

THE SPECIAL MERCY OF THE 15TH NIGHT OF SHA'BAAN

Written by Administrator

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LAILATUL BARAA'T (the 15th Night of Sha'baan) is among the most auspicious nights of the Islamic calendar. Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) instructed that the 15th Night of Sha'baan should be devoted to ibaadat, and Fast should be observed on the 15th day.

As much of the Night as possible should be devoted to ibaadat – ibaadat of any kind – Nafil Salaat, Tilaawat of the Qur'aan, Istighfaar, Tasbeeh, Durood, Dua, etc. There are no specific acts of ibaadat to be observed on this holy night. It is a Night which should be spent in solitude in ibaadat at home.

The custom of congregating in the Musjids for a special lecture, etc., on this night is bid'ah. Neither did Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) instruct such an observance, nor did the Sahaabah ever practise such functions. It is a night of silent communion and supplication with Allah Ta'ala.

On this Night, Allah's Special's Presence descends to the first Heaven, and the entire Night Allah Ta'ala calls on His servants to put their needs - needs of this world and the Hereafter – to Him. It is a Night when the fate of people – their Rizq, births, deaths, etc. – is recorded to take place. It is therefore essential that one is engaged in ibaadat and humble petitioning and supplicating to Allah Ta'ala for all one's needs. It is an occasion when Duas are readily accepted.

It should also be noted that just as the rewards and mercies are multiplied manifold on this Night, so too are the punishment and the wrath of Allah Ta'ala increased for those who sin on this sacred Night. People should be merciful upon their own souls at least during this great Night when Allah Ta'ala is closer to them. Abstain from viewing into Dajjaal's Eye (i.e. television). At least switch off this evil Eye during this holy Night and endeavour to be in communion with Allah, Rabbul Aalameen.

No one knows if he/she will be alive next year to see another Lailatul Baraa't. During the course of the year a number of people who were with us last year and a short while ago, have departed from this world. It may be that we shall not be around next year this time. Therefore, do not squander this sacred occasion in sin and futility. Utilize the Night for ibaadat and muraaqabah (meditation). Reflect on the purpose of life on earth – on the shortness of life – on the perishable nature of all worldly things and the world – meditate on the severity of the pangs of Death which is so close to you – meditate on the terrible torment of the Grave and the hardships and the terrors of Qiyaamah. These are all aspects which Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and the Qur'aan command us to meditate on. Without such constant meditation, the heart remains sealed and the intellectual faculty remains blighted. Without such meditation, the heart remains welded to the short-lived and false glitter of the material bounties which Allah Ta'ala has bestowed to us to assist us along this earthly journey.

Make your best endeavour to perform Tahajjud Salaat at least during this auspicious Night. It is the best and the most wonderful time for the acceptance of supplications (Duas). Begin the 15th Night of Sha'baan with Ibaadat. A few minutes before sunset of this day (14th Sha'baan) be in ibaadat, especially Dua. Let the setting of the sun of this 14th day and the commencement of the 15th Night find you with your hands raised with humility petitioning Allah Azza Wa Jal for His Special Mercies of this sacred Night. After Isha Salaat, don't squander the valuable moments of this wonderful Night in idle conversation with 'friends'. Whilst it is haraam

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to waste the precious moments of every night in futility and idle talk, the prohibition has greater emphasis on the 15th Night of Sha'baan and other Holy Nights.

An aspect of fundamental importance to remember, especially on this Night and Day is to ensure that your heart is purified of malice. If your heart harbours any animosity and malice for anyone, expel the rot from your heart. A heart darkened with spiritual filth blocks off the anwaar (rays of spiritual light) descending from the Divine Arsh (Throne). These anwaar settle only in the illuminated hearts of the Mu'mineen.

If you have hurt anyone or usurped their rights, make amends and seek pardon. Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) has warned that a person whose heart is soiled with malice will not be blessed with the mercies of this great Night. Don't allow pride to prevent you from seeking pardon and humbling yourself. Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said:

"He who adopts humility for Allah's Sake, Allah will elevate him."

There are misguided people who contend that there is no special significance in the 15th Night of Sha'baan nor is it Sunnat to fast on the 15th Day of Sha'baan. Don't dispute with such miscreants. Their hearts are sealed. Ignore them, for Allah Ta'ala commands us in the Qur'aan: "When they (the Mu'mineen) hear nonsense, they turn away from it, and they say: 'For us are our deeds, and for you are your deeds. We do not follow the ignoramuses.'"

For more than 14 centuries has the Ummah observed the sanctity of this wonderful Night. But people in these belated times in close proximity to Qiyaamah, seek to negate what the Sahaabah and reported from Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). Those who deviate from the Sunnah, deviate into the Fire.

Another practice to be observed on this Night is to visit the Qabrustaan (Graveyard) to make Dua for the amwaat (the dead), and to remind yourself that tomorrow this Qabrustaan will be your home as well.