sought forgiveness and supplicate

to Him. Because of that, al-Imaam ash-Shaafi'i *Rahimahullaah* stated in his famous work *al-Umm*:

"The supplications are answered on five nights: the night of Friday, The night of al-Adha, the night of al-Fitr, the first night of Rajab and the night of the middle of Sha'baan."

Ibn Rajab *Rahimahullaah* also mentioned in this book *Lataa'if al-Ma'aarif* regarding the night of *nisf* Sha'baan, where during the time of the Taabi'een, the people of ash-Shaam such as Khaalid bin Ma'daan, Mak-hool, Luqmaan bin 'Aamir, and few other Taabi'een, they would honor it (that night), and they would diligently strive in performing *'ibaadah* during that night."

Esteemed Friday audience,

Islam did not place specific deeds or practices that can be attributed to Rasulullah ﷺ as the *sunnah* to be performed in the night of *nisf* Sha'baan, but at the same time, we should seize this opportunity with the virtues of that night by indulging in as many good deeds as possible whether with the recitation of al-Qur'an, supererogatory prayers, making *dhikr*, and other deeds in general.

Remember, verily the forgiveness of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* is vast, and He always leave the door of forgiveness wide open for His servants that truly repent and sincerely intends to improve themselves. Let us altogether benefit from the month of Sha'baan in the best manner, for us to renew our relationship with Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* and strengthen the *ukhuwwah* (brotherhood) among fellow humans, so that we will always remain in His Pleasure, attaining *barakah* (blessings) in our lives and forgiveness for our past sins.

Let us not remain heedless and allow Sha'baan to pass by just like that without taking advantage of it. Deem it as the *madrasah* of preparation before stepping into Ramadaan, so that our *'ibaadah* becomes complete, the heart becomes engulfed with *khushoo'* (humility), and attains *taqwa*.

Dear blessed Friday audience,

To end the *khutbah* today, let us derive several lessons as guidance in our daily lives:

1. The Muslim *ummah* must increase in righteous deeds in Sha'baan such as the *sunnah* fasting, Qur'anic recitation, and making *dhikr*, so that the deeds raised to Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* will be in the best status.

2. The Muslim *ummah* must always preserve its relationship by seeking forgiveness from Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*, in addition to fulfilling the rights of fellow human beings, and resolving disputes so as to attain *barakah* in life.

3. The Muslim *ummah* must always strive to increase and revive acts of *sunnah*, and also intensify the quality of *'ibaadah* in the noble months by emulating Rasulullah صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَى لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ

مَشْكُورًا ﴿١٩﴾

"But whoever desires the Hereafter and exerts the effort due to it while he is a believer - it is those whose effort is ever appreciated [by Allah]."

(Soorah al-Israa' 17:19)

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ
مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ
السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

THE SECOND KHUTBAH

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَرَزَقَنَا مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ.
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. أَمَّا



بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ! اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ! أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ
فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ
وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ
أَجْمَعِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ
الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، إِنَّكَ سَمِيعٌ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبُ الدَّعَوَاتِ
وَيَا قَاضِيَ الْحَاجَاتِ.

اللَّهُمَّ أَصْلِحْ أَيْمَةَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَوُلَاةَ أُمُورِهِمْ وَجَمِيعَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ
اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ وَنَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكَ بِنَبِيِّكَ الْأَمِينِ، وَنَسْأَلُكَ
بِأَسْمَائِكَ الْحُسْنَى، وَصِفَاتِكَ الْعُظْمَى، أَنْ تَحْفَظَ بَعَيْنِ
عِنَايَتِكَ الرَّبَّانِيَّةِ، وَبِحِفْظِ وَقَايَتِكَ الصِّمْدَانِيَّةِ، جَلَالَةَ مَلِكِنَا
الْمُعَظَّمِ، سُلْطَانَ سَلَاطِينِ، سُلْطَانَ شَرَفِ الدِّينِ اِدْرِيسِ شَاهِ



الحاج ابن المرحوم سُلْطَانِ صَلَاحِ الدِّينِ عبد العزيز شاه
الحاج. اَللّٰهُمَّ اَدِمِ الْعُوْنَ وَالْهِدَايَةَ وَالتَّوْفِيقَ، وَالصِّحَّةَ
وَالسَّلَامَةَ مِنْكَ، لَوْلِيَّ عَمَدِ سَلَاطُوْرٍ، تَعَكُوْا اَمِيْرَ شَاهِ ابْنِ
السُّلْطَانِ شَرْفِ الدِّينِ ادريس شاه الحاج، فِيْ اَمْنٍ وَصَلَاحٍ
وَعَافِيَةٍ بِمَنْنِكَ وَكَرَمِكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْاِكْرَامِ. اَللّٰهُمَّ اَطْلُ
عُمْرَهُمَا مُصْلِحِيْنَ لِلْمَوْظَفِيْنَ وَالرَّعِيَّةِ وَالْبِلَادِ، وَبَلِّغْ
مَقَاصِدَهُمَا لِطَرِيْقِ الْهُدٰى وَالرَّشَادِ.

O Allah! We seek refuge in You from severe trials, from being afflicted with calamities, from evil in destiny, and from the joy of the enemies upon the tribulations and misfortunes that befell us. O Allah! We beseech Your protection, from losing the favors that You have bestowed, from the loss of health that You have granted, protect our state from calamity and disaster. O Allah! You are our One and Only Savior, we humbly beg You to save Masjid al-Aqsa in Palestine.

O Allah! Make us among Your slaves that fulfills the *amaanah*. Strengthen our *imaan* so that we avoid treachery, protect us from becoming among those that neglect their responsibilities, and protect our state and nation from destruction due to bribery, embezzlement, and power abuse. Render the duty to lead our country upon Your slaves whom are trustworthy and honest, as well as firm and courageous in upholding the truth and executing justice

according to the *Sharee'ah*. O Allah, make the *masajid* and *suraus* in the state of Selangor as Your peaceful homes, uniting everyone, and serve as the heart of the *ummah*'s strength.

O Allah! Strengthen the *'aqeedah* of the Muslims in this state, *'aqeedah* that is upon the creed of *Ahl as-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah*, which is upon the path of Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم and his Companions *radiyAllaahu 'anhum*, and spare us from all of the *fitan* that can harm the union and unity of the Muslim *ummah*.

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾
رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ ﴿٢٠١﴾
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَايَ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٩٠﴾
فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُواهُ عَلَىٰ نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ،
وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا
تَصْنَعُونَ.