

# The Four Sacred Months

Muharram, Rajab, Dhul Qa'da and Dhul Hijjah

Of the twelve months of the Islāmic calendar, four months are regarded as sacred months. These are **Muharram, Rajab, Dhul Qa'da and Dhul Hijjah**. Because of their special significance, the rewards for good deeds are increased during these months. At the same time, one should take care to abstain from sins during these months because their consequences are also significantly worse. This is the opinion of Hadhrat Abdullāh bin Abbās رضي الله عنه as well. Similar is the case with Makkah Mukarrama, where the rewards of good deeds are increased and the punishment for sins is more severe. (Tafseer Ibn Katheer Vol.2 Pg. 554)

Hadhrat Qatādah رحمه الله عليه says, “The sin for an injustice during these months is greater than the same sin during other months. Although injustice always remains a major sin, Allāh تعالى سبحانه و تعالى is at liberty to add gravity to whatever He pleases.” He states further, “Allāh تعالى سبحانه و تعالى

has accorded special virtue to some of His creation above the rest. He has given special virtue to the messengers from among the angels, and to the messengers from mankind. He has given special virtue to His speech over that of others, and He has selected the Masājid to grant His special merit from among all other places. From among the months, He has accorded special virtue to the month of Ramadhān, and the four sacred months. From among the days, He has selected the day of Jumu'ah (Friday), and from among the nights, He has selected the night of Qadr for special merit. One should therefore attach value to those things that Allāh سبحانه و تعالی has given value. Intelligent people realise that the things that are really important are those things to which Allāh سبحانه و تعالی has granted importance.” (Tafseer Ibn Katheer Vol.2 Pg. 554)

It is therefore necessary that Muslims exert themselves to carry out good deeds during the months of **Muharram, Rajab, Dhul Qa'da and Dhul Hijjah**. Imām Jassās Rāzi رحمه الله عليه writes in his book “Ahkāmul Qur'ān”, that the speciality of these months is that whoever engages in Ibādah, will be inspired to engage in Ibādah during the remaining months of the year as well. Similarly, the person who makes an effort to abstain from sin during these months, will find it easy to abstain from sin during the other months of the year. Therefore, failure to derive benefit from these months is a great loss indeed. (Ma'āriful Qur'an Vol 4 Pg 373)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Muharram and Āshura, Virtues and Laws by Muhaddith-E-Kabir Shaykh Fazlur Rahman Saheb Azmi دامت برکاته