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***“PRACTICES AND VIRTUES OF
SHA‘BAAN”***

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"PRACTICES AND VIRTUES OF SHA'BAAN"

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ : قُلْ يَعِبَادِي الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِنْ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.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.²

Dear blessed Muslims,

I humbly implore all of us to altogether strive in increasing our *taqwa* of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* by fulfilling all of His Commands

¹ az-Zumar 39:53.

² Aal 'Imraan 3:102.

and abandoning all matters He forbade. May we all be bestowed with blissfulness and salvation in this world and the Hereafter.

On this noble day, I will discuss upon a *khutbah* titled **"PRACTICES AND VIRTUES OF SHA'BAAN."**

Blessed Friday audience,

Alhamdulillah, we are now in the month of Sha'baan. A month that is full of nobility and blessings. A month that has many virtues and merits. The month that Rasulullah ﷺ gave special attention, whereby he ﷺ would increase in performing righteous deeds, specifically in *sunnah* (supererogatory) fasting.

In one *hadeeth*, Usaamah bin Zayd *radiyAllaahu 'anh* had asked Rasulullah ﷺ :

"O Messenger of Allah, I do not see you fasting any month as much as Sha'baan." He ﷺ said: "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 esteemed congregation,

Among the virtues of Sha'baan is that there is one night that is highly anticipated by the Muslim *ummah*, namely the night of 'Nisf ash-Sha'baan'. On that night, Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* showers His *Rahmah* (Mercy) and opens wide the doors of forgiveness to His servants.

In the *hadeeth* of Abu Moosa al-Ash'ari *radiyAllaahu 'anh*, Rasulullah ﷺ said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَيَطَّلِعُ فِي لَيْلَةِ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَيَغْفِرُ لَجَمِيعِ خَلْقِهِ إِلَّا لِمُشْرِكٍ أَوْ مُشَاحِنٍ.

“Verily, Allah looks down in middle night of Sha’baan and He forgives all of His creatures, except for an idolater and one carrying hostility.”

(ibn Maajah)

This prophetic narration sheds a huge reminder for us that the vast forgiveness offered by Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala* on the night of *Nisf ash-Sha’baan* can be obstructed due to two very dangerous deeds, namely committing shirk against Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala*, as well as revenge and enmity among human beings.

Be aware, for as long as our *‘aqeedah* is not purified from dependence upon other than Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala*, and for as long the heart still harbors hatred, envy, and reluctance to forgive, then the mercy and forgiveness of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala* can be shielded from us. Hence, that glorious night should be the very avenue to purify *‘aqeedah* and cleanse the heart, so that we will truly be deserving of the forgiveness and mercy of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala*.

Noble Friday audience,

On the night of *Nisf ash-Sha’baan*, the Muslim *ummah* is recommended to revive that night by striving in *‘ibaadah* (worship) and *munaajah* (intimate

prayer) to Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*. Imaam ash-Shaafi'i *Rahimahullaah* mentioned in his book titled *al-Umm* that *du'aa* (supplication) is accepted on five nights, namely Friday night, the nights of 'Eid al-Adha and 'Eid al-Fitr, the first night of Rajab, and the night of *Nisf ash-Sha'baan*.

The superiority of this night is also mentioned in various *ahaadeeth* that can be used as encouragement for us to perform righteous deeds.

In the *hadeeth* of Sayyidatuna 'A'ishah *radiyAllaahu 'anha*, Rasulullah صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى يَنْزِلُ لَيْلَةَ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ
الدُّنْيَا فَيَغْفِرُ لَأَكْثَرِ مِنْ عَدَدِ شَعْرِ غَنَمِ كَلْبٍ

"Indeed, Allah descends on the night of the middle of Sha'baan to the lowest heaven, and He forgives more than the numbers of hairs on the sheep of Banu Kalb."

(ibn Maajah)

The *Qabeelah* (tribe) of Banu Kalb is among the Arabian tribes who were famous in having a very large number of sheep, thus depicting the vastness and abundance of forgiveness from Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* on this very honorable night.

Dear respected Friday congregants,

Let us decorate the night of *Nisf ash-Sha'baan* and other nights with deeds that would take us closer to Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* such as waking up early to stand in prayer through the *tahajjud* and other *sunnah*

prayers, increase in making *istighfaar* seeking forgiveness for all of our sins, and frequently beseech Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* to bestow good and blessings in our lives.

Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* mentions in verse 79 of Soorah al-Israa':

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ نَافِلَةً لَّكَ عَسَىٰ أَن يَبْعَثَكَ
رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَّحْمُودًا.

"And from [part of] the night, pray with it as additional [worship] for you; it is expected that your Lord will resurrect you to a praised station."

Indeed, the night of *Nisf ash-Sha'baan* has its very own virtues. Even though there is no specific narration regarding specific deeds or practices for this night, we are still encouraged to enliven this night with any form of righteous deeds that can bring us closer to Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*. Reviving the night of *Nisf ash-Sha'baan* with righteous deeds has been the *sunnah* of the scholars of the *Salaf* and even *Khalaf*.

ibn Rajab al-Hanbali *Rahimahullaah* mentioned in his book *Lataa'if al-Ma'arif* regarding the night of *Nisf ash-Sha'baan*. In the early days, the *Taabi'een* (successors of the Companions) from among the people of Shaam (Levant) such as Khaalid bin Ma'daan, Makhool, Luqman bin 'Amir, and few other *Taabi'een* would honor that night.

At the same time, I would like to remind fellow congregation that this night that is full of blessings must not be tainted with acts of *munkar* (evil) and disobedience. Do not allow a night that is decorated with *du'aa*, *tawbah* (repentance), and *munaajah* unto Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* to be filled

with idle entertainment, intermixing that violates the limits of the *shara'*, and sins that hardens the heart.

Similarly, let us not become heedless and allow the month of Sha'baan to pass by just like that. Instead, take it as the preparatory madrasah before stepping into the month of Ramadaan. Let us prepare ourselves by performing *'ibaadah* and charitable deeds even if little but with *istiqaamah* (steadfastness), so that our *'ibaadah* becomes complete, our soul having *khushoo'* (humility), and in the end attaining the real *taqwa* in the sight of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*.

Dear beloved guests of Allah,

To end this *khutbah*, the following are several lessons that can be derived as guidelines in our daily lives:

1. The Muslim *ummah* must benefit from the blessings of time in the month of Sha'baan by increasing righteous deeds as spiritual preparation prior to stepping into the blessed month of Ramadaan.
2. The Muslim *ummah* must avoid the sins of committing shirk and enmity among humans, so as to avoid losing *barakah* in life and the sweetness of performing *'ibaadah*.
3. The Muslim *ummah* must always strive to revive the supererogatory acts and increase the quality of *'ibaadah*, so as to attain blessings, mercy, and love of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
إِنَّمَا وَلِيُّكُمُ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ
وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَهُمْ رَاكِعُونَ..

"Your ally is none but Allah and [therefore] His Messenger and those who have believed - those who establish prayer and give zakaah, and they bow [in worship].

(Soorah al-Maa'idah 5:55)

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 أَنْزَلَ الشَّرِيعَةَ، هَدَى لِلنَّاسِ وَرَحْمَةً،
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ 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.³

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ
أَجْمَعِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ
الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

³ al-Ahzaab 33:56.



اَللّٰهُمَّ اَعِزَّ الْاِسْلَامَ وَالْمُسْلِمِيْنَ، وَاَذِلَّ الشِّرْكَ وَالْمُشْرِكِيْنَ،
وَدَمِّرْ اَعْدَاءَ الدِّيْنِ، وَاَجْعَلْ هٰذَا الْبَلَدَ اَمِنًا مُّطْمَئِنًّا وَسَائِرَ
بِلَادِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ.

اَللّٰهُمَّ وَفِّقْ اَئِمَّةَ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَوُلَاةَ اُمُوْرِهِمْ وَجَمِيْعَ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ
لِمَا فِيْهِ صَلاَحُ الْبِلَادِ وَالْعِبَادِ.

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ وَنَتَوَسَّلُ اِلَيْكَ بِنَبِيِّكَ الْاَمِيْنِ، وَنَسْأَلُكَ
بِاسْمَائِكَ الْحُسْنٰى، وَصِفَاتِكَ الْعُظْمٰى، اَنْ تَحْفَظَ بَعِيْنَ
عِنَايَتِكَ الرَّبَّانِيَّةِ، وَبِحِفْظِ وَقَايَتِكَ الصِّمْدَانِيَّةِ، جَلَالَةَ مَلِكِنَا
الْمُعَظَّمِ، سُلْطَانَ سَلَاطُوْر، سُلْطَانَ شَرَفُ الدِّيْنِ اَدْرِيسِ شَاهِ
الْحَاجِ ابْنِ الْمَرْحُومِ سُلْطَانَ صَلَاحُ الدِّيْنِ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيْزِ شَاهِ
الْحَاجِ. اَللّٰهُمَّ اَدِمِ الْعَوْنَ وَالْهِدَايَةَ وَالتَّوْفِيْقَ، وَالصِّحَّةَ
وَالسَّلَامَةَ مِنْكَ، لَوْلِيِّ عَهْدِ سَلَاطُوْر، تَعَكَوْ اَمِيْرَ شَاهِ ابْنِ
السُّلْطَانَ شَرَفُ الدِّيْنِ اَدْرِيسِ شَاهِ الْحَاجِ، فِيْ اَمْنٍ وَصَلَاحٍ
وَعَافِيَةٍ بِمَنْكَ وَكَرَمِكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْاِكْرَامِ. اَللّٰهُمَّ اَطْلُ

عُمْرُهُمَا مُصْلِحَيْنِ لِلْمُوظَّفِينَ وَالرَّعِيَّةِ وَالْبِلَادِ، وَبَلَّغَ
مَقَاصِدَهُمَا لِطَرِيقِ الْهُدَى وَالرَّشَادِ.

O Allah! Strengthen the 'aqeedah of the Muslims upon the creed of *Ahl as-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah*, which is upon the path of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his Companions *radiyAllaahu 'anhum*. Spare us from all forms of bribery and abuse of power, as well as misguidance, shirk and superstition, and protect us from *fitan* that can harm the union and unity of the Muslim *ummah*.

O Allah! Bestow peace and prosperity upon our state and nation. Protect us from all forms of disaster, fitnah and calamity. Bestow upon us leaders that have utmost integrity, firmness, and courage in upholding the Truth according to Your *Sharee'ah*.

O Allah! Protect the Muslim *ummah* and Masjid al-Aqsa in Palestine. Preserve them from oppression and evil, and bestow upon them steadfastness, strength, and victory.

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا.⁴
رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.⁵
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَايَ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ
عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.⁶

⁴ al-Furqaan 25:74.

⁵ Al-Baqarah 2:201.

⁶ an-Nahl 16:90.

فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ،
وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِيكُمْ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا
تَصْنَعُونَ.