

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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The Sacred Months...A Message of Peace for all Humanity

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Allah decrees that there are twelve months-ordained in Allah’s Book on the Day when He created the heavens and earth- four months of which are sacred; this is the right way.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

It is a grace from Allah the Almighty to state certain times for people to be occasions of goodness and blessing, and during these times Allah grants people multiple reward for their good deeds and forgive their sins. Allah says in the Glorious Qur’an, **“Remind them of the Days of Allah.”** Our Prophet (PBUH) said, **“You Lord bestows in the days of your lives winds of beneficence, so benefit from them, as one of you may win these winds and thus he will not suffer any hardship afterwards.”**

One of these occasions is the sacred months. The Almighty Allah referred to them in the Qur’anic Ayah saying, **“Allah decrees that there are twelve months- ordained in Allah’s Book on the Day when He created the heavens and earth- four months of which are sacred: this is the right way. Do not wrong your souls in these months.”** The Prophet (PBUH) spoke about them with more details in his farewell sermon saying, **“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-Qi’da, Dhul-Hijja and al-Muharram,**

and (the fourth being) *Rajab Mudar* (which stands between *Jumada (al-th-thani)* and *Sha'ban*."

The sacred months are inviolable months and have a great status in the sight of Allah, and they have been given this name for their sacredness. Therefore, the Islamic Shari'ah prohibits fighting during these months as the Almighty Allah says, **"They ask you [Prophet] about fighting in the sacred month. Say, 'Fighting in that month is a great offence."** Thus, the sacred months carry a message of peace for all humanity that Islam is the religion of peace as one of the Most Beautiful Names of Allah is the "Source of Peace" As Allah says, **"He is Allah: there is no god other than Him, the Controller, the Holy One, Source of Peace."** Moreover, our Prophet (PBUH) is the prophet of mercy and peace as Allah says about him, **"It was only as a mercy that We sent you [Prophet] to all people."** Among the supplication that the Prophet used to repeat after Prayers, "O Allah, You are Peace and from You comes peace."

Islam is not a religion eager to fight or blood-shedding. On the Contrary, Islam pursues to stop it as much as possible when there is a means for this. Allah says, **"But if they incline towards peace, you [Prophet] must also incline towards it."** Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "O people! Do not long for encountering the enemy and supplicate to Allah to grant you security." The message of Islam is a message of peace and harmony, and its sublime purpose is the happiness of all humanity. The Almighty Allah says, **"People, We created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should recognize one another. In Allah's eyes, the most honoured of you are the ones most mindful of Him: Allah is all knowing, all aware."**

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

Respecting the sacred months means to stop all kinds of terrorism, extremism, blood-shedding and terrorizing the innocent. It also means increasing one's good deeds. So, we have to show more diligence in our worship of Allah and in performing ritual deeds to purify our souls. Allah says, "**Do good so that you may succeed.**" The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Fast during the sacred months for some days and omit fasting for some other days." He (PBUH) repeated this sentence thrice.

One of these sacred months is the month of Rajab which is derived in Arabic from the word *Tarjeeb*: i.e. honoring. The Arabs used to call it the deaf month, because during it they do not hear the sound of war. This month also witnessed the miracle of *al-Isra* and *al-Miraj* that our Prophet (PBUH) experienced. IT is also a key to the months of goodness and blessings. Abu Bakr al-Warraq al-Balkhi said, "Rajab is a month of planting; Sha'ban is the month of watering; and Ramadan is the month of harvesting."

How beautiful is it to take advantage of the opportunity of the sacred months by devoting them to worship, development, perfection of work, performing ritual deeds, feeding the poor, and spreading the spirit of solidarity and compassion, as our Prophet (PBUH) said, "The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people. The most beloved deed to Allah is to make a Muslim happy, remove one of his troubles, pay his debt on his behalf, or feed his hunger. And that I walk with a brother to fulfill one of his needs is more beloved to me than secluding myself in this mosque in Medina for a month. Whoever suppresses his rage, even though he could fulfill his anger if he wished, Allah will secure his heart on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever walks with his brother regarding a need until he secures it for him, then Allah Almighty will make his footing firm across the bridge on the day when the footings are shaken."

May Allah bless the month of Rajab and Sha'ban for us and make us witness the month of Ramadan!