

Virtues of

Sha'ban Al-Mu'azzam

Ḥaḍrat 'Ali رضي الله عنه has narrated the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم saying: "When the fifteenth night of *Sha'ban* approaches stand up and establish the *nawafil* prayer and fast during the (ensuing) day. This is because on this night Allāh the Almighty descends to the firmament near to the Earth straightaway after the sunset, saying, 'Is there anyone wishing for forgiveness that I may forgive him, seeking for livelihood that I may give it to him, suffering from a calamity that I may provide comfort for him.' He keeps saying such like that until the day breaks.

(Ibn Maja/ Mishkat Sharif V1, P240, No. 1222/Tartib Sharif, P791)

Ḥaḍrat Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه has narrated the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم saying: "Ḥaḍrat Jibraīl عليه السلام came to me at midway of *Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam*, beseeching me, 'O Muḥammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم! Raise your blessed head towards the sky.' I said to him, 'What is this night about?' Ḥaḍrat Jibraīl عليه السلام said, 'This is the night when Allāh the Almighty opens three hundred doors of the doors of mercy. Accordingly, He forgives everyone who does not ascribe anyone a partner to Him, but not the one who may be magician, *kahin* and the drunkard or the one who insists on interest or fornication as the latter are not forgiven until they repent.' After the last quarter of the night, Ḥaḍrat Jibraīl عليه السلام descends and says, 'O Muḥammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم! Raise your head!' So, I raised my head and glanced at the doors to Heaven opened. At the first door the angels cried, 'Glad tidings for the man who attends (to Allāh the Almighty) tonight.' At the second door the angels cried, 'Glad tidings for the man who prostrates tonight.' At the third door the angels cried, 'Glad tidings for the man who supplicates tonight.' At the fourth door the angels cried, 'Glad tidings for those who do *Dhikr* tonight.' At the fifth door the angels cried, 'Glad tidings for the man who weeps for fear of Allāh the Almighty.' At the sixth door the angels cried, 'Glad tidings for the Muslims tonight.' At the seventh door the angels cried, 'Is there anyone (in need) asking, so their needs be fulfilled?' At the eighth

door the angels cried, 'Is there anyone calling for forgiveness that he is forgiven?' Therefore, I asked Jibraīl عليه السلام, 'How long will these doors be opened for?' Ḥaḍrat Jibraīl عليه السلام answered, 'From beginning of the night to the morning.' Then Ḥaḍrat Jibraīl عليه السلام added, 'On the night there are people delivered of fire in the numbers equivalent to the hairs on the she-goats of Bani Kalb.'

(*Ghunyat al-Talibin*, P336-7/*Tartib Sharif*, P792-3)

On the fifteenth night of *Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam*, one must perform *Salat al-Khayr* comprising a hundred *raka'ats*, reciting *Sūrah al-Ikhlās* one thousand times, that is ten times in each *raka'at*. The pious of the old used to perform it in congregation to which end alone they gathered together. Ḥaḍrat Hassan Basri رحمته الله عليه has said: "Some thirty of the Companions of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم gave me the news that whoever performs this prayer on this night Allāh the Almighty casts His sight seventy times at him thus fulfilling one of his needs each time, the least need being his forgiveness."

(*Ghunyat al-Talibin*, P338-9/*Tartib Sharif*, P796)

Whoever performs during the month of *Sh'aban* eight *raka'ats* of *nawafil* prayer, reciting in each unit *Sūrah al-Ikhlās* eleven times and transmitting its recompense to the Holy Spirit of Ḥaḍrat *Sayyidun-Nisa* Fatimah at-Tuzuhra رضي الله عنها has her saying that she would not step inside Heaven until she would have interceded for him/her.

(*Risala Fada'il-ash-Shuhur*)