

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Blessings of Shab-e-Bara-at

Month of the Holy Prophet ﷺ

The Prophet of Rahmah, the Intercessor of Ummah, the Owner of Jannah صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has said: 'Sha'ban is the month of mine and Ramadan is the month of Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ.' (Al-Jami'-us-Saghir, pp. 301, Hadis 4889 – Dar-ul-Kutub 'Ilmiyyah, Beirut)

List of the dead is made

Sayyidatuna 'Aishah Siddiqah رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهَا has narrated, 'The Beloved and Blessed Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ would keep fasts throughout Sha'ban.' She رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهَا once asked, 'Ya Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! Do you like fasting in Sha'ban the most?' He صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied, 'Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ records the name of every person who will die this year and I like to be in the state of fasting at the time of my demise.' (Musnad Abi Ya'la, pp. 277, vol. 4, Hadis 4890 – Dar-ul-Kutub 'Ilmiyyah, Beirut)

Crucial decisions

Dear Islamic brothers! How crucial the 15th night of Sha'ban-ul-Mu'azzam is! Who knows what will be predestined for him. Sometimes, a person is heedless but he is unaware of what is in store for him. It is stated in Ghunya-tut-Ṭālibīn, 'The shrouds of many people are washed and ready but the people who are going to wear those shrouds are wandering around in the marketplaces. There are many people whose graves have been dug and are ready but those who are going to be buried in them are lost in happiness. Some people are laughing but the time of their ruin is close. The construction of many houses is going to be completed but the time of the death of their owners has also approached.' (Ghunya-tut-Talibin, pp. 348, vol. 1)

The Deprived People

Dear Islamic brothers! Shab-e-Bara-at is a vital night and it must not be spent carelessly. Downpour of special blessings is showered in this holy night. In this night, Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ frees people from Hell in a number more than that of hairs on the goats of the tribe of Banī Kalb. It is recorded in books that the tribe of Banī Kalb possessed the largest number of goats among the tribes of Arabia.

Alas! There are some unfortunate people who have been declared to remain deprived of forgiveness in Shab-e-Bara-at i.e. the night of rescue. Shaykh Imam Bayhaqi Shafi'i عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ اللهِ الْعَظِيمِ has reported in 'Faḍāil-ul-Awqāt': The Prophet of Raḥmah, the Intercessor of Ummah صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has alarmed, 'Six persons will not be pardoned even in that night:

1. An alcoholic
2. The one who is disobedient to parents.
3. Habitual of fornication.
4. The one who cuts-off family ties.
5. The one who sketches portraits.
6. The one who tells tales.

(Faḍāil-ul-Awqāt, pp. 130, vol. 1, Hadis 27 – Maktaba-tul-Manarah, Makka-tul-Mukarramah)

Similarly, soothsayer, magician, the one who dangles his Shalwar or Tahband below the ankles out of arrogance, and the one who bears hatred and malice for another Muslim have been alarmed for being deprived of forgiveness. If someone has been indulged in any of the above mentioned sins should repent from the core of his heart for that particular sin and for all the sins in general as well before the advent of Shab-e-Bara-at; rather he should firmly repent right

now without any delay. If someone has violated the rights of others, then, in addition to repentance, he should apologise/compensate them.

Fast on the 15th of Sha'ban

Sayyidunā 'Ali كَرَّمَ اللهُ تَعَالَى وَجْهَهُ الْكَرِيمَ has reported that the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, 'When the 15th Night of Sha'ban comes, do Qiyam (for worship) in the night and observe fast in the day. No doubt Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ reveals special Divine Manifestation on sky above the earth from the time of sunset and announces, 'Is there anyone seeking forgiveness so that I may forgive him? Is there anyone seeking sustenance so that I may grant him sustenance? Is there anyone afflicted so that I may relieve his affliction? Is there so and so...' He عَزَّوَجَلَّ keeps announcing it until the time of the Fajr.' (*Sunan Ibn Majah, pp. 160, vol. 2, Hadis 1388 – Dar-ul-Ma'rifah, Beirut*)

A rewarding opportunity

The books of deeds are exchanged on Shab-e-Bara-at. If possible, observe fast on the 14th of Sha'ban to get recorded a fast on the closing day of the book of deeds.

On 14th of Sha'ban, after offering the congregational Salah of 'Asr it is better to observe I'tikaf and stay in Masjid with the intention of waiting for Salah of Maghrib. In this way the last moments when the book of deeds is about to change, the virtues of being present in Masjid, being in I'tikaf, and waiting expectantly to offer Salat-ul-Maghrib etc. will be inscribed in it. It is even golden to spend the whole night worshipping Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ.

Security from evil spell/black magic throughout the year

It is mentioned on page 134 of the book 'Islāmī Zindagi', comprising of 170 pages, published by Maktaba-tul-Madīnah, the publishing organ of Dawat-e-Islami: 'In the 15th night of Sha'ban, boil seven leaves of berry tree in water, perform Ghul (ritual bath) with that water (when it is cooled down) إِنَّ شَاءَ اللهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ you will remain secured from evil spell/black magic throughout the year.'

Six Nawafil after Salat-ul-Maghrib

To offer specific six Rak'at of Nafl after the Fard and Sunan of Salat-ul-Maghrib is one of the traditions of the pious saints رَحِمَهُمُ اللهُ تَعَالَى of Islam. After offering the Fard and Sunan etc., offer six Rak'at of Nafl in sets of two. Before offering the first two Rak'at, make the intention: 'Ya Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ! By the virtue of these two Rak'at, grant me long life with wellbeing.'

Similarly, before offering the second two Rak'at, make the intention: 'Ya Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ! By the virtue of these two Rak'at, protect me from calamities.' Before offering the last two Rak'at, make the intention: 'Ya Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ! By the virtue of these two Rak'at, do not make me dependent on anyone except You.'

After every two Rak'at, recite Surah al-Ikhlās twenty one times or Surah Yasin once. If possible, recite both. It is also possible that one Islamic brother recites Surah Yasin while the rest listen to it. Keep in mind that the other Islamic brother(s) should not recite Surah Yasin etc. aloud individually while recitation is already taking place loudly. إِنَّ شَاءَ اللهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ Huge reward will pile up for you at the very beginning of the blessed night. Each time after Surah Yasin, recite the Du'a of mid-Sha'ban.

Some Madanī Requests by Sag-e-Madinah

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ! It has been practice of Sag-e-Madinah since long to offer six Nafl and do recitation from the holy Quran at Shab-e-Bara-at as prescribed above. This form of worship after Maghrib is Nafl. It is neither Fard nor Wājib and there is no prohibition in Shari'ah about Nafl and Tilawah after Maghrib.

Madanī Request: So, if possible, all Islamic brothers should offer these six Nawafil and other related invocations after Salah of Maghrib in their Masjid to earn enormous reward. Islamic sisters may perform these rituals in their homes.

6 Sha'ban-ul-Mu'azzam 1431 AH
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