

**Let's accumulate good deeds in the month of Sha'ban and prepare for the month of  
Ramadan**

All praises are due to **Allah**. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except **Allah**, the uniquely One who has no partners in **His** one-ness. And I testify that the Prophet **Muhammad** is a slave of **Allah** and **His** Messenger.

Dear Believers! **Shaban**: A month in which deeds are raised. **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah al-Fatir**:  
**“O mankind! Worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous.”** (S.2 V.21)

It is narrated of **Anas ibn Malik RA** that the Messenger of **Allah SAW** said: “Do good throughout your lives and open yourself up to the fragrant breezes of the mercy of **Allah**. For **Allah** has fragrant breezes from **His** mercy, affecting thereby whom **He** wills from **His** slaves.” [Tabarani] Know that the days of this month of **Shaban** are blessed, for in it are raised our deeds to the **Lord** of the Heavens and the Earth. So, it would indeed be a beautiful thing that a person acquire tremendous reward through his performing acts of devotion therein, occupying his time with worship, such that his faith is increased and that his spiritual rank is raised. This would be consistent with the example of the Prophet **SAW**, for when he was asked about striving for devotion in **Shaban** :said he “That is a month to which people do not pay much attention, between **Rajab** and **Ramadan**. It is a month in which the deeds are taken up to the **Lord** of the worlds, and I like that my deeds be taken up when I am fasting. [Sunan an-Nasa'i] Some of the Scholars have said: For the reason that **Shaban** serves as an introduction to **Ramadan**, there has been legislated in it that which is legislated in **Ramadan** itself concerning worship and devotion. So, let us strive in the worship of our **Lord** in these days, so that we can ready our hearts for **Ramadan** and to habituate our souls towards devotion towards the Most Merciful.

**Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah al-Baqarah** and **Surah at-Taubah**:

**“Indeed, those who recite the Book of Allah and establish prayer and spend [in His cause] out of what We have provided them, secretly and publicly, [can] expect a profit that will never perish.”**  
**“That He may give them in full their rewards and increase for them of His bounty. Indeed, He is Forgiving and Appreciative....”** (S.35 V.29--30)

So, O **Allah** bestow and bless us to invest in the month of **Shaban**, and aid us in remembering **You** and being grateful to **You**, and in having a good opinion of **Your** slaves, O Most Merciful. I say this, and seek your forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek **His** forgiveness, indeed **He** is the most forgiving, most merciful.



## Friday Khutbah of Masjid Otsuka

Feb, Friday 23. 2024

### Let's accumulate good deeds in the month of Sha'ban and prepare for the month of Ramadan

Slaves of **Allah!** Know that in the night of the middle of **Shaban**, **Allah** sends **His** mercy on those who seek mercy, and seeks **His** forgiveness and purification for those who do wrong. For **it is narrated on Abu Musa al-Ashari RA on the Messenger SAW** said: **Allah** looks down on the middle night of **Shaban** and forgives all **His** creatures, except a polytheist or one who is hostile. [Ibn Majah] So, what is more beautiful than one who forgives a human being who wronged them and reconciles with those who hurt them, and who seeks much forgiveness through supplication and humility towards the **Lord** of the Heavens and Earth. Such a person asks mercy from the most Merciful of the Merciful, a means by which they enter **Ramadan** through a clean and pure slate.

May the peace and the blessings of **Allah** be upon prophet **Muhammad SAW**, his family and all of his Companions. May **Allah** be pleased with the Rightly Guided **Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman** and **Ali**, and all those who will follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

O **Allah!** Accept our prayers, all our **ibada** and all of our good deeds and forgive us for our **sins**.

O **Allah!** Guide us to the right path and make us of those on whom **You** bestows **Your** mercy.

O **Allah!** Accept us for **Your** service and for the service of **Islam** and **Muslims**

O **Allah!** Give **shifa** to all those who are sick.

O **Allah!** Grant safety and security to everyone here in Japan as well as all over the world. **Aamin ya Rabbil Aalamin**.

