

Rajab (Arabic: رَجَب) is the seventh month of the Islamic calendar. The lexical definition of the classical Arabic verb *rajaba* is "to respect" which could also mean "be awe or be in fear", of which Rajab is a derivative.

This month is regarded as one of the four sacred months (including Muharram, Dhu al-Qadah and Dhu al-Hijjah) in Islam in which battles are prohibited. The pre-Islamic Arabs also considered warfare blasphemous during the four months.

Muslims believe Rajab is the month in which ‘Alī ibn Abī Tālib fourth Caliph of Sunni Muslims, was born.

Rajab is also the month during which Isra' Mi'raj (journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and then through the 7 Heavens to meet Allah) of the Islamic prophet, Muhammad, took place.

Rajab and Sha‘bān are a prelude to the holy month of Ramadān.

The word "Rajab" came from "*rajūb* (رجوب)", the sense of veneration or glorification, and Rajab was also formerly called "*Mudhar*" because the tribe of *Mudhar* did not change it but rather expected in its time other than the rest of the Arabs, who changed and altered in the months according to the state of war.

The name of Rajab literally means respected, regarded, and admired. It seems that the word is originally a Semitic one.. Also, during Rajab, war is forbidden. There are other names for the month, such as Rajab Al-Morrajjab, Rajab Al-Asab and Rajab Sharif.

The Benefits and Virtues of Rajab, the Month of Allah

***{Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve [lunar] months in the register of Allah [from] the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred...}* (Quran 9:36)**

"Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve (lunar) months in the register of Allah[from] the day He created the heaven and the earth; of these, four are sacred. That is the correct religion, so do not wrong yourselves during them.." [Quran 9:36]

The above ayah references four sacred months, with Allah (swt) specifically commanding us not to wrong ourselves during them. The Prophet (saw) clarified what these months were in the following hadith:

“Time has come back to its original state which it had when Allah created the Heavens and the Earth; the year is twelve months, four of which are sacred. Three of them are in succession; Dhul-Qidah, Dhul-Hijjah and Al-Muharram, and (the fourth being) *Rajab Mudar* which stands between Jumad (Ath-thani) and Shaban.” (Al-Bukhari)

Being a sacred month, committing a sin therein is much more severely punished. On the other hand, we are taught that reward for acts of obedience performed in this month is greater than other months.

Divine mercy, blessings, and rewards are at their peak during the sacred months; we must therefore invest our time in increased acts of ibadah, we should increase our recitation of the Quran, and our dhikr, we should help others and give more charity.

Rajab is a month of cultivation, so plant your seeds

Abu Bakr b. al-Warraq al-Balkhi used to say: “In the month of Rajab, you sow the seeds, in Sha`ban, you irrigate them, and in Ramadan, you reap the harvest.”

This means that to enjoy the fruits of Ramadan, the planting starts in Rajab. In order to be physically, mentally and spiritually ready for Ramadan and to maximise on its blessings and virtue, we need to plan and prepare now!

- Set personal goals for Ramadan
- Reflect on last year and explore what you need to do differently
- Start fasting on the Sunnah days
- Increase your Dhikr and re-kindle your relationship with Allah
- Recite the Quran
- Increase your acts of charity

Doing all of this (and more) now will allow you to fully reap the benefits of the blessed month of Ramadan, Insha'Allah.

We hope you can use this sacred month to increase your good deeds, draw closer to Allah, His Messenger and the Muslims, and plant the seeds for a fruitful Ramadan.

Oh Allah! Grant us Barakah (Blessing) during (the months of) Rajab and Sha'ban, and allow us to reach Ramadan.

The history of the sacred months

Since the beginning of time, fighting has been forbidden during the sacred months. The sequence of the sacred months protected pilgrims to the Ka'bah both before the advent of Islam and during its early days. They were divinely designed to allow pilgrims safe passage to and from Makkah during the Hajj season.

Meanwhile Rajab, the seventh month of the lunar year, stands apart from the other sacred months. It is thus called 'Rajab al-Fard' or 'Rajab the Separate One'. Allah made it sacred in order to preserve people's safety during 'Umrah, the minor pilgrimage.

Unfortunately, many of the Arabs in pre-Islamic times didn't respect the sanctity of Rajab, and they often switched it to elsewhere in the year so they could fight in the seventh month! They would pretend that Rajab was in a different month to suit their own political agendas.

The exception was the tribe of Mudar, who consistently observed the order of the lunar months and the sanctity of Rajab. Thus, when the Prophet (saw) was confirming the sacred months for us, he named it 'Rajab of Mudar', so the Companions knew he (saw) meant the seventh month of the lunar year.

The purpose of the sacred months

The sacred months allowed pilgrims to travel safely to and from the holy lands. This particular purpose is less relevant today, when we don't need a whole month to travel to Makkah!

**However,
the sanctity
of the months
stands until the
end of time.**



Our deeds weigh heavier on the scales during these four months. Allah commands us: **'Do not wrong yourselves during them'** [The Noble Qur'an, 9:36], because it is graver to commit a sin during a sacred month. Equally, it becomes more rewardable to perform a good deed!

Thus, we need to be extra-vigilant in everything we do and say this Rajab, and extra-keen in seeking Allah's pleasure:

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said,

'Surely your Lord has winds [of mercy] (Nafahat) in the days of your time, so expose yourselves to them. For perhaps you will attain a breeze from them and thereafter you will never be unhappy'.

[Tabarani]

The first virtue of Rajab

Rajab has three main virtues which we will cover in this article. The first of them is that it is the month of Allah.

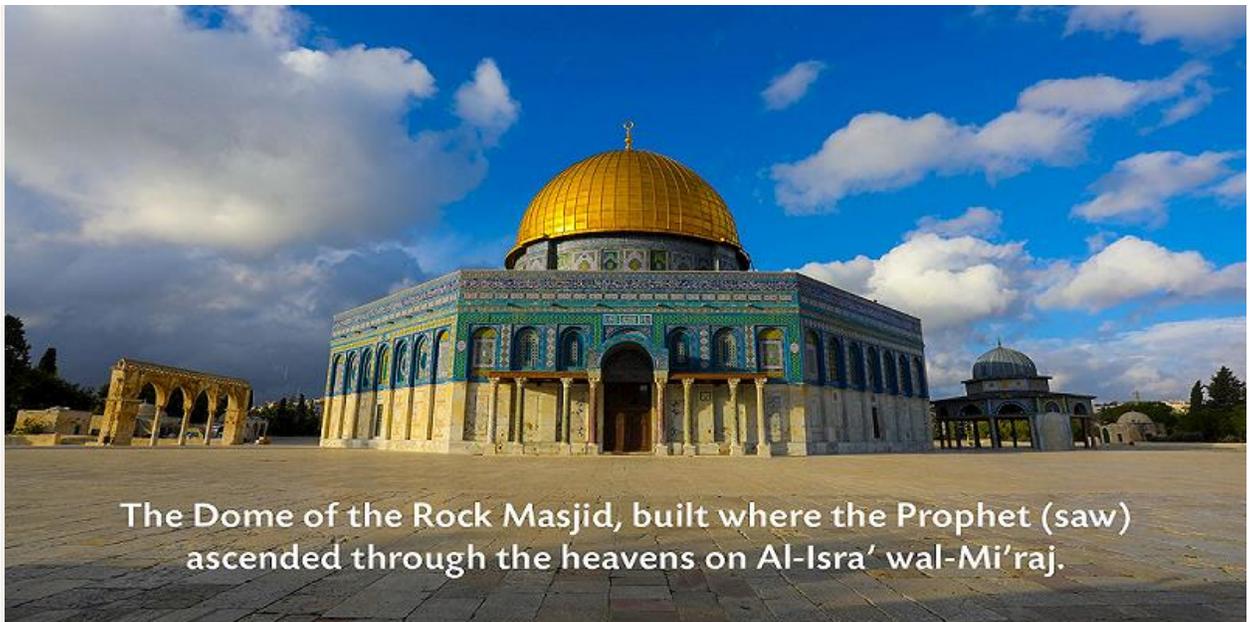
The Prophet (saw) said, 'Rajab is the month of Allah, Sha'ban is my month and Ramadan is the month of my Ummah'. [Suyuti]

Subhan'Allah, this is a great title to be honoured with, and no doubt we should be paying special attention to the month that bears this honour. Because of this reason, Muslims devote their time in prayers and helping the needy during Rajab as the good committed during the month of Allah earns rewards and blessings.

The second virtue of Rajab

Rajab was divinely selected for three historic and momentous events:

1. The marriage of the noble parents of the Prophet (saw)
2. Aminah, the noble mother of the Prophet (saw) becoming pregnant with the Best of Creation (saw)
3. The miraculous Night Journey & Ascension (Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj), which took place on the 27th night of Rajab, according to the dominant opinion.



The Dome of the Rock Masjid, built where the Prophet (saw) ascended through the heavens on Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj.

SubhanAllah, while most Muslims - rightfully! - give importance to Ramadan as the month in which the Qur'an was revealed, we must not neglect Rajab's status. Not only was the Prophet (saw) conceived in Rajab, we also received three further divine gifts during Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj:

1. **The gift of our five daily prayers**, which ground our days in the worship of Allah

2. **The last two ayat of Surah Baqarah**, of which the Prophet (saw) said, 'Whoever recites the last two verses of Surah Baqarah in the night, it will suffice him'. [Bukhari]
3. **Allah's gift to the believers**: Whoever dies believing in Allah and not associating anything with Him, will enter Paradise. [Nasa'i]

It is clear, therefore, that Allah chose Rajab above other months for extraordinary events.

As Allah says,

'And your Lord creates what He wills and chooses; not for them was the choice'.

[The Noble Qur'an, 28:68]

The third virtue of Rajab

Did you know that Rajab is also known as 'Rajab al-Asabb' or 'the Pouring Rajab'? This is because Allah pours His numerous blessings and favours down during this month, as well as His abundant mercy.

Similarly, Rajab is also known as the Month of Tawbah (repentance) and the Month of Istighfar (seeking forgiveness).

Again, most Muslims - rightfully! - increase their good deeds and worship during Ramadan, hoping to receive the blessings and mercy which are pouring down. But we also have a chance to do this during Rajab, and we definitely shouldn't miss out! Remember, our deeds weigh heavier on the scales in the sacred months, so this is an excellent opportunity to invest in our akhirah.

The meaning of 'Rajab' and its titles

Before we go into the recommended actions for Rajab, we'd like to touch on a few of its names.

This amplifies the meaning of the sacred month, in which war and fighting were unlawful since the beginning of creation. This rule was even respected by some of the pre-Islamic Arabs in the Time of Ignorance (Jahiliyyah).

To further emphasise its sanctity, Rajab is also called '**Rajab al-Murajjab**', which means that it is extraordinarily honoured, revered and magnified.

Moreover, it is called '**Rajab al-Asamm**', which means 'the Deafening and Silent Rajab'. This is because you cannot hear the clashing of swords during Rajab, as fighting is prohibited.

Earlier, we mentioned that it is called 'Rajab the Separate One', because it stands alone as a sacred month.

Finally, there is one more linguistic wonder we'd like to mention. Some scholars have mentioned that 'Rajab' is composed of three letters, which represent other profound words:

1. **Ra - for Rahmah**: representing the Rahmatu-Allah, the mercy of Allah
2. **Jeem - for Juud**: representing Juudu-Allah, the generosity of Allah
3. **Ba - for Birr**: representing Birru-Allah, the kindness of Allah

As you can see, even the meaning of 'Rajab' reflects its virtues in so many ways.

Now, let's discuss the recommended actions for Rajab.

Recommended: Don't waste the first night!

It is highly recommended to turn to Allah on the first night of Rajab. Though we don't have an authentic hadith of the Prophet (saw) regarding this, many scholars have mentioned the virtues of this night.

Ibn Umar (ra) said, 'There are five nights in which a du'a is not rejected: Thursday night, the first night of Rajab, the night of mid-Sha'ban (15th night), the night of Eid al-Fitr and the night of Eid al-Adha'. [Shu'b al-Iman]

Imam Shafi'i also mentioned these five nights in his Kitab al-Umm.

Moreover, it has been narrated that Ali ibn Abi Talib (ra) used to spend four nights in worship: the first night of Rajab, the nights before the two Eids, and the 15th night of Sha'ban.

In light of the above quotes, we should make sure to make du'a to Allah on the first night of Rajab! This year, Rajab begins on **the night of Tuesday 1st February 2022**. Make sure to make a list of du'as which you really want Allah to answer, so you are fully-prepared when the night begins!

Recommended: Seek forgiveness throughout the month

It has been narrated, 'Seek much forgiveness from Allah in Rajab because in every hour (of the month) Allah frees people from the Fire'. [Dailami]

For this reason, the scholars say that Rajab is the month of seeking forgiveness, Sha'ban is the month of bestowing prayers upon the Prophet (saw), and Ramadan is the month of the Qur'an.

We recommend saying this short and powerful du'a every day in Rajab:

رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَارْحَمْنِي وَتُبْ عَلَيَّ

Rabbi-ghfir lee warhamnee wa tub 'alayya

**O Allah forgive me,
have mercy upon me,
and accept my repentance!**

Another way of seeking Allah's forgiveness is by giving charity, as the Prophet (saw) said, 'Charity extinguishes sins just as water extinguishes fire'. [Ibn Majah]

Recommended: Prepare for Ramadan in Rajab

There are now only two months to go until Ramadan! It is essential that we start preparing from now, laying the foundations of good habits and making a plan of action for this blessed month.

As Imam Abu Bakr al-Warraq al-Balkhi (rh), the uncle of Imam Tirmidhi (rh), said, 'The month of Rajab is the month of planting (your seeds), Sha'ban is the month of irrigating / watering (them), and Ramadan is the month of harvesting the crop'.

He (rh) also said, 'The month of Rajab is like wind, Sha'ban is like clouds and Ramadan is like rain'.

This imagery perfectly describes the significance of each month in the lead-up to Ramadan! In Rajab, we should be laying foundations and making preparations; in Sha'ban, our preparations will become more tangible and our increased worship will become habitual - and in Ramadan, our good deeds will overflow, in sha' Allah!

So how can we use Rajab to prepare for Ramadan? Here's our simple, three-step plan:

One: To start with, you have to **make a good intention**. The Prophet's (saw) du'a is perfect for this:

« **اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَبَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ** »

'Allahumma baarik lanaa fii Rajabin wa Sha'baana wa ballighnaa Ramadan!'

'O Allah bless us in Rajab and Sha'ban and enable us to reach Ramadan!'

[Ahmad]

Two: Write down everything you regret NOT doing last Ramadan. Did you find it difficult to pray at night? Did you put off making up fasts until two weeks before Ramadan? Did you forget to make certain du'as?

Three: Make a plan for addressing these issues during Rajab. For example, you could start praying at night once a week. You could start fasting on Mondays or Thursdays (or both!) from now. You could make a list of du'as that you must make, so you can check them off every day in Ramadan.

Remember to set realistic and tangible targets so you can make real progress during Rajab.

Recommended: Understand the weight of a sacred month

Above all, remember that a sacred month is similar to a sacred place. We know that it is recommended to bathe and purify oneself before entering the haram of Makkah, and become more conscious of the weight of our actions. Likewise, we should try to enter a sacred month in a state of purity, and strive to maintain that purity throughout the month.

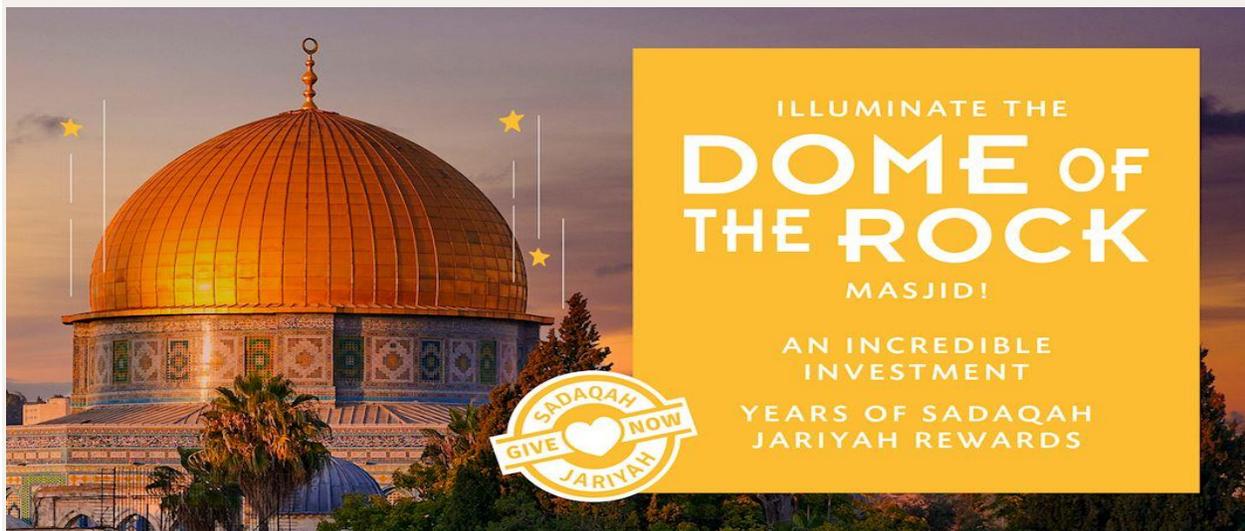


For example, the Messenger of Allah (saw) recommended fasting at least some days in each of the sacred months. Some of the Companions, among them Umar (ra) and his son Abdullah (ra), and Aisha (ra), liked to make 'Umrah in Rajab.

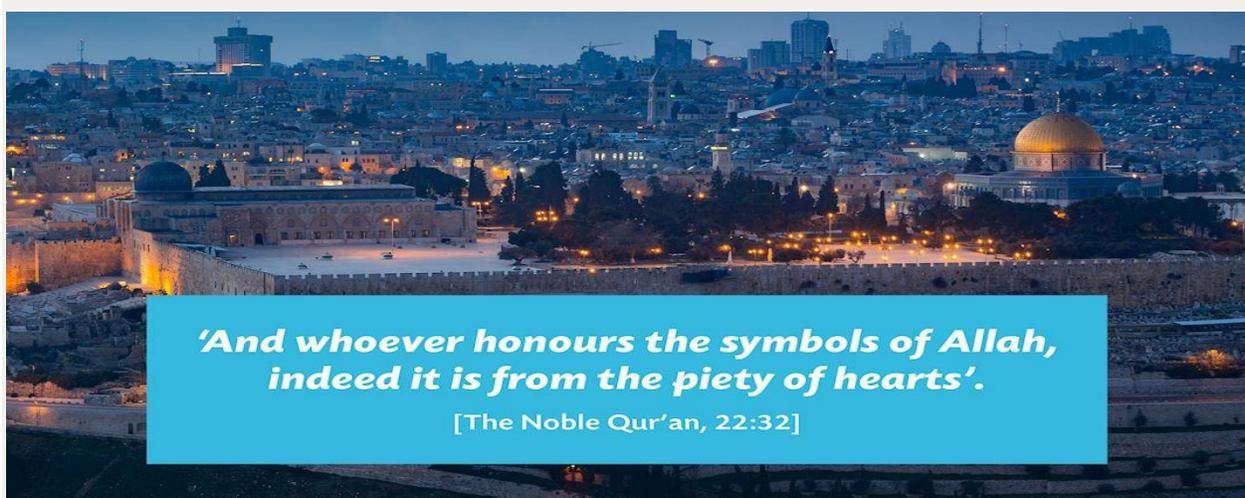
Summary - and an AMAZING investment opportunity!

Here is a brief summary of the virtues and recommended actions for Rajab:

It is the 'month of Allah' and a sacred month, divinely selected for momentous events such as Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj. It is also a month in which Allah's blessings and mercy pour down on us. It is recommended that we seek forgiveness throughout Rajab, but especially during the first night, as it has been narrated that our du'as are answered on this night. It is also Sunnah to use this month to prepare for Ramadan, which is only two months away!



Illuminating Al-Aqsa - which includes the Dome of the Rock - carries the incredible reward of praying there, **worth 1,000 prayers!** And what better time to honour this symbol of Allah than during Rajab, the sacred month of Allah during which His blessings pour down upon us?



Rajab Significance

1. Ali Ibn-e-Abi Talib (RA) was born on 13th of Rajab

He (RA) is one of the bravest humans' history has ever witnessed. He was the first kid who recognized Muhammad (PBUH) as the last prophet of Allah. Ali (RA) was Muhammad (PBUH)'s cousin and son-in-law. He was also selected as one of the four caliphs of Islam.

2. The Night of Isra and Miraj, the Muhammad (PBUH)'s visit to the heaven

This is one of the most important events in Islamic history. On the 27th of Rajab, the night of Isra and Shab e Miraj occurred, in this Muhammad (PBUH) visited the heavens in just a second. In Quran, it is written;

“PRAISE BE TO GOD WHO HAS ENRAPTURED HIS SERVANT
BY THE NIGHT FROM THE SACRED MOSQUE (MAKKAH) TO
THE FARTHEST MOSQUE (JERUSALEM).” – [QURAN: 17:1]

3. Fasting

We often hear that fasting in Ramadan has the more significant reward, but in Rajab, which is a road towards the holy month of Ramadan, in this month, fasting can give you a greater reward. There is a hadith of our Prophet SAWW regarding this month which says;

“Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah narrated that Abdullah ibn Nameer narrated and ibn Nameer narrated from his father that `Uthmān ibn Hakeem al-Ansaari narrated, “I asked Sa`eed ibn Jubayr about the fast of Rajab, what was his opinion on it. He said, ‘Ibn `Abbas narrated that the Prophet used to fast until we said he would never break fast, and he used to break fast until we said he will never fast [again.]’” – (Muslim)

4. Importance of Rajab

Seeking forgiveness, saying *Istaghfar*, our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated that;

“Rajab is a month of seeking forgiveness, so seek forgiveness from Allah (SWT); He is verily the Forgiver, the Merciful. It is highly recommended to repeat ‘Astaghfirullaah wa as-aluhut tawbah”.

• Doing Charity

There is an extra reward if you do sadaqah and charity in this holy month. And if you don't have enough money to give Charity, then you can recite this



Saying the Kalima "***La ilaha illAllah Muhammadur Rasulullah***" as much as you can in this month. Reciting "***Qul HO Wallah Ho Ahad***" which is Surah Al Tawheed or Surah al Ikhlas, can return in the peace and blessing on the reciter and his family.

