

THE 4 SACRED MONTHS OF THE ISLAMIC YEAR

Allah Ta'ala states regarding the months of the year: *“of them (the twelve months), four are sacred.”* Even before Islam, the Arabs would consider these months sacred and ceased all bloodshed and warfare therein. The Prophet ﷺ upheld their sanctity and said, *“Three (months) are in succession; Dhul-Qa`dah, Dhul-Hijjah and Muharram, and (the fourth is) Rajab which falls between Jumaad us Thaani and Sha`ban.”* (Bukhari)

Dhul-Qa`dah was made sacred due to it being the month before Hajj so that people could travel safely to perform Hajj.

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 Hujjaj are able to return home safely 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 thereafter return home safely.

Allah Ta'ala further states, *“That is the right religion, so do not wrong yourselves therein (during these Sacred Months).”* (Surah Taubah; 36)

Ibn Abbas رضي الله عنه commenting on this verse states, ***“In all, there are twelve months. Allah Ta’ala then chose four out of these months and made them sacred, emphasizing their sanctity, making sinning in them greater and multiplying rewards of righteous deeds during them.”*** (Tafseer Ibn Katheer)



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