

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The 15th Night of Sha'bān

Allāh ﷻ has presented his bondsmen with special occasions which entail the golden opportunity of earning the mercy and forgiveness of Allāh ﷻ. Some explicit examples of these occasions are the month of Ramadhān, Laylat al-Qadr and the 15th night of Sha'bān. Several Ahādīth extol the tremendous merits of this occasion. Amongst them is the fact that countless people are forgiven by Allāh ﷻ during this blessed night. It is due to this reason that this night is called “The night of Barā’at” (i.e. a night wherein the judgement of salvation from Jahannam and punishment is passed). ‘Allāma Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله عليه, a scholar notorious for refuting innovation, also accepted the virtue of this night; he said, “So many Ahādīth and reports exist regarding the excellence of the 15th night of Sha'bān that one is compelled to accept that this night possesses some virtue”. (Faydh al-Qadīr)

Special virtue regarding the 15th night of Sha'bān

Contrary to other nights wherein Allāh ﷻ descends to the lowest Heaven to bestow His special blessings during the last third of the night, on the night of Barā’at the special rain of mercy and forgiveness from Allāh ﷻ begins to shower down right from the beginning of the night and continues right up till dawn. The sins of countless people are pardoned. Furthermore, the number of announcements seeking out those who want forgiveness supersede those which occur on other nights. The virtue of this night is that from the very beginning of the night Allāh ﷻ turns with special mercy and attention towards the creation and forgives those who repent and seek forgiveness. Therefore, every Muslim should value this night and turn towards Allāh ﷻ with sincere regret and shame over sins committed, and they should make a promise

to never return to sin. Every Muslim should seek forgiveness for oneself and the rest of the Muslims, living and deceased. Have firm hope and resolution in the heart that Allāh ﷻ will surely show mercy and forgiveness.

Unfortunate People

It is understood from Ahādīth that even on this night, some are deprived of Allāh ﷻ's forgiveness. They are as follows:

1. Idolators.
2. Those who harbour enmity against others.
3. Those who consume alcohol.
4. Those who disobey their parents.
5. Those who wear their trousers, kurta, lungi etc., below their ankles.
6. Those who commit adultery and murder.
7. Those who sever (break) family ties.

From the above, we can gauge the severity of these sins and the need to perpetually abstain from them as they are so grave that even when Allāh ﷻ's mercy comes to the fore, they still pose an obstacle to our forgiveness. ⁱ

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ⁱ Source used to prepare this article: Shabe Barā'at (15th of Sha'bān) in the light of the Qur'ān and Hadīth, written by Muhaddith-e-Kabīr Shaykh Fazlur Rahman Saheb Azmi (DB). Pdf of the book can be downloaded from our website.