

LAYLATUL BARA'AH

Allāh Ta'ālā, in His infinite Grace has given us many special occasions to obtain His Special Mercy and Forgiveness. A few examples are the blessed month of Ramadān, Laylat-ul-Qadr, and the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah. The Fifteenth night of Sha'bān is one such special occasion.

Numerous Ahādīth mention the tremendous value of this night. On this night, countless people are forgiven by Allāh Ta'ālā. In a lengthy Narration Sayyidah Aaisha radiyallāhu 'anhā reports that Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam said, "Jibrīl came to me and said: "This is the fifteenth night of Sha'bān. Allāh Ta'ālā emancipates people during this night, equivalent to the amount of hair on the goats of the tribe of Kalb. [Tirmidhī, Ibn Mājah, Ahmad]

However, Allāh Ta'ālā does not look with mercy on this night at:

- an idolater
- a person who harbors enmity for others in his heart
- one who severs family ties
- a male who wears his garment below his ankles
- a person who disobeys his parents and
- a person who habitually consumes intoxicants.

[Composite: Ibn Mājah, Bayhaqī]

We should carefully consider and sincerely repent and seek forgiveness lest we be deprived of the virtue of this night.

Sins which deal with the rights of our fellow human beings (huqūq-ul-'ibād), are not forgiven by Allāh Ta'ālā until forgiveness has been sought from the person concerned and a genuine effort is made to rectify the wrong.

Sayyidah Aaisha radiyallāhu 'anhā narrates: "On that night (15 Sha'ban), I heard Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam saying:

"O Allah, I seek protection in Your forgiveness from Your punishment; and I seek shelter in Your pleasure from Your displeasure; and I seek safety in You, from You. Grand is your countenance. I cannot encompass Your praise. You are as You have praised Yourself."

The Night of Barā'ah

This night is called the night of Barā'ah. The night wherein the decision of deliverance from Jahannam is made. Various narrations support the acceptability of the virtue of this night. This is the general consensus of the Muhaddithūn and Fuqahā'. We should not fall prey to the mistaken belief that serves to create doubt in the virtue of this night.

Refrain from committing sins

Repent sincerely, and resolve to stay away from disobedience. In Allah's merciful estimation just one sincere Taubah is sufficient for all sins committed.

What to do on this Night

Plan your day in such a way that you take some rest in the afternoon in order to be able to spend more time in 'Ibādah at night.

Perform whatever 'Ibādah our hearts incline to - some recitation of Qur'an Sharīf and Zikrullah, nafl Salāh, sincere Taubah, abundant Istighfār, Durood Sharīf and deep-hearted Duā.

Sleep for a little while and try to get up for Tahajjud salaah and engage in Duā.

It is strongly recommended to switch off all electronic devices. The valuable time spent on them should be devoted to 'Ibādah.

One should avoid forwarding unauthentic chain messages claiming specific rewards of virtues. Always verify the content with a reputable Ālim.

May Allāh Ta'ālā grant us the ability to exert ourselves on this night and may He shower us and all the Marhūmīn with His special mercy and forgiveness. Āmīn.

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