

Luton Muslim Journal

Rajab

The sacred month

Allah the Al-Mighty has blessed us with another sacred month, Rajab. The Prophet (May Allah bless him) taught us a dua for blessings in this month. The pious of the Ummah used to see Rajab as a training ground for the greatest month - Ramadhan. In this issue the month of Rajab has been discussed in much detail to prepare the readers for spending the month appropriately.

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Luton Muslim Journal

Luton Muslim Journal is a monthly journal which promotes Islam and Muslim contribution to the wider society. It has no affiliation with any political organisation. The journal covers various topics which effects the Muslims and the society.

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(May Allah reward everyone for their contribution)

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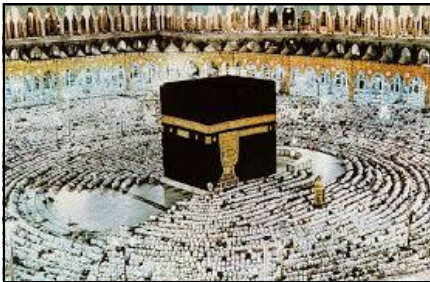
Why Al-Aqsa Matters!

Narrated by Abu Hurairah: The Prophet (May Allah bless him) said,

"Do not set out on a journey except for three Mosques i.e. Al-Masjid-Al-Haram, the Mosque of Allah's Messenger and the Mosque of Al-Aqsa, (Mosque of Al-Quds- Jerusalem)." (Bukhari)

The Prophet (May Allah bless him) is alerting and encouraging the Muslims that if you are to travel then how can you go to other places leaving aside the most virtuous places on Earth?

This above statement is an encouragement that for the purposes of gaining reward, there is NO reward in undertaking a journey to visit any place except these 3 Masajid. This hadeeth doesn't mean one cannot travel for Dawah, visiting families, graveyards, for studies or even touring sites because the Prophet himself travelled various places other than the 3 Masajid.



1 Salah in
Haram Sharif
equals
100,000
Salahs!

Anas Ibn Malik (May Allah be pleased with him) relates that the Prophet (May Allah bless him) said, "The prayer of a person in his house is a single prayer (in reward) ; his prayer in the Masjid of his people (local Masjid) has the reward of 27 prayers; his prayer in the Masjid in which the Friday prayer is observed has the reward of 500; his prayer in Masjid Al-Aqsa has a reward of 5,000 prayers; his prayer in my Masjid (Masjid Nabawi) has a reward of 50,000 prayers, and the prayer in the Sacred Masjid (Ka'bah) has the reward of 100,000 prayers". (Tirmidhi & Ibn Majah)



1 Salah in
the
Prophet's
Masjid
equals
50,000
Salahs!

It is a great pity that many Muslims today have the TIME and MONEY to go to beach breaks, city breaks and even Far East tours spending days and large amounts of money whilst having not visited the most sacred places on the face of Earth.



1 Salah in the compound of Al-Aqsa equals 5,000 Salahs!

The story of Masjid Al-Aqsa is a sad one for the Ummah. Past and present circumstances tell us that Masjid Al-Aqsa is always the indicator of the unity and strength of the Ummah, whenever they control it, they are generally strong and whenever they lose it, they are in disarray and confusion.

Muslims residing in western countries, the majority of them have no reason, political or financial to avoid going to the 3rd sacred site in Islam, Masjid Al-Aqsa. That is the only place where all the Prophets gathered and prayed behind our beloved Prophet (May Allah bless him).

May Allah protect all the masjid and institutions of Islam. Aameen

By Mawlana Muhammad Rayhan

Rajab - The Sacred Month

The 4 Sacred Months

Allah, the Al-Mighty said,

"Surely, the number of months according to Allah is twelve (as written) in the Book of Allah on the day He created the heavens and the Earth, of which there are Four Sacred Months. That is the right faith. So, do not wrong yourself therein...." (At-Tawbah 9:36)

The Prophet (May Allah's Peace be upon him) said, "The division of time has turned to its original form which was current when Allah created the Heavens and the Earths. The year is of twelve months, out of which four months are sacred: Three are in succession Dhul-Qa' da, Dhul-Hijjah and Muharram, and (the fourth is) Rajab of (the tribe of) Mudar which comes between Jumadi-ath-Thaniyah and Sha'ban." (Saheeh Al-Bukhari)

Explanation

Allah created some months more sacred than others. The meaning of sacred is that it is forbidden to sin within these months. Although the prohibition of sinning is ongoing and general however in the sacred months it is more severe. Initially, warfare in this month was completely forbidden but later it was permitted. Hence there are records of the companions engaging in military action during these months after the demise of the Prophet.

Rajab of Mudar tribe

The tribe Mudar paid special respect and reverence for this month hence it is attributed to them.

Fasting In Rajab

It was narrated from Abu Mujibah Al-Bahili that his father or, his paternal uncle, said:

"I came to the Prophet (May Allah's Peace be upon him) and said: 'O Prophet of Allah, I am the man who came to you last year.' He said: 'Why do I see your body so thin (and weak)?' He said: 'O Messenger of

Allah! I do not eat during the day; I only eat at night.'

He said: 'Who commanded you to punish yourself?' I

said: 'O Messenger of Allah! I am strong enough.' He

said: 'Fast the month of patience and one day after it.'

I said: 'I am strong enough (to do more).' He said: 'Fast

the month of patience and two days after it.' I said: 'I

am strong enough (to do more).' He said: 'Fast the

month of patience and three days after it, and fast the

sacred months.'" (Sunan Ibn Majah)

Similar hadeeth is recorded by Imam Abu Dawood.

The scholars, early and latter differ regarding the fasting in Rajab.

Abdullah Ibn Umar (May Allah be pleased with him), Hasan Al-Basri and Abu Ishaq as-Sabi'i used to fast the entire month of Rajab. Sufwan Ath-Thawri used to like fasting in this month.

On the contrary, Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) used to hit palms of the men who used to fast in Rajab until they placed their hands in the food and he disliked considering fasting in this month to be sunnah.

Abu Bakrah (May Allah be pleased with him) saw his family making preparation for fasting in Rajab so he said to them "Are you making Rajab like Ramadhan?," He then threw the baskets and mugs.

Abdullah Ibn Abbas (May Allah be pleased with him) considered fasting in Rajab makrooh- disliked.

To reconcile all the different opinions some scholars have mentioned that one should not specify fasting for Rajab only. He should fast other months and other sacred months. He should not fast the entire monthly only.

(Lataaif Al- Ma'arif – Hafidh Ibn Rajab Hambly)

Animal sacrifice In Rajab

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

That the Messenger of Allah (May Allah's Peace be upon him) said: "There is no Fara' or 'Atirah." The Fara' is the first of the offspring that would be born to them, so they would slaughter it. The 'Atirah was an animal

Rajab - The Sacred Month

that they would slaughter during Rajab to honour the month of Rajab, since it was the first of the sacred months.

(Jami At-Tirmidhi)

Nubaishah Al-Hudhaili (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

"A man said: 'O Messenger of Allah, we used to sacrifice the 'Atirah during the Jahiliyyah (pre-Islamic days) in Rajab; what do you command us to do?' He said:

'Sacrifice to Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, whatever month it is, do good for the sake of Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, and feed (the poor).'" (Sunan An-Nasai) Ateerah was a pre-Islamic practice of sacrificing an animal in the month of Rajab. A person would vow to sacrifice an animal if his need was fulfilled. The sacrifice would be in the name of their 'gods'.

Fara' was a pre-Islamic practice of sacrificing the first 'child' of an animal in the name of their gods.

The prophet prohibited the practice of the Atirah and Fara'.

There some narrations which suggest its permissibility (To sacrifice in the name of Allah only). Some scholars have mentioned that its prohibition was due to sacrificing in the name of other gods and by removing that it will be permissible. Sufyan Ibn Uyaynah explained that the reason for prohibition was that people would regard them to be compulsory.

Salah Ar-Raghaib

There is no narration regarding a Salah called 'Ar-Raghaib' in the month of Rajab. It was made up after 400 AH.

Umrah In Rajab

Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) considered it desirable to perform Umrah in Rajab.

Meraj – Ascension to the heavens

There are some historical reports of Me'raj taking place on the 27th of Rajab however there are no au-

thentic narrations confirming it. There are other historical references which suggest different Me'raj dates.

Dua for Rajab

Imam Bayhaqi and others have reported a dua from the Prophet.

Dua: Allahumma Baarik Lana Fe Rajab Wa Sha'ban wa Bal'lighna Ramadhan.

(Oh Allah, Bless us in Rajab and Sha'ban and make us reach Ramadhan)

There are numerous narrations of this dua and according to hadeeth scholars they are classified as weak, however since the position of Rajab is established from authentic hadeeth then narrating a weak hadeeth for virtues is fine according to most hadeeth scholars.

Conclusion

All Muslims must know that Rajab is declared by Allah to be a sacred month hence, be extra cautious in abstaining from sins and try ones very best to increase the quality and quantity of the good deeds.

Fasting, reading the dua for Rajab and the desirability of performing Umrah in Rajab is established from hadeeth and some companions.

Some historical reports suggest Meraj took place in Rajab but it is not certain due to the disagreement of the Muslim historians on the actual date.

However performing special Rajab salah, fixing the 27th of Rajab for fasting and considering any days in Rajab to be like Eid is incorrect and baseless.



It ALL Boils down to TWO Things!

We do many things in our life which we see as a source of goodness. This may include studying the knowledge of Deen, building a masjid, giving charity or giving Da'wah etc... These are all good and well. We must continue on these acts with sincerity. But, if you think about it, what are the most effective components? What is it that will cause me to rise like that of my pious predecessors? What is it that will almost certainly guarantee success in both worlds?

These are extremely pertinent questions to a sincere mind. The answer to this question may vary, however in my recent travel to the holy Lands I was accompanied by a very pious Hafidh of the Quran. His observation was quite startling and in my humble opinion accurate to some extent.

He would continuously say 'it all Boils down to Two things;

1. Tawadhu' (humbleness and humility) thinking nothing of yourself no matter how much goodness you may do.

2. Amal (practice) ensuring that we do the things we know and we preach.

Alhamdulillah there are many good things happening in our community. However, if we all reflect for a moment on these two qualities, how many of us are really practising them?

Abu Hurairah reported Allah's Messenger (May Allah bless him) as saying:

*Charity does not in any way decrease the wealth and the servant who forgives Allah adds to his respect, **and the one who shows humility Allah elevates him in the estimation (of the people).***
(Muslim 2588)

Narrated by Abu Hurairah:

Allah's Messenger (May Allah bless him) said, "Allah said, 'I will declare war against him who

shows hostility to a pious worshipper of Mine. And the most beloved things with which My slave comes nearer to Me, is what I have enjoined upon him; and My slave keeps on coming closer to Me through performing Nawafil (praying or doing extra deeds besides what is obligatory) till I love him, so I become his sense of hearing with which he hears, and his sense of sight with which he sees, and his hand with which he grips, and his leg with which he walks; and if he asks Me, I will give him, and if he asks My protection (Refuge), I will protect him; (i.e. give him My Refuge) and I do not hesitate to do anything as I hesitate to take the soul of the believer, for he hates death, and I hate to disappoint him." (Bukhari 6502)

Both of the above Hadeeth emphasise on the importance of these two points. They will not only benefit in the hereafter but also have an effect in the Dunya. The following Aayah of the Quran further reiterates this point;

*Whosoever **does righteous deeds**, whether male or female, and is a believer, verily we shall grant them a good life, and We shall pay them a recompense (in the hereafter) in proportion to the best of what they used to do. (16:97)*

By Mawlana Thaqib Mahmood | Zuhri



Poem— Ramadhan is on its way...

Ramadhan is on its way,
Will you welcome its blessed stay.
Will you wake up early for suhoor,
Or do you plan to sleep until noon.
Will you pray Tahjjudh every night,
And make dua that Allah makes your hereafter bright.
Will you read the Quran every day,
Or will you continue with your usual routine play?

I'm sure you will give charity to those who are in need,
For it is Allah who multiplies rewards this month for every good
deed.

Giving Iftaar to others also holds great reward,
Remember all the blessing you have comes from Allah your
Lord.

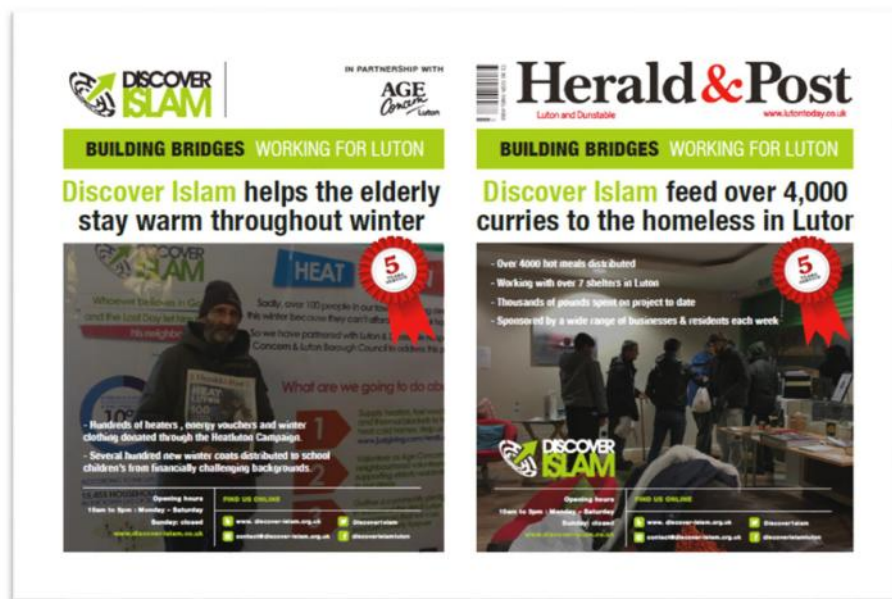
And as night falls we all stand in Taraweeh,
Increasing ibaadah this month is the way that it should be.

From this month of Rajab be prepared and get ready,
So once Ramadhan is here you can be spiritually steady.

Mawlana Aminul Islam



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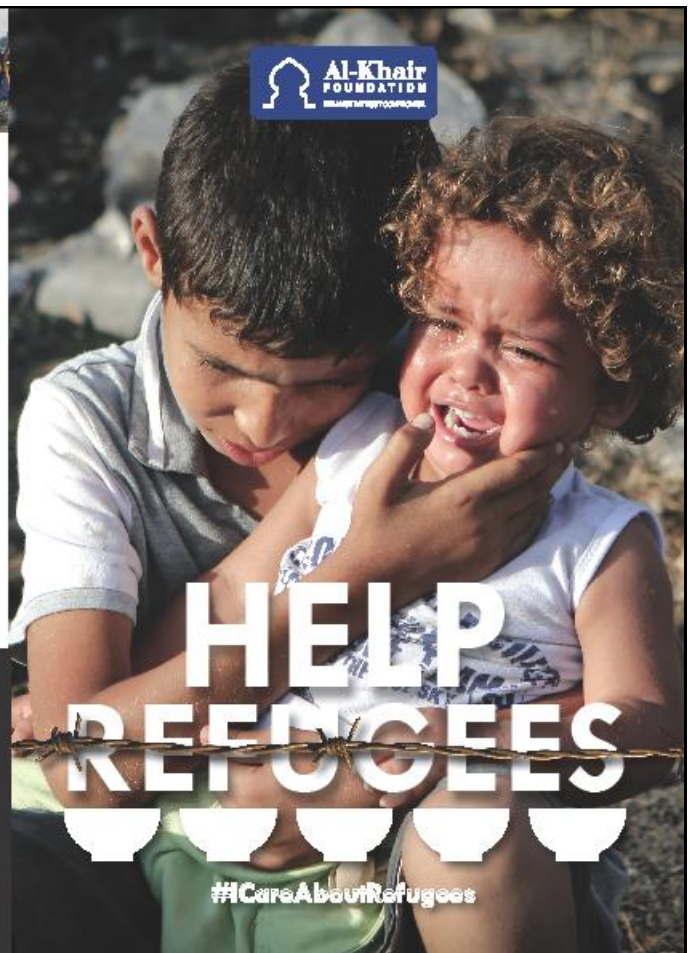
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