

# The Sacred Months

Allah Ta'ala states regarding the months of the year: "of them four are sacred"

The Arabs used to consider these months sacred during the time of Jahiliyyah (ignorance). The Prophet upheld their sanctity and said, "Three are in succession; Dhul-Qa'dah, Dhul-Hijjah and Muharram, and (the fourth is) Rajab of (the tribe of) Mudar which comes between Jumada (Ath-Thani) and Sha'ban." (Bukhari)

The Sacred Months were made four, three in succession and one alone, so that the Hajj and `Umrah are performed with ease. Dhul-Qa'dah, was made sacred because it is the month before Hajj so that people could travel safely to the preform Haj. Dhul-Hijjah, the next month, was made sacred because it is the month of Hajj, during which the Hajj rituals are performed. Muharram, which comes next, was made sacred so that the Hajis are able to go back to their areas in safety after performing Hajj. Rajab, in the middle of the lunar year, was made sacred so that those coming from the farthest areas of Arabia are able to perform Umrah and visit the House and then go back to their areas safely.

Allah Ta'ala further states,

﴿ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ • فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا فِيهِنَّ أَنْفُسَكُمْ﴾

That is the right religion, so wrong not yourselves therein (during these Sacred Months).

Ibn `Abbas *Radhiyallaahu Anhu* commenting on this verse states, "In all there are twelve months. Allah then chose four out of these months and made them sacred, emphasizing their sanctity, making sinning in them greater, in addition to, multiplying rewards of righteous deeds during them." Qatadah said about Allah's statement, (so wrong not yourselves therein), "Injustice during the Sacred Months is worse and graver than injustice in other months. Verily, injustice is always wrong, but Allah makes things graver than others as He will." He also said, "Allah has chosen some of His creation above others. He chose Messengers from angels and from men. He also chose His Speech above all speech, the Masajid above other areas of the earth, Ramadan and the Sacred Months above all months, Friday above the other days and Laylatul-Qadr (The Night of Decree) above all nights. Therefore, sanctify what Allah has sanctified, for doing so is the practice of people of understanding and comprehension."

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