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Bismillahi Ar-Rahman Ar-Rahim. Tariqatuna as-sohba wal khayru fil jam'iyya. Madad Ya Sayyidi Ya Rasul Allah, wa Mashayikhina Sheikh Nazim Adil Al-Haqqani, Sheikh Muhammad Ar-Rabbani.

Mubarak, in less than 15 days the month of Rajab is approaching. The 3 holy months *Rajab*, *Sh'aban* and *Ramadan* are the season for *barakah* and blessing, for worshipping and for extra *thawab*/rewards and for getting extra close to Allah Azza wa Jalla and His Prophet ﷺ. According to the Prophet's ﷺ famous hadith the month of Rajab, shahr-Allah, is the month of Allah Azza wa Jalla. Sh'aban shahr-i, is the month of Him ﷺ and Ramadan is the month of his ﷺ *ummah*, his ﷺ nation. Rajab is the most powerful month because it is the month of Allah and we have to get ready for it, insha`Allah.

Those who like to fast the 3 months, Rajab, Sh'aban and Ramadan, it is a good chance now since winter is coming, and the days are short. If you have some days owing for fasting, you can make them up in the months of Rajab or Sh'aban for more blessing, or as **kaffarah**. **Kaffarah** is required if you have broken your fast intentionally or purposely, without any excuse in the past Ramadans. If it is outside Ramadan, you must fast one day for one day, but for Ramadan if you break your fast without any excuse you need to make kaffarah, it is a penalty; and then you make up the days you missed a day for a day.

Kaffarah is of 3 kinds, and the most known one is fasting. It is to fast 60 consecutive days. If you broke your fast, without excuse, only one day in a Ramadan, or if you did not fast many Ramadans before, the kaffarah is still one; you have to fast 60 consecutive days without break; and then you have to make up all the missed days one day for one day, outside Ramadan. I hope nobody has to do this, that Insha`Allah we are all fasting. The fasting for new, converted Muslims does not count for before accepting Islam but after Islam.

If you intend to fast the 60 days of kaffarah you must start one or two days before Rajab so that the 60 days are completed before Ramadan. This is one of the things that most people like to do in the 3 holy months, to fast 90 days one after the other. May Allah help them insha`Allah.

Last year Maulana Sheikh Mehmet was telling about it, and he was even encouraging people to do this because the days are short, and the fasting is easy insha`Allah. If you don't have the intention for fasting the months of Rajab and Sh'aban, then as a rule in Tariqa and it is also a Sunnah of Prophet ﷺ, we fast Mondays and Thursdays and also the holy days in these 2 months.

Lailatu I-Ragha'ib, the holy night of Ragha'ib is the first Thursday of Rajab, it is when the Prophet ﷺ was physically in his mother's womb. It is a night of celebration, and you can fast the first Thursday or you may fast Thursday and Friday.

The other night is **Lailatu I-M'iraj**, the Ascension of the Prophet ﷺ to the Heavens. This also is a holy night to celebrate, and we fast the next day. So, approximately it is 10 days in Rajab and 10 in Sh'aban that we fast. Each day that you fast in Rajab has different rewards and more thawab and promises from Allah Azza wa Jalla to the person who fasts. Fasting for even one day in Rajab is the door to Heavens, and its *thawab* is counted as more and more like you fasted one year other than Ramadan.

There are many tasabeeh, wird/litanies to be done. In Rajab mostly, **astaghfirullah**, astaghfirullah, astaghfirullah... You may read daily 100 - 1000 astaghfirullah until the end of Rajab. Read extra, 100 - 300 **Salawat Shareef** every day in Rajab and also, we have the **Khatm of Tauhid**, La ilaha illa 'Llah. Try to read it from the beginning of Rajab till the end of Ramadan, to the day of Eid. Every day we read 1000 La ilaha illa 'Llah and 100 La ilaha illa 'Llah Muhammadun Rasulullah so in 90 days we complete 100,000 La ilaha illa 'Llah. When you finish it, it is said that this is your book from Heaven, that Allah sets you free from hell. For Sh'aban read extra **Salawat**, 1000 times more than your wird. This is for the normal people who want extra worshipping in these holy months.

Also, in our tariqa tradition we have **khalwah**/seclusion for people. There are 2 times for seclusion, one is from beginning of Rajab till the 10th of Sh`aban, for 40 days, and the second one is in the beginning of Dhi I-Qi'dah till the 10th of Dhi I-Hijjah, till the day of Eid. Two times of the year we can make seclusion in our tariqa. There are 2 types of seclusion: is a **full-time seclusion**. This is not permitted that you do it without the order of the Sheikh; only the Sheikh can give the order for this Khalwa. You cannot ask, "Sheikh can I go into seclusion?" No! The seclusion comes as an order from Allah Azza wa Jalla and the Sheikh will tell you. It is very powerful and very heavy on your ego, and on your personality. Spiritually it is a heavy thing to carry. If you do it yourself without a clear order from the Sheikh, you may lose your mind.

And since every murid should make seclusion even once in his/her lifetime, our sheikhs offer **part-time seclusion** so we can fulfil the mission of being murid in Tariqa. Part-time khalwah is performed at night from **Tahajjud time to Ishraq**, until sunrise, that means 3 hours or more at night. You get up and have wudhu, if you can, have a shower once every day for part time seclusion. You pray your prayers, read Qur'an, make your tasabih, read Dalai'lul Khairat, make Salawat more than usual, more than your wird, more Tawhid, more Basmallahi Sharif and more Ikhlas. You fill this time with worshipping, not talking to anybody and try to be in the presence of Allah Azza wa Jalla. Another time of it is from **Asr till Maghrib** and from **Maghrib till Isha**. This too is approximately 3 hours. This is part-time seclusion, and the Sheikh always gives permission for you to do this. Every year the Sheikh renews it. When you start the seclusion you say "*Nawaitu I-uzla, nawaitu I-khalwah li Llahi Ta'ala*". This is good.

Also, for the 40-day, full-time seclusion they eat only one bowl of soup, one in the morning and one in the evening, mostly lentil soup. They eat only one kind of food, and every 10 days they may eat whatever they like in the morning and the evening but with part time seclusion you may eat anything you like but make it the same kind of food every day for the morning and evening, or what you have in the evening you may eat in the morning. To eat like this is for training your ego. It is less heavy on you, but it is fulfilling the mission of making khalwah while you are in Tariqa and as a murid you are trying to be spiritually better for yourself and for Allah Azza wa Jalla.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

May Allah make it easy for us to do it insha`Allah and to make our prayers. There are **30 rak`ats** in Rajab to make, they are mentioned as prayers of Rajab. Each rak`at is one Fatiha, 3 Qul ya ayyuha I-kafirun and 3 Ikhlas Sharif, you pray them 2 rak`at, 2 rak`at. You can pray them all in the same day or 10 in first, 10 in the middle, 10 in the end of the month or you can pray them in the holy nights in Rajab, we have 2 of them, and they are from the biggest, holy nights celebrated in the Muslim world and very blessed.

Wa min Allahi at-tawfeeq

Fatiha

