**The Virtue of Good Deeds: Preparing Our Hearts in Sha’ban**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**
We have entered the blessed month of Sha’ban, a month often overlooked but deeply significant in preparing us for the arrival of Ramadan. It is a bridge between the months of Rajab, the month of Allah, and Ramadan, the month of mercy and fasting. This is the time when we cleanse our hearts, increase our worship, and build momentum so that when Ramadan arrives, we are already in a state of spiritual readiness.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:
*"Sha’ban is a month that many people neglect, between Rajab and Ramadan. It is a month in which deeds are raised to Allah, and I love that my deeds be raised while I am fasting."* (Nasai)

This hadith reveals two important truths: **first, that many people overlook Sha’ban**, and **second, that our deeds are presented to Allah swt during this month**. Would we not want our deeds to be presented to Allah swt while we are engaged in acts of worship, in a state of purification and sincerity?

Sha’ban is a time to reflect on our actions, to examine our hearts, and to increase our good deeds so that we enter Ramadan with spiritual strength. Every deed we do in this month paves the way for our success in the month of fasting.

Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) commands: وافْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ *"And do good so that you may succeed."* (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:77)

Good deeds are not limited to prayers and fasting. A kind word, a helping hand, a moment of patience all of these are deeds that weigh heavily on the scale in the sight of Allah. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:
*"Do not belittle any good deed, even if it is smiling at your brother."* (Muslim)

If a simple smile is recorded as a good deed, imagine the rewards of sincere charity, extra prayers, and seeking forgiveness during this sacred month.

One of the most special nights in Sha’ban is **Laylatul Bara’ah (The Night of Forgiveness), which falls on the 15th night**. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:
*"On the night of the middle of Sha’ban, Allah looks at His creation and forgives all, except those who associate partners with Him and those who have hatred in their hearts."* (Ibn Majah)

This hadith teaches us two things:

1. Allah’s mercy is vast, and He is willing to forgive all sins—except shirk and hatred.
2. If we want to be forgiven, we must cleanse our hearts from grudges, jealousy, and enmity.

As we prepare for Ramadan, let us ask ourselves: Is there someone we need to forgive? Is there someone we need to seek forgiveness from? Are our hearts carrying burdens that prevent us from receiving Allah’s mercy?

Following the Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ) in Sha’ban

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to fast frequently in Sha’ban. In fact, Aisha (رضي الله عنها) said:
*"I never saw the Messenger of Allah complete a month of fasting except in Ramadan, and I never saw him fast more than in Sha’ban."* (Bukhari, Muslim)

When asked why he fasted so much in Sha’ban, the Prophet (ﷺ) replied:
*"It is a month when deeds are raised to Allah, and I love that my deeds be raised while I am fasting."* (Nasai)

This teaches us a beautiful lesson: **Fasting is a way of preparing our souls for Ramadan, cleansing our hearts, and seeking Allah’s acceptance.** If we begin fasting in Sha’ban even if only a few days it will make our transition into Ramadan easier and more meaningful.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us use this month to develop habits that will carry into Ramadan:

* **Increase our prayers**: Add extra sunnah prayers, pray Tahajjud, and make more heartfelt du’as.
* **Read more Qur’an**: If we struggle with reading regularly, Sha’ban is the perfect time to begin.
* **Give charity**: Even a small act of generosity is multiplied when given sincerely.
* **Seek forgiveness**: Allah is opening the doors of mercy let us not delay in repenting for our sins.

The scholars say: *"Sha’ban is like the warm-up before Ramadan."* If we enter Ramadan without preparation, we may spend half the month just trying to adjust. But if we use Sha’ban wisely, we will enter Ramadan ready to fully benefit from its blessings.

Brothers and sisters, let us ask ourselves:

* Will Ramadan arrive while we are still distracted by dunya (worldly matters), or will it find us already engaged in worship?
* Will our hearts be heavy with grudges, or will we cleanse them in Sha’ban so we can receive Allah’s mercy?
* Will we be among those who waste this month, or among those who prepare themselves to be blessed in Ramadan?

Let us make the intention today, before Ramadan begins, to use this month wisely. Let our deeds be presented to Allah while we are in a state of worship, and let us enter Ramadan with pure hearts, ready to receive the mercy and forgiveness of our Lord.

اللَّهُمَّ بَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ، وَأَعِنَّا عَلَى صِيَامِهِ وَقِيَامِهِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا صَالِحَ أَعْمَالِنَا
*"O Allah, allow us to reach Ramadan, help us in our fasting and prayers, and accept our righteous deeds."* Ameen.

**Amellerin Fazileti ve Şaban Ayının Önemi**

**Aziz Kardeşlerim,**
Şaban ayına girmiş bulunuyoruz. Bu mübarek ay, Ramazan’a hazırlık yapmak için büyük bir fırsattır. Ustadimiz, ibadetlerin insan ruhunu terbiye eden bir eğitim süreci olduğunu ifade eder. O, *“Her ibadet, insanın ruhunu, aklını ve kalbini kemale erdiren bir vesiledir”* der. Şaban ayı da, Ramazan’a manevi bir hazırlık süreci olarak değerlendirilmelidir.

Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) Kur’an’da buyuruyor:
وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ
*"Rabbiniz tarafından mağfirete, genişliği göklerle yer kadar ve müttakiler için hazırlanmış bir cennete doğru yarışırcasına koşuşun!"* (Âl-i İmrân, 3:133)

Şaban ayı, bu çağrıya icabet etmek için bir fırsattır. Tövbe etmek, Allah’a yaklaşmak, kalbimizi temizlemek ve Ramazan’a hazir bir şekilde girmek için bu günleri firsat bilmeliyiz.

Bu ay, geçmiş yılın muhasebesini yapmak ve manevi defterimizi temizlemek için bir fırsattır. Buyugumuz, Şaban ayını bir manevi yenilenme dönemi olarak görür ve şöyle der:
*"Şaban, günahlardan arınma ve ibadetle nefsi terbiye etme ayıdır. Bu ayda yapılan her ibadet, Ramazan’daki ihlas ve samimiyetin teminatıdır."*

Oruç, tefekkür ve istiğfarla kalbimizi Ramazan’a hazırlayabiliriz.

Ustadimiz, orucun insan üzerindeki etkisini anlatırken şöyle der:
*"Oruç, insanın cismani latifelerini uyandırır, ruhunu melekler gibi saflaştırır ve nefsin firavunluk damarını kırar."* (*Sözler*)

Ve yine buyugumuz oruç hakkında şöyle der:
*"Oruç, insanı cismani arzuların pençesinden kurtarır, nefsin esaretinden çıkarır ve ruhunu hakikate açar."*

**Değerli Kardeşlerim,**
Şaban ayında kalbimizi temizlemek için samimi bir tövbe ile Rabbimize yönelmeli, Peygamber Efendimiz’in (ﷺ) sünnetini ihya ederek oruç tutmalı, zekât ve sadakalarımızla paylaşma bilincimizi güçlendirmeli ve Ramazan’da Kur’an ile güçlü bir bağ kurabilmek için şimdiden okumaya başlamalıyız.
Şaban ayı, Ramazan’a ruhen ve bedenen hazırlanma zamanıdır.

Öyleyse biz de bu mübarek ayı gafletle geçirmeyelim. Amellerimiz Allah’a arz edilirken, oruçlu, tövbekâr ve ibadet hâlinde olalım.

اللَّهُمَّ بَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ وَأَعِنَّا عَلَى صِيَامِهِ وَقِيَامِهِ
*"Allah’ım! Bizi Ramazan’a ulaştır ve onun orucunu ve ibadetlerini hakkıyla eda etmeyi nasip eyle."* Âmin.