

## SHA'BAN

Sha'ban is the 8th month in the Islamic calendar. The Prophet (May Allah bless him) would make special prayers for blessings in this month and would fast most of the month after Ramadhan.

There are many virtues in this month, most notably our deeds being presented to Allah, fasting and seeking Allah's forgiveness. In this journal we have dedicated a detailed article regarding Sha'ban. (Page 4)



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**(1489-1588)**

**the greatest architect ever**

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**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.

**Editor:** Mawlana Muhammad Ahmadul-Haque Rayhan

**Contributors:** Mawlana Thaqib Mahmood, Salmaa Islam, Discover Islam Luton, Mawlana Aminul Islam, Dr Mamnun Khan, Hafiz Sadikul Islam, Ustadh Abdul Alim, Usmaan Pervaiz, Habiba Akhtar, Danyaal Saghir & Ahmed Shakib (May Allah reward everyone for their contribution)

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**Contact:** For all enquires, feedback, sharing community news and any contribution please contact:

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## Be Grateful before it is taken Away

By Mawlana Thaqib Mahmood

As we fast approach the Blessed Month of Ramadhan, the month of patience let us reflect in how grateful we should be, of the numerous blessings Allah has blessed us with.

Recently we visited the Idomeni camp in northern Greece by the Macedonian border.

Approximately 8-11000 (mainly) Syrian refugees are trying to find a better life for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, the border being closed has left them stranded. Many of their families are in other European countries leaving mainly divided families behind. We met families where the elders of the family are stranded in the camp, whilst the children, some aged only 16, are in Germany.

They are living in tents with no weather protection. Young babies struggling to cope with the conditions and mothers not being able to find the right milk powder for their little ones. The washing facilities are close to nothing and due to the constant rain the ground has become extremely muddy.

This is merely a snapshot of the situation. Like this camp there are millions of other people living in conditions just as bad, if not worse than these.

Witnessing this gave me the realisation of how ungrateful we are for the countless blessings Allah has blessed us with. Simple things which we take for granted like shelter, warm water and hot food are luxuries which millions would die for.

It is time for us to be GRATEFUL and STOP COMPLAINING! Every time we see something we may not have, let us turn our thoughts towards the things we have in abundance. This attitude is the Sunnah of our beloved Messenger.

*Yahya related to me from Malik that he heard that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, entered the mosque and found Abu Bakr as-Siddiq and Umar ibn al-Khattab there. He questioned them and they said, "Hunger has driven us out." The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, "And hunger has brought me out." They went to Abu'l-Haytham ibn at-Tayyihan al-Ansari.*

*He ordered that some barley that was in the house be prepared and he got up to slaughter a sheep for them. The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, "Leave the one with milk." He slaughtered a sheep for them and brought them sweet water and it was hung on a palm-tree. Then they were brought the food and ate it and drank the water. The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him*

*peace, recited, "Then, on that day, you will be asked concerning bounties." (Surah 102 Ayah 8). (Muwatta Imam Malik)*



There are over 10,000 refugees living in Idomeni Camp in Greece

# Sha'ban - Why is it an Important month

By Mawlana Muhammad Rayhan

Sha'ban is the 8<sup>th</sup> month in the Islamic calendar. The Prophet (May Allah bless him) would make special prayers for blessings in this month and would fast most of the month after Ramadhan.

There are many virtues in this month, most notably our deeds being presented to Allah, fasting and seeking Allah's forgiveness. This article aims to cover the main discussions regarding Sha'ban in a simplified manner.

## Fasting in Sha'ban

Usamah bin Zaid said: "I said: 'O Messenger of Allah (May Allah's Peace and blessings be upon him) I do not see you fasting any month as much as Sha'ban.' He said: *'That is a month to which people do not pay much attention, between Rajab and Ramadhan. 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.'*"

(Sunan Nasai 2357–Book of Fasting)

It was narrated that Aishah said:

*"The Messenger of Allah (May Allah's Peace and blessings be upon him) did not fast in any month of the year (besides Ramadhan) more than he did in Sha'ban. He used to fast all of Sha'ban."* (Sunan Nasai 2182–Book of Fasting)

It was narrated that Aishah said: *"The Messenger of Allah (May Allah's Peace and blessings be upon him) used to fast (all of) Sha'ban except a little."* (Sunan Nasai 2355–Book of Fasting)

It was narrated from Abu Salamah bin 'Abdur-

Rahman that he asked Aishah about the fasting of the Messenger of Allah (May Allah's Peace and blessings be upon him). She said: *"The Messenger of Allah used to fast until we said: 'He will not fast.' And he used to fast Sha'ban, or most of Sha'ban."*

(Sunan Nasai 2177–Book of Fasting)

There are various narrations regarding the fasting of the Prophet in Sha'ban. It is understood from the majority of the narrations that his general practice was to fast most of Sha'ban as preparation for Ramadhan and his deeds to be presented to Allah whilst he is fasting.

## Specifying Fasting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Sha'ban

There is an extremely weak hadeeth and some hadeeth scholars labelled it as 'fabricated' which suggest a special merit for fasting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Hence it is not a sunnah to specify the 15<sup>th</sup> with the intention of gaining extra reward based on the weak hadeeth.

If someone keeps the fast of 15<sup>th</sup> Sha'ban because of the general reward of fasting in Sha'ban then it is permissible to fast since there is no evidence to suggest that it is not permissible or Haram.

## Status of 15<sup>th</sup> Night of Sha'ban

Muadh Ibn Jabal narrated that the Prophet (May Allah's Peace and blessings be upon him) said: *"Allah looks at His creation on the 15<sup>th</sup> night of Sha'ban thereafter forgives everyone except two people: a person who makes a partner with Allah and one who has hatred for others."*

(Imam Ibn Hibban narrated this hadeeth in his



# Sha'ban - Why is it an Important month

Saheeh and Imam Bayhaqi in Shuabul Imaan)

**Note:** This hadeeth is accepted by many scholars such as Ibn Hibban, Bayhaqi, Haithami, Mundhiri & Suyuti.

It is also accepted by many contemporary scholars from different ideological backgrounds like Shaykh Fadhlur Rahman A'dhami, Taqi Uthmani and the late Nasir-Uddin Albani.

The greatness of this night is accepted by various scholars of the past and present: such as Imam Haskafi and Ibn Taymiyah.

Imam Haskafi said in his Durr al-Mukhtar, *"Among the recommended [prayers] are on the nights of the two Eids, the middle of Sha'ban, the last ten of Ramadan, and the first [ten] of Dhul-Hijjah."*

Imam Ibn Taymiyya was asked about the prayer of mid-Sha'ban [15th night]. He answered:

*"If a person prays that night alone, or in a select congregation, as many groups (tawa'if) of the early Muslims used to do, it is very good."*

*"As for gathering in the mosque for a particular fixed prayer, such as to gather for 100 rakats in which 1,000 "Qulhuwa Allahu Ahad" are read every time, this is an incorrect innovation, which none of the imams have allowed."*

[Ibn Taymiyya, al-Fatawa al-Kubra, 2; 222-138]

**Visiting the graves on the 15<sup>th</sup> night of Sha'ban**

The Prophet did not specify any days for

visiting the grave, in fact he would visit it whenever it was his turn to be with Aisha; and most of the narrations about encouragement for visiting the grave are general and not limited to any particular days. There is a report about visiting on Fridays but he did not restrict it to just the Fridays.

Visiting the grave for supplication on any night including the 15<sup>th</sup> is not forbidden however one must make sure that he doesn't regard it as sunnah.

## Key Points to remember:

1. There is no fixed method of prayer or worship on the 15th night
2. It is not compulsory to engage in any extra worship this night
3. Dua seems to be the main focus as Allah forgives very generously
4. Pray Isha and Fajr in the Masjid and engage in Quranic recitation
5. Forgive people and remove hatred etc.
6. DO NOT TROUBLE ANYONE ESPECIALLY THOSE OUTSIDE THE MASJID AND NEIGHBOURS

(For more details see; Lataaif Al-Ma'arif – Hafidh Ibn Rajab Hanbali, 15<sup>th</sup> of Shaban – Shaykh Fadhlur Rahman Al-Adhami)



## Some good habits....

### Dua – Supplication

Any person of authority and power loves being asked for help. Parents find it insulting when their children avoid them in asking for their needs because they feel privileged and honoured to be asked and beseeched.

Allah, the All-Mighty is happier than any father or mother when He is asked and beseeched. He has announced throughout the Quran how He is the one who fulfils peoples' needs, provides for people, gives life and death, cures sickness and forgives all sins. He concludes it by saying 'Whenever my servant asks of me - then I'm close - I answer the call of the servant who calls'.

As a Muslim we must make dua a part of our life; formally when we raise our hands in good times and bad times and informally at every junction of our life from before eating to leaving the house.

A believer's dua is never rejected; it is either fulfilled immediately or at a later stage, or Allah removes a calamity instead, or keeps it for the hereafter which is the greatest joy!

### Times of dua

The key to dua is to do it in abundance, however the Prophet taught us some special occasions (when we should make dua);

1. After praying Salah

2. Inside the Salah (it must be in Arabic from Quran and Sunnah)

3. Between Adhaan and Salah

4. Before the Khutbah on Friday

5. In between the two Friday Khutbahs

6. After Asr to Maghrib on Fridays

7. Every morning and evening

8. Before sleeping

9. Whilst travelling

10. Places of Hajj and Umrah

11. Whilst in the state of Ihram

12. Whilst fasting (Suhoor, Iftaar time)

13. Tahaj'jud time

14. After any good deed

There are many more occasions. The most important note is that one must not delay in asking Allah.

Abu Hurairah said that the Messenger of Allah (May Allah bless him) said:

**"Allah is angry with him who does not ask from him."** (Tirmidhi)

### The method of making dua

Ibn Abbas said that the Messenger of Allah said:

**"Ask Allah with the palms of your hands (palms facing up) and do not ask him with the back of the hands, and when you have finished wipe your faces with them."** (Abu Dawood)

May Allah the All-Mighty and the Most-Forgiving accept all our duas and supplications. Aameen

**By** Mawlana Muhammad Rayhan





## Every Good is Charity



Jabir bin Abdullah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (May Allah's peace & blessings be upon him) said: "Every good is charity..." [\[Tirmidhi\]](#)

### Testimonial

"When my benefits were stopped I went to some local charities looking for help but they either turned me away or they were charging for food when I had no money. I even went to the Foodbank who also turned me away because I didn't have the relevant paperwork which took me around two months to arrange.

I was in a desperate situation and whilst I was walking I saw the Discover Islam centre and thought to myself there's no harm in trying. I went in explained my situation and the friendly gentleman did not hesitate for a moment he went out and bought some food for me from his own money.

The Discover Islam centre helped with food and helped me fill in forms until I was back on my own two feet.

I can say from the bottom of my heart that this is a true charity unlike many others I have seen. I know that if I was ever struggling again the Discover Islam team would be there to support me."

### Contact Us

#### Where we are:

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## Mimar Sinan (1489-1588) – the greatest architect ever

By Dr Mamnun Khan, Sha'ban, 1437

Many of the most beautiful historical buildings were constructed by Muslims. From the Alhambra in Granada and the Grand Mosque Cordoba in the West, to the Blue Mosque in Istanbul and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem to the Taj Mahal in the East, they reflect the incredible legacy of Muslim arts and architecture. In more recent times, the Sears Tower in Chicago which was at the time of its construction the highest building in the world was designed by the American Bengali Fazlur Rahman Khan. However, of all the greatest Muslim architects in history no one comes anywhere near to Mimar Sinan. In fact, there is no one in the history of the world who has been as prolific, including the likes of Sir Christopher Wren.

Mimar Sinan was born in 1489 in Qaisariyyah, in Turkey. His father, Abdul Mannan, was born Christian of Greek origin who embraced Islam and became a leading figure of the elite Ottoman army called the "Janissary Corp" ("New Troops" from the Turkish "yeni cheri"). This was an elite military force, recruited from across the Ottoman Empire including the Balkans (countries like Bosnia, Albania etc.), where only the brightest, strongest and chivalrous could enrol into. Once hand-picked into the Janissaries, they were given the highest levels of military training.

Mimar Sinan, like his father, at the age of around 14 years enrolled into the Janissaries. It is thought that, like other recruited children, Sinan worked on a farm outside Istanbul so that he could become familiar with the language, religion and customs. He was then sent to the Palace school where he learnt carpentry and observed master workmen.

He served first under Sultan Selim I (d. 1520), and then the greatest Ottoman ruler "Qanuni" Sultan Sulaiman "the Magnificent" (1494-1566). In the military expeditions against the Hungarians, in the capture of Belgrade and then the island of Rhodes, Sinan designed innovative military equipment, and being able to build bridges

and fix damaged roads helped them win the wars. Recognising his brilliance, Sultan Sulaiman promoted Sinan to the Chief Staff of the department of military equipment of the Ottoman Army. Later, in 1538, at the age of 49 he was promoted to Chief Architect for the whole of the Ottoman Empire.

Over the next 50 years, Sinan designed and oversaw the construction of 477 buildings like mosque complexes known as "kulliye" that served both as a mosque and a school. He built hospitals, public baths ("hammam"), guest houses, roads, water supply systems and bridges etc. right across the Ottoman Empire. He was also responsible for building the mausoleums of Moulana Jalal Uddin Rumi in Konya and Imam Abu Hanifah in Baghdad. The mosques that he built were of diverse designs, including square-based single- and semi-domed mosques, hexagon-based mosques, octagon-based mosques and multi-based multi-domed mosques. Sinan's contribution is a reflection of his deep knowledge and practical experience with building techniques and materials as well as problems of topography, space, mass and supporting structures.

In 1582 Mimar Sinan went for Hajj, where his list of works was written down in his memoirs with the help of his poet friend Sai Mustafa Chalabi, in a book called "Tezkiretu'l Ebniye." In it Sinan writes: "I have written a unique booklet describing in thirteen chapters the large and smaller mosques and other important buildings I have designed and built ... I hope that, God willing, good-hearted friends who visit my works will look at them with mercy and they realise the seriousness and endeavour with which I have strived, and eternally remember me with blessings." Sinan died at the age of 99 and is buried near the tomb of Sultan Sulaiman outside of the Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul. The rewards of the millions of people who visit and pray and learn in the buildings that he constructed is by Allah's grace a testament of his genius and unflinching service.



## Mimar Sinan (1489-1588) – the greatest architect ever

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Reha Gunay Sinan The Architect and His Works, YEM Publications, translated by Ali Ottoman, 2009.

Muhammad Mojlum Khan, The Muslim 100: The Life, Thought and Achievement of the Most Influential Muslims in History, 2008, Kube Publishing, p192-195.

Pictures of two mosques built by Mimar Sinan.



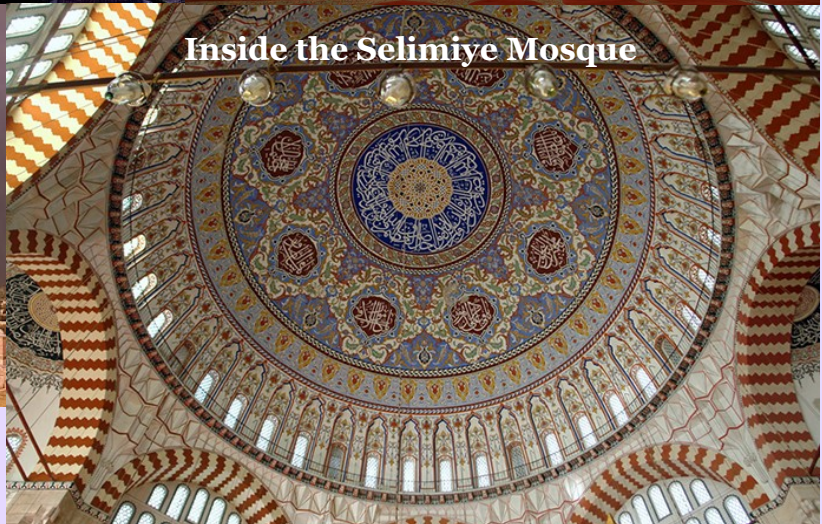
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Inside the Suleymaniye



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Inside the Selimiye Mosque

# Heroic Muslim Student Comes to the Aid of a Pensioner



by [ilmfeed](#)



A Muslim man came to the aid of a pensioner who had been a victim of burglary. 20-year-old student Saif Uddin heard the 72-year-old's cries for help and gave chase.

Saif told Manchester Evening News: "The burglar was inside the house with a bag. The victim came out and said 'he has robbed everything I have got'.

"I started chasing him and saw him in an alleyway hanging off the edge of a garden wall.

"I grabbed him and held him and said 'you're not going to escape'.

"I dragged him back and he was getting aggressive, so I threw him to the floor and put my weight on him.

Two security guards rushed over to help and handcuffed him until police arrived.



*Suspected burglar*

Saif, a religion and theology student at the University of Manchester said he had to act when he heard the old man's calls for help:

"I don't know what was going through my mind but there was something in my heart telling me to go after him no matter what.

"I just thought of my newborn niece and thought it could be my family targeted.

"The old man was shaking. I felt so bad for him. He has got a badly bruised hand and his debit and credit cards were stolen.

"I can't believe he stole from an old man. I find it quite distressing."

A Greater Manchester Police spokesman said a 42-year old man has been arrested on suspicion of aggravated burglary.

They added: "A man had been apprehended by the time officers arrived and was arrested at the scene.

"A mobile phone, bag, radio, wallet and some cash was taken in the incident but all items were recovered."



## VIRTUES OF WOMEN IN ISLAM

As per the practices of the beloved Prophet (SAW), the companions of the Prophet (SAW) were recognised as modest, selfless and respected people.

Selflessness as a characteristic is a higher rank than liberality in terms of quality. This was completely present in the female companions.

This was recognised in the Sahabiyat (RA) when Hazrat Aisha (RA) had prepared and established a grave place beside the prophet (SAW) and her father Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) for her own burial. However, when Hazrat Umar (RA) expressed his desire of being laid there, Hazrat Aisha (RA) gave her plank of Jannat to Hazrat Umar (RA) and said:

“I had saved it for myself, however today I have prioritised you over myself”

Another incident portraying the selflessness of Hazrat Aisha (RA) is when she was fasting. Towards the evening before Iftar time, a beggar came begging for food at her doorstep. Hazrat Aisha (RA) then instructed her maid to give the bread to the beggar. The maid replied, ‘Besides the bread there is nothing else for you to break your fast with today’. Hazrat Aisha (RA) once again instructed her maid to give the bread and she did so. Two to three days after fasting with just water, a neighbour had just slaughtered a sheep and had sent a maid with some meat to Hazrat Aisha (RA); she then called her maid and said to her, ‘See, this is better than your bread’.

This evidently shows the selflessness of the women in Islam who are the leading female examples for women. Their extensive piety and liberality voices a guiding pathway towards pleasing Allah.

*(Habiba Akhtar)*





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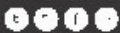
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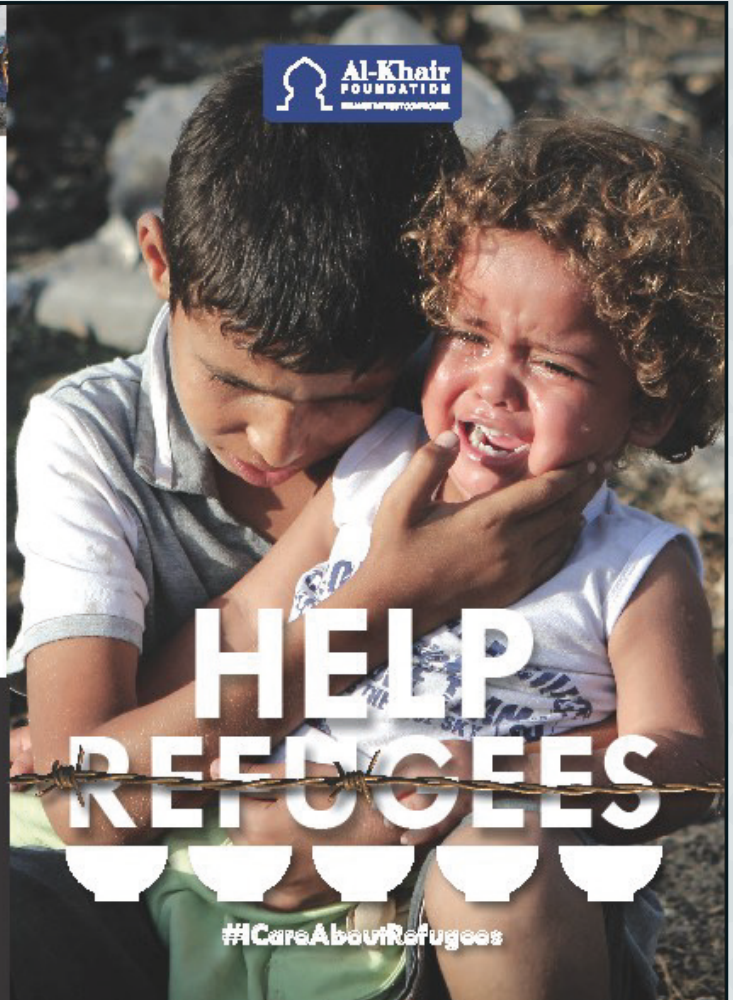
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