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Recite whenever you see a Hilāl (crescent)

The Prophet ﷺ has said, it is recommended (*mustahab*) to recite Sūrat al-Fātiha seven times upon seeing a crescent. Whosoever recites it at the sighting of the crescent, Allah will protect him from the inflammation of the eyes in that month. (Ibn Tāwūs, *Iqbal* 628; Majlisī, *Bihār* 95:376).

Spend these nights in ‘ibādāt

Imam Ja‘far al-Sādiq عليه السلام said: I heard from my father, who heard from his grandfather saying that [Imam] ‘Ali عليه السلام loved freeing himself [for worshipping Allah] on four nights in the year: 1st night of Rajab, 15th night of Sha‘bān, eve of [Eid] al-Fitr and eve of [Eid] al-Nahr (i.e. 10th of Dhūl Hijjah). (Tūsī, *Misbāh* 2:648; Ibn Tāwūs, *Iqbal*, p 421)

Preface to the Enhanced Edition

Alhamdu lillāh we have received numerous comments and feedback from users of our A‘māl books (Manuals of Devotions). What appears in this fifth edition of Rajab and Sha‘bān Devotions is what some users would like to see in a single book: all essential and important acts of devotions found in renown books of A‘māl and Du‘ās, especially as found in Shaykh ‘Abbās Qummī’s *Mafātih al-Jinan* - the most popular work in the genre.

This enhanced edition has corrected some of the errors appearing in previous editions. Additionally, three new features have been added:

1. The general acts of devotions for Rajab and Sha‘bān appear at the beginning of the section for each month. This is followed by the acts of devotions for specific nights and days.
2. The months of Rajab and Sha‘bān are replete with numerous religious occasions. Besides including recommended supplications, glorifications and prayers, we have included Salawāt and Ziyārat to be recited on the birth and death anniversaries of the Ma‘sumīn عليه السلام. The salawāt were taught by Imam Hasan al-‘Askari عليه السلام to his disciple ‘Abdullāh b. Muhammad al-‘Ābid, when he asked the Imam the manner of invoking salawāt on the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وآله and his successors.
3. The font size of the Arabic text and corresponding English translation has been set to 23 and 14 points respectively. This will allow most users to recite with ease.

‘Umrah and Ziyārat in Rajab

1) ‘Umrah (i.e., the shorter pilgrimage) can be performed anytime during the year. However, a number of Hadith have been received from the Ma’sūmīn عليه السلام encouraging the faithful to perform ‘Umrah in the Month of Rajab.

Shaykh Tūsī narrates on the authority of Abū Ja‘far Imam Muhammad al-Bāqir: *The best ‘umrah is the ‘Umrah of Rajab.*

Shaykh al-Sadūq reports from Mu‘awiyah b. ‘Ammār that Abū

‘Abdillāh Imam Ja‘far al-Sādiq عليه السلام was asked which ‘umrah is better: The ‘Umrah of Rajab or the ‘Umrah in the month of Ramadan? So, he said, *No, rather the ‘Umrah of Rajab is the best.*

In *al-Kāfi* there is another Hadith from Mu‘awiyah ibn ‘Ammār on the authority of Abū ‘Abdillāh عليه السلام: *A pilgrim can perform ‘umrah in any month during a year, (but) the best ‘umrah is the ‘Umrah of Rajab.*

It is reported in *Iqbāl* that Imam Ali ibn al-Husayn عليه السلام was once in Makkah for the ‘umrah of Rajab. His days and nights were spent in prayers by the side of the Ka‘bah. Most of the time, days and nights on, he was seen in the state of prostration. He was heard saying the following *dhikr* in prostration:

عَظْمَ الذَّنْبِ مِنْ عَبْدِكَ فَلْيَحْسِنِ الْعَفْوَ مِنْ عِنْدِكَ.

Your servant’s sins are enormous, so let the pardon from You be gracious.

2) Ibn Abī Nasr narrates that he asked Abul Hasan al-Ridā عليه السلام: in which month should I perform the *ziyārah* of Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام? He said in the middle of Rajab and in the middle of Sha‘bān.

3) It should also be known that the *ziyārah* of the Imam Ali al-Ridā عليه السلام during the month of Rajab has been specially recommended, and according to a tradition has a merit next to that of Hajj.