

THE VIRTUES OF THE 15TH NIGHT OF SHA'BAAN



In the blessed month of Sha'baan, there is a special night that is known for its greatness and special significance. This night is known as the 15th night of Shabaan and is commonly referred to as 'Lailatul Bara'at' or 'Shabe Bara'at'. This night is spoken about in several traditions which all together tell us about the special virtues of this night. Although some scholars have spoken about the weakness of some of these traditions, they are nevertheless acceptable by the majority of the great and accepted scholars of hadith.

In this regard, a tradition is narrated by Muaz bin Jabal (R.A) which states that the Messenger of Allah (S.A) said, 'Allah looks to his creation on the 15th night of Shabaan and forgives everyone except two people: a polytheist and one who holds a grudge against people.' (Ibn Majah)

Imam Ibn Hibban has narrated this hadith in his Sahih; Imam Baihaqi has narrated it in Shu'bal Imaan; Imam Tabarani in Al Mu'jam al Kabeer and Abu Nuaim in Al Hulya; Imam Haithami has also narrated it in Majmauz Zawaaid and after narrating it, has commented that all the narrators in the sanad of the above hadith are trustworthy and reliable, and this hadith is authentic. This hadith has also been narrated by Imam Mundhiri in At Targheeb and by Imam As Suyooti in Durrul Manthoor. Shaikh Albani has also narrated it in his Silsilah Sahiha (a book in which he has narrated authentic hadith according to him).

In another tradition narrated by Abu Thalaba (R.A), the Messenger of Allah (S.A) said, 'On the 15th of Shabaan, Allah looks at his creation and forgives all the believers except one who begrudges and hates. He leaves them in their enmity.'

This hadith has been narrated by Imam Baihaqi in Shu'bal Imaan; Ibn Abi Asim has narrated it in Kitab As Sunnah; Imam Suyooti has narrated it in Durrul Manthoor. Shaikh Albani confirms its authenticity by narrating it in his Silsila Sahiha. (Muajamul Kabeer/Silsilah Sahiha, ما صح في ليلة النصف)

In another tradition, Abdullah bin Umar (R.A) has narrated that the Messenger of Allah (S.A) said, 'On the 15th of Shabaan, Allah looks at the people and forgives all believers except for two kinds of people: Someone who holds a grudge for others and someone who has taken an innocent life.'

This hadith has been narrated by Imam Mundhiri in At Targheeb; Imam Ahmad has narrated it in his Musnad and Hafiz Al Haithami in Majma uz Zawaaid. Shaikh Albani has narrated this hadith in his Silsilah Sahiha, and after a lengthy discussion concerning its chain of narrators, he concludes that it is a good (hasan) hadith. (Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal / Silsilah Sahiha, ما صح في ليلة النصف)

Along with the above mentioned traditions, there are many different statements which have been made by the great scholars regarding the virtues of this night.

In this regard, Hafiz Ibn Taimiyah has mentioned, 'as for the 15th night of Shabaan, there are many narrations and Athar (quotes from the sahabahs) regarding its virtues. It has been reported of the Salaf (pious predecessors) that they prayed on this night. Therefore, praying alone on this night, having precedence in the Salaf, is sufficient evidence and something of this

kind cannot be denied. (Rasail Wa Fatawa Ibn Taimiya Fil Fiqh Vol. 23 Pg. 131).

At another place, he writes, 'If one performs salaah on the 15th night of Shabaan, just as many groups of the Salaf did, then it is good. (Rasaail wa Fatawa Ibn Taimiya Vol. 23 Pg. 131).

Shaikh Mansoor Bahooti Hanbali writes in his famous book of Fiqh, Kashful Qina Vol.1 Pg. 444, 'As for the 15th night of Shabaan, it is a night of virtue. Some Salaf (pious predecessors) performed salaah for the whole night. And the reward of the Ibadah of the 15th night of Shabaan is the same as the reward of the ibadah of the night of Eid.'

Imam Shafi (R.A) has mentioned in his book, Al Umm, "Of the narrations that have reached us, verily, dua is accepted on five nights; the night of Juma, the night of Eid Al Adha, the night of Eid Al Fitr, the first night of Rajab, and the 15th night of Shabaan.'

The great scholar and commentator of the book of Ahadith known as Jame Tirmizi, Shaikh Mubarakpuri writes, 'You should know that a sufficient number of hadith have been narrated confirming the virtues of the 15th night of Shabaan. These ahaadith prove that it has a basis'. (Tuhfatul Ahwazi Vol.3 Pg.365).

At another place, after quoting many ahaadith about the importance of this night, he says, 'The sum of all these ahaadith is strong evidence against the one who thinks there is no proof for the virtue of the 15th night of Shabaan .And Allah knows best'.

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