

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

٤١ حَمْ وَالْكِتَابِ الْمُبَشِّرِينَ ٤٢ إِذَا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِذَا كُنَّا
مُنْذِرِينَ ٤٣ فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٌ ٤٤ أَمْرًا مِنْ عِنْدِنَا إِذَا كُنَّا
مُرْسِلِينَ ٤٥ رَحْمَةً مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ٤٦

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ٤٧ اللَّهُمَّ أَغُوْدُ بِرِضَاكَ مِنْ سَخْطِكَ، وَيُمْعَافَاتِكَ مِنْ عُقُوبَتِكَ،
وَأَغُوْدُ بِكَ مِنْكَ، لَا أُخْصِي ثَنَاءً عَلَيْكَ، أَنْتَ كَمَا أَنْتَيْتَ عَلَى تَقْسِيكَ.

Respected Muslims!

One of the many spiritual blessings our Lord has granted us is the Night of Bara'ah, the 15th night of the sacred month of Sha'ban. Insha'Allah, we will reach this blessed night on the evening of Monday, February 2nd. This night is called "Bara'ah" (Salvation/Absolution) because Allah, the Exalted, forgives many sinful servants on this night.

The Almighty says in the noble verse we have read: "*Ha, Meem. By the clear Book, Indeed, We sent it down during a blessed night. Indeed, We were to warn [mankind]. On that night is made distinct every precise matter. [It is] a command from Us. Indeed, We were to send [a messenger] As mercy from your Lord. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Knowing.*" (Ad-Dukhan, 44:1-6)

Our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said regarding this night: "*Make alive the 15th night of Sha'ban with prayer (worship), and fast during its day. For indeed, Allah, the Exalted, descends to the lowest heaven after sunset on that night and calls out: 'Is there anyone seeking forgiveness, that I may forgive him? Is there anyone seeking provision, that I may provide for him? Is there anyone afflicted, that I may grant him relief?' And this continues until the break of dawn.*" (Ibn Majah)

Respected Brothers

On this blessed night, the Noble Qur'an was brought down altogether from the Preserved Tablet (Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuz) to the first heaven. Furthermore, our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (peace be upon him) was granted the complete authority of intercession on this night. The Night of Bara'ah is a blessed night during which the events to occur until the next Night of Bara'ah are written down and communicated to the appointed angels. Decrees such as provisions, lifespans, wealth and poverty, births and deaths are sent down from the Preserved Tablet to the first heaven. From these decrees, those related to calamities and wars are delivered to Angel Jabraeel (peace be upon him), those related to provisions and natural phenomena like rain and snow to Angel Mikaeel (peace be upon him), those related to deaths to Angel Azrael (peace be upon him), and those

related to deeds to Angel Ismail (peace be upon him), the custodian of the first sky.

Dear brothers

Worship performed on this night is highly virtuous. Our Mother Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) narrates: The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) stood in prayer for the entire Night of Bara'ah until morning and remained in prostration for a long time. In prostration, he was supplicating: "**O Allah! I seek refuge in Your pleasure from Your wrath, and in Your pardon from Your punishment. I seek refuge in You from You. I cannot praise You sufficiently; You are as You have praised Yourself.**" When morning came, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said to me, "**Learn this supplication and teach it to others. Gabriel taught these to me.**"

Our Lord forgives many sinful servants on this night. A noble hadith states: "*Indeed, Allah, the Exalted, manifests Himself to the lowest heaven on the mid-night of Sha'ban and forgives sins more numerous than the hairs of the sheep of the Kalb tribe.*" (Tirmidhi)

However, there are some sins that, unless sincerely repented from, become a barrier to receiving the forgiveness of this night. Indeed, the noble hadiths enumerate those who will be deprived of mercy on this blessed night as follows: "*Those who associate partners with Allah. Those who harbor malice and enmity. Those who persist in fornication/adultery and drinking alcohol. The arrogant. Those who are disobedient to their parents. Those who sever family ties. Those who engage in gossip and slander, causing discord among people. Murderers and idol-makers/sculptors.*" (Compiled from various sources including Bayhaqi, Ibn Majah, Ahmad)

To benefit from the mercy and blessings of these sacred three months (Rajab, Sha'ban, Ramadan), let us perform missed and voluntary prayers, recite the Noble Qur'an, turn to our Lord with remembrance (dhikr), supplication (dua), and seeking forgiveness (istighfar). Let us repent from our sins; and let us support the poor, our religious schools (madrasas), and our mosques with charity and good deeds.

I conclude my khutbah with a noble verse: "*The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom he wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.*" (Al-Baqarah, 2:261)