

SHAB-E-BARAAT (15th SHABAAN)

The Night of Freedom From Fire

Shab-e-Baraat– The Night of Freedom

Shabaan is the eighth month of the Islamic calendar, within includes a special night which is termed as Shab-e-Baraat (The night of Freedom from fire). There are many Hadith established from authentic sources to prove that it is a meritorious night in which the people of the earth are attended by a special divine mercy.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) has said that *“In the night of Shab-e-Baraat a list is prepared for the forthcoming year, the list contains the names of those who are to be born, and also of those who are to die in the following year, as well as all the events that are to take place. In this night provision is also made for the livelihood of all His creation and all their deeds are brought before the Almighty Allah. And it is also in this auspicious night that Allah through his mercy releases many of His creation from the torments of Hellfire”*.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) has also been reported to have said that: *“When Shab-e-Baraat comes, spend the night in repentance, asking for forgiveness, offering dua and namaaz and the remembrance of Allah. Keep a fast during the daytime, because on the beginning of this night (that is immediately after sunset) the Almighty Allah comes to the first sky and proclaims: “Is there anyone seeking forgiveness for his sins, so that I may forgive him? Is there anyone seeking means of livelihood, so that I may give him livelihood? Is there anyone engulfed in troubles and misfortunes, so that I may release him from his troubles and misfortunes? Besides, is there anyone who is desirous of other needs, so that I may grant him these needs? In this manner Almighty Allah proclaims throughout the whole night till the early dawn”*.

According to Aishah (R.A) on this night Allah is merciful to everybody and forgives them, except for the following people: (until they seek forgiveness from these major sins).

- A Mushrik - Idol Worshipper & A Person Who Associates Partners With Allah.
- A Person Who Breaks Relations With Family.
- A Person Who Wears His Clothes Extending Beyond His Ankles (As A Sign Of Pride)
- A Person Who Disobeys Their Parents.
- A Person Who Has A Habit Of Drinking Alcohol.

It is indeed distressing that when Almighty Allah wants to forgive our sins, save us from the tortures of Hellfire, wants to increase our means of livelihood and free us from our troubles and misfortunes; we turn our faces away from Him. And continue on our reckless path of enjoyment and merrymaking, disregarding all spiritual and moral values, become haughty and proud and thus jeopardise our own future in this world and in the hereafter. In short, we keep ourselves continuously occupied with the material comforts of this world and forget our final abode.

***Let us observe this great day according to the way of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)
and refrain from all actions which deprive us of the blessings from Allah.
Aameen.***

Recommended Acts on Shab-e-Baraat **(The Night of 15th of SHABAAN)**

أَعُوذُ بِعَفْوِكَ مِنْ عِقَابِكَ وَأَعُوذُ بِرِضَاكَ مِنْ سَخَطِكَ وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ
مِنْكَ إِلَيْكَ لَا أَحْصِي ثَنَاءً عَلَيْكَ، أَنْتَ كَمَا أَثْنَيْتَ عَلَى نَفْسِكَ

“I seek refuge of Your forgiveness from Your punishment and I seek refuge of Your pleasure from Your annoyance and I seek Your refuge from Yourself. I cannot praise You as fully as You deserve. You are exactly as You have defined Yourself”.

RECITE THE ABOVE DUA FREQUENTLY DURING THE NIGHT OF SHAB-E-BARAAT.

In order to observe the night of Shab-e-Baraat, one should remain awakened in this night as much as possible and perform the following acts of worship:

- To visit the cemetery is Mustahab (advisable).
- To perform Nafl salaah, preferably Salaatul-tasbeeh.
- To recite the Holy Qur’aan
- To be engaged in the remembrance of Allah (i.e. zikr)
- To frequently send Durood Shareef upon the Holy Prophet (S.A.W)
- And most importantly to turn to Allah and seek His forgiveness of all our sins

The Fast on day of 15th Shabaan

On the day immediately following the night of Shab-e-Baraat i.e. the day of 15th of Shabaan, it is advisable (Mustahab) to keep a fast. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) is reported to have recommended this fast emphatically. Hazrat Ali (R.A) has reported that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said: *“When it is the 15th night of Shabaan, spend the night in worship and prayer and keep fast during the day”*. Although the fasts of this month are not obligatory but nafl, yet the one who fasts in these days out of his own will and choice is entitled to a great reward by Almighty Allah.

Actions to Avoid

The night of 15th of Shabaan is a night in which special blessings are directed towards the Muslims. Therefore, this night should be spent in total submission to Allah Almighty, and refrain from all those activities which may displease Allah. Although it is always incumbent upon every Muslim to abstain from sins, yet this abstinence becomes all the more necessary in such nights, because committing sins in this night will amount to responding divine blessings with disobedience and felony. Such an arrogant attitude can invite nothing but the wrath of Allah. Therefore, one should strictly abstain from all kind of sins.