

ISSUES OF INTEREST SERIES

# THE NIGHT OF BARAAT

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# **THE NIGHT OF BARAAT**

**(ليلة البراءة)**

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## PREFACE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين ، والصلاة والسلام على  
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

There are many important days in Islamic calendar, like the day of Milad un Nabi ( صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم ), the day of A'shooora, the day of Eid ul Fitr and Eid ad-Dhuha, etc. Similarly, there are many significant nights in Islamic calendar, like the Night of Me'raj (ليلة المعراج), Night of Baraat (ليلة البراءة), and the Night of Qadr (ليلة القدر).

In this Book we have discussed about the importance of the Night of Baraat (ليلة البراءة).

## IMPORTANT NIGHTS MENTIONED IN THE QURAN

There are two important nights mentioned in the Quran, as follows'

### THE BLESSED NIGHT (لَيْلَةُ مُبَارَكَةٍ)

**It is in Quran** [ Indeed, We revealed it on a blessed night - Indeed, We are ever warning (to mankind). On that night every wise command is made clear.] (Ad-Dukhan - 3-4).

### THE NIGHT OF QADR (لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ)

**It is in Quran** - [ Surely, We revealed it on the Night of Power/Decree. And What will convey to you what the Night of Power is! The Night of Power is better than thousand months. ] (Al-Qadr - 1-3).

There is **no** clear and categorical evidence in the Quran and Ahadith that tells us that both these nights are one and the same. However, there are many authentic Ahadith identifying a blessed night falling in the middle of Sha'ban and the other falling in the end of Ramadhan.

When we read the above verses of Quran, it looks that the 'Blessed Night' (لَيْلَةُ مُبَارَكَةٍ) falling in mid-Sha'aban is the night when Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) commands are made clear (in the sublime world - عالم غلوي). Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) is warning the mankind that decisions are

taken about them for the following year and they need to be careful and supplicate for pardon for the sins committed by them in the previous years.

The Night of Qadr (الليلة القدر) is a glad tidings / good news to the human beings that this Night is better than one thousand months (more than 33 years) and it is an opportunity for the mankind to make sure that they are benefited from it.

The significance of both these nights is different from each other and both are important nights in Islamic Calendar. The Common feature of both these nights is, the descent of Quran.

## THE DESCENT OF THE QURAN

It is important to note that Quran's descent was gradual, in stages. To understand this issue, let us read the following Quranic verse.

Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) says - فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ [ On this night every wise command is made clear.] (Ad-Dukhan - 4).

This verse clarifies that on the night (which falls in mid-Sha'baan), every divine command intended for the following year is made clear (to the Sublime World - عالم علوي). This shows that on the 'Blessed Night' (ليلة البراءة) the command for the descent of Quran was given and made known to the Sublime World. This fact is described in this verse - إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ [ Indeed, We revealed it on a blessed night. Indeed, We are ever warning (to mankind).] (Ad-Dukhan - 3).

Thus, the divine command was the beginning of the descent of Quran. It was the first stage of the descent of Quran.

Then Quran was descended from the Preserved Tablet (لوح محفوظ) to the first sky on the 'Night of Power/Decree' (ليلة القدر) in the month of Ramadhan. This was the second stage of the descent of Quran.

Then, from the first sky, Quran was revealed, gradually, in stages, to Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) over a period of 23 years. This was the third and final stage of Quran's descent.

Thus, it looks that the blessed night' (الليلة المباركة) mentioned in the above verses is the night which falls on mid-Sha'aban (الليلة النصف من شعبان). This is also known as 'Night of Salvation' (ليلة البراءة) because, on this night every wise command of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) is

made clear, and he looks upon His servants with mercy; listens to their supplications and forgives them. This night is proved from continuous narrations (احاديث متواتر) from many Sahaba and Taba'een in authentic books of Ahadith. We have provided below some of these Ahadith.

(i) Imam Tirmidhi and Imam Ibn Maja established Chapters in their Ahadith books, titled [بَاب مَا جَاءَ فِي لَيْلَةِ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ] What was known about the Middle Night of Sha'aban]. Many Ahadith have been mentioned under these chapters.

(ii) **It is in Hadith** - حدثنا أحمد بن منيع حدثنا يزيد بن هارون أخبرنا الحجاج بن أرطاة عن يحيى بن أبي كثير عن عروة عن عائشة قالت فقدت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم ليلة فخرجت فإذا هو بالبقيع فقال أكننت تخافين أن يحيف الله عليك ورسوله قلت يا رسول الله إني ظننت أنك أتيت بعض نساءك فقال إن الله عز وجل ينزل ليلة النصف من شعبان إلى السماء الدنيا فيغفر لأكثر من عدد شعر غنم كلب - [Ummul Momineen Aisha (رضى الله تعالى عنها) said - 'One night, I did not find the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) in his bed, so I went out searching for him and found him at al-Baqi (Muslim Graveyard in Madina) with his head raised towards the sky. (When he realized that I followed him to Baqi), He said: 'O Aisha (رضى الله تعالى عنها) were you afraid that Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) and His Apostle (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) would treat you unfairly?' I said, 'No, I thought you had gone to spend the night with one of your (other) wives' He said: 'Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) descends to the lowest heaven on the night of mid-Sha'ban and forgives more people than the number of hairs on the hides of the sheep of Bani Kalb.] (Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah, Ahmed)

(iii) **It is in Hadith** - Ummul Momineen Aisha (رضى الله تعالى عنها) reports, 'the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) stood up in prayer during part of the night and made his prostration so lengthy that I thought his soul had been taken back. When I saw this I got up and went to move his big toe, whereupon he moved, so I drew back. When he raised his head from prostration and finished praying, he said: 'O A'isha (رضى الله تعالى عنها), O strikingly beautiful (خَمِيرًا)! Did you think that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) had broken his agreement with you?' She replied: 'No, by Allah, O'Apostle of Allah (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم), but I thought that your soul had been taken back because you stayed in prostration for so long.' He said: 'Do you know what night this is?' She said: 'Allah and His Apostle (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) know best.' He said: 'This is the night of mid-Sha`ban! Verily Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) looks at His servants on the night of mid-Sha`ban, and forgives those who ask forgiveness, and He bestows mercy on those who ask mercy' (Thirmidhi, Ahmed, Bazzar, Baihaqi)



(iv) **It is in Hadith** - عن أبي بكر الصديق عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم ، قال : ينزل الله إلى [ Abu Bakr Siddique (رضى الله تعالى عنه) reported that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said, Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) looks upon His creatures on the night of mid-Sha'ban and forgives everyone except the polytheist and the one who is jealous about others in his heart.] **(Baihaqi, Bazzar, Daylami, Al-Haitami, Majmua Zawaid, etc.)**

(v) عن أبي هريرة قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم إذا كان ليلة النصف من شعبان يَغْفِرُ اللهُ [ Abu Huraira (رضى الله تعالى عنه) reported that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said, Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) looks upon His servants on the night of mid-Sha'ban and forgives everyone except the polytheist and the Wrangler.] **(Musnad al-Bazzar, Al-Haitami, Majmua Zawaid, etc.)**

## THE PRACTICE OF SAHABAH

Celebrating important events/dates in Congregations, in Mosques and religious places is the practice of Sahabah. Muslims can join in praying in Mosques on this auspicious night and supplicate in congregations. If this is not possible, we can arrange small gatherings of our family members at our homes and celebrate these nights. It is important to visit our dead relatives on Shab-e-Baraat as it is Sunnah. It is also important to do Eisaal-e-Thawaab for them and do Fateha and feed people.

(i) The famous historian of early Islam, Mohammad bin Ishaq Al-Makki al-Fakihi, who lived in Makka in the third century (died in 272 AH) reported as follows:

قال أبو عبد الله محمد بن إسحاق بن العباس المكي الفاكهي (المتوفى : 272هـ)

وأهل مكة فيما مضى إلى اليوم إذا كان ليلة النصف من شعبان ، خرج عامة الرجال والنساء إلى المسجد ، فصلوا ، وطافوا ، وأحيوا ليلتهم حتى الصباح بالقراءة في المسجد الحرام ، حتى يخنموا القرآن كله ، ويصلوا (أخبار مكة للفاكهي: ذكر عمل أهل مكة ليلة النصف من شعبان واجتهادهم فيها لفضلها

The people (men and women) of Makka, in the past and today, come out of their homes and flock to the mosques, particularly to the Grand Mosque of Makka on the night of mid-Sha'ban. They will pray, and

repent for their past sins and some of them complete the recital of whole Quran on that night. They will be praying all through the night till Salatul Fajr. (Akhbar Makka lil Fakihi)

(ii) Imam Shafii (died 204 AH) stated the following:

قال أبو عبد الله محمد بن إدريس الشافعي (المتوفى : 204هـ) وبلغنا أنه كان يقال: إن الدعاء يستجاب في خمس ليالٍ في ليلة الجمعة وليلة الاضحى وليلة الفطر وأول ليلة من رجب وليلة النصف من شعبان (الأم 264/1)

The supplications done on five nights: (i) Friday night, (ii) the night of Eid al-Fitr, (iii) the night of Eid al-Adha, (iv) the first night of Rajab, and (v) the night of mid-Sha'aban is answered by Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ). (Al-Umam - 1-264)

## DUA OF THE NIGHT OF SALVATION (ليلة البراءة)

The following Dua is recited three times after Maghrib prayer. Every time, first Sura Yasin is recited, then this Dua. After reciting it for the first time (i) supplicate Allah for long life, (ii) the second time pray for protection of afflictions in life, and (iii) third time pray for increase in sustenance (الرزق).

اللهم يا ذا المن و لا يمن عليه. يا ذا الجلال و الإكرام و ياذا الطول و الإنعام. لا اله إلا أنت ظهر اللاجئين و أمان الخائفين و جار المستجيرين. اللهم إن كنت كتبتني عندك في أم الكتاب شقيا أو محروما أو مطرودا أو مقترا في الرزق فأمحو اللهم بفضلك شقاوتي و حرماني و طردي و اقترار رزقي و أثبتني عندك في أم الكتاب سعيدا مرزوقا موقفا للخيرات بإذنك فانك قلت و قولك الحق في كتابك المنزل على قلب و لسان نبيك المصطفى سيدنا محمد صلى الله عليه و سلم. بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم. يمحو الله ما يشاء و يثبت عنده أم الكتاب. الهي بالتجل الأعظم في ليلة النصف من شعبان المكرم التي يفرق فيها كل أمر حكيم و يبرم ، اكشف عني يا ربي من البلاء ما أعلم و ما لا أعلم و ما أنت به أعلم أنك أنت الأعز الأكرم و صلي اللهم على سيدنا محمد و على آله و صحبه و سلم

## ENGLISH TRANSLITERATION

Allāhumma yā Dhā 'l-Manni lā yamannu `alayhi, yā Dhā 'l-Jalāli wa 'l-Ikrām, yā Dhā 'ṭ-Ṭūli wa 'l-An`ām. Lā ilāha illa Anta ya Zaheera 'l-lāji`in, wa Jāru 'l-mustajirīn, wa Amānu 'l-khā`ifin. Allāhumma in kunta katabtanī `indaka fī ummu 'l-Kitābi, shaqīyan, aw maḥrūman, aw maṭrūdan, aw muqataran `alayya mina `r-rizq, famḥu-llāhumma bi-fadlika shaqāwatī wa ḥurmāni wa ṭurdī wa iqtāra rizqī wa thabitnī `indaka fī ummi 'l-kitābi, sa`īdan, wa marzūqan li 'l-khayrāti, fa-innaka qulta wa qawluku 'l-ḥaqq fī kitābik al-munzal `ala lisāni nabīyyika 'l-mursal - Yamḥullāhu mā yashā`u wa yuthbitu wa `indahū Ummu 'l-Kitāb. Ilāhī bi `t-tajallī al-ā`azhami fī lalayti `n-nišfi min shahri sha`bāni 'l-mu`azhami 'l-mukarrami `llatī yufraqu fihā kullu amrin ḥakīmin wa yubram, an takshifa `annā mina 'l-balā`i mā na`lamu, wa mā lā na`lamu, wa mā Anta bihi ā`alamu, innaka Anta al-A`azzu 'l-Akram. Wa šalla-Allāhu `alā sayyidinā Muḥammadin wa `alā ālihi wa šāḥbihi wa sallam.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

O Allah, Tireless Owner of Bounty. O Owner of Sublimity, Honor, Power, and Blessings. There is no God except You, the Support of refugees and Neighbor of those who seek nearness, Guardian of the fearful. O Allah, if you have written in Your Book that I be abject, deprived, banished, and tight-fisted, then erase O Allah, through Your bounty, my misery, deprivation, banishment, and stinginess and establish me with You as happy, provided with blessings, for surely You have said – and Your Word is True – in Your Revealed Book on the tongue of Your Apostle ﷺ, “Allah blots out or confirms what He pleases, and with Him is the Mother of Books.” (Ar-R`ad - 39). My God, by the Great Manifestation of the Night of the middle of the Noble Month of Sha`bān “in which every affair of wisdom is made distinct and authorized,” (Ad-Dukhan - 4), remove from us calamities – those we know and those we do not know and You know best – for surely You are the Most Mighty, the Most Generous. May Allah bless Apostle Muhammad, his Family and Companions.

The rest of the Night of Salvation (ليلة البراءة) can be spent in Nawafil and supplications for self, relatives, and general Muslims. Let us not miss Maghrib, Isha, Tahajjud and Fajr prayer during the night. In any case, prayers should not be missed throughout our lives.