**The Night of Mercy: Preparing for Laylatul Bara’ah**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we are approaching one of the most spiritually significant nights of the year, *Laylatul Bara’ah* the Night of Forgiveness and Mercy. This sacred night, which falls on the *15th of Sha'ban*, is a night when Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ) grants forgiveness, showers His mercy upon His servants, and decrees provisions and destinies for the coming year. It is a night of immense spiritual opportunity, one that should not be overlooked.

Rasullullah (ﷺ) said: **"**إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَطَّلِعُ فِي لَيْلَةِ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَيَغْفِرُ لِجَمِيعِ خَلْقِهِ إِلَّا لِمُشْرِكٍ أَوْ مُشَاحِنٍ"
*"On the night of the middle of Sha’ban, Allah looks at His creation and forgives all, except those who associate partners with Him and those who have hatred in their hearts."* (Ibn Majah)

This hadith highlights two crucial aspects:

1. *Allah’s infinite mercy on* this night, Allah grants widespread forgiveness, inviting us to seek His pardon with sincerity.
2. *The importance of a pure heart* Forgiveness is withheld from those who harbor grudges, resentment, or malice towards others.

As we prepare for this blessed night, let’s take a moment to reflect:

* Have we wronged someone and not sought forgiveness?
* Do we hold resentment in our hearts?
* Are we sincerely seeking Allah’s mercy?

If we desire Allah’s forgiveness, we must also be willing to forgive others. This night is an opportunity to cleanse our hearts and approach Ramadan with sincerity and spiritual purity.

Our righteous predecessors used to devote themselves to worship on this night, making the most of its blessings. Imam Al-Ghazali (رحمه الله) said: *Whoever does not sow in Rajab, nor water in Sha’ban, how can he expect to reap in Ramadan?*

So, how can we make the most of this sacred night? Some *recommendations*:

1. *Engage in Sincere Repentance (Tawbah):*
	* Let’s take time to reflect on our past actions and seek Allah’s forgiveness with humility.
	* True repentance means not only asking for forgiveness but also making a firm intention to avoid sinful actions in the future.
2. *Increase Worship and Devotion:*
	* We can perform extra *Nafile (voluntary) prayers* during the night to strengthen our connection with Allah.
	* Engaging in *Dhikr (remembrance of Allah) and* frequently reciting istighfar will help purify our hearts.
	* Let’s spend time reciting and reflecting on the **Qur’an**, allowing its guidance to uplift us.
3. *Fast the Next Day for Additional Blessings:*
	* The Prophet (ﷺ) was known to fast frequently in Sha’ban. Aisha (رضي الله عنها) reported:
	مَا رَأَيْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَسْتَكْمِلُ صِيَامَ شَهْرٍ قَطُّ إِلَّا رَمَضَانَ، وَمَا رَأَيْتُهُ أَكْثَرَ صِيَامًا مِنْهُ فِي شَعْبَانَ *"I never saw the Messenger of Allah fast in a month more than he did in Sha’ban."* (Bukhari, Muslim)
	* While fasting on the 15th of Sha’ban is not obligatory, it is a recommended act that brings us closer to Allah.
4. *Make Du’a for Ourselves and Others:*
	* This is a perfect time to turn to Allah with heartfelt supplications.
	* Let’s pray for ourselves, our families, the entire Ummah, and our loved ones who have passed away.
5. *Clear Our Hearts and Strengthen Relationships:*
	* If we have wronged anyone, this is our chance to seek their forgiveness.
	* Let’s let go of grudges and move toward reconciliation, purifying our hearts for the sake of Allah.

Laylatul Bara’ah is also a *reminder that Ramadan is near.* Just as Sha’ban serves as preparation for Ramadan, this night serves as a spiritual gateway leading us into the blessed month.

Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) says in the Qur’an: فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ *"On that night, every matter of wisdom is ordained."* (Surah Ad-Dukhan, 44:4)

Ibn Rajab (رحمه الله) said: شَعْبَانُ كَالرَّوْضَةِ لِرَمَضَانَ فَمَنْ أَحْسَنَ الزِّرَاعَةَ فِي شَعْبَانَ جَنَى الثَّمَرَ فِي رَمَضَانَ
*"Sha’ban is like a training ground for Ramadan. If you wish to excel in Ramadan, prepare yourself in Sha’ban."*

Additionally, fasting on the White Days the 13th, 14th, and 15th of the lunar month is a highly virtuous Sunnah practice emphasized by the Rasullullah (ﷺ). He said: *"Fasting these days is like keeping a perpetual fast."*

Dear Believers, let’s ask ourselves:

* Are we spiritually prepared for Ramadan?
* Have we developed the habit of seeking forgiveness?
* Are we ready to increase our acts of worship?

Brothers and sisters, *let’s use this night wisely*. Let’s make it a turning point, a moment of renewal where we reconnect with our faith, cleanse our hearts, and prepare ourselves for the immense blessings of Ramadan.

May Allah swt accept our deeds, forgive our sins, and allow us to enter Ramadan with purified hearts.

اللَّهُمَّ بَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ وَأَعِنَّا عَلَى صِيَامِهِ وَقِيَامِهِ وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا صَالِحَ أَعْمَالِنَا
*"O Allah, allow us to reach Ramadan, help us in our fasting and prayers, and accept our righteous deeds."* Ameen.

**Rahmet Gecesi: Berat Kandili’ne Hazırlık**

Aziz Kardeşlerim, Berat Kandili, Allah’ın (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ) rahmetinin tecelli ettiği, kaderimizin yazıldığı ve affın bolca bahşedildiği mübarek bir gecedir. Ustadimiz, *"Kandil geceleri, manevi birer terakki basamağıdır; insan, bu gecelerde özüne dönmeli, Allah ile irtibatını yenilemelidir"* der. Bu geceyi gafletle geçiren, kaçırdığı fırsatın farkında bile olmaz. Oysa, insanın bu dünyadaki en önemli işi, ebedi hayatını kazanmasıdır.

Peygamber Efendimiz (ﷺ) buyurdu: "إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَطَّلِعُ فِي لَيْلَةِ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَيَغْفِرُ لِجَمِيعِ خَلْقِهِ إِلَّا لِمُشْرِكٍ أَوْ مُشَاحِنٍ" *"Allah, Şaban’ın yarı gecesinde kullarına bakar ve müşrik ile kin tutanlar hariç hepsini bağışlar." (İbn Mâce)*

Buyugumuz soyle ifade ediyor: *"Mümin, geçmişini gözden geçirmeli, muhasebe yapmalı ve bu geceleri nefis muhasebesiyle değerlendirmelidir. Kalbin aydınlanması, önce hataların fark edilmesiyle başlar."*

Yine Buyugumuz, *"Dua, ruhun Allah’a yönelip teslimiyetini ifade etmesidir"* der. Kandil gecelerinde, Buyugumuzun ifade ettiği gibi, kalpten gelen dualarla Rabbimize yönelmek, samimiyetin bir göstergesidir. Bunun yanı sıra, **"***Gizli yapılan iyilikler, insanı Allah’a en yakın hale getiren vesilelerdendir,"* diyerek, yapılan iyiliklerin manevi boyutunu vurgular.

Ustadimiz, *"Gözyaşı, insanın ruhunu temizleyen bir rahmet damlasıdır"* diyerek, tövbenin derinliğine işaret eder. Buyugumuz ise, **"***Kalpten dökülen her gözyaşı, insanın Rabbine bir adım daha yaklaşmasına vesiledir,"* diyerek, bu manevi gerilimin önemini ifade eder.

Bu gece aynı zamanda Ramazan’a hazırlık anlamına gelir. Ustadimiz, *"Ramazan bir zirvedir, Şaban ise ona çıkan merdivendir"* buyurur. Berat Kandili, bu yolda ruhumuzu hazırlayan en önemli istasyonlardan biridir.

Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) buyuruyor: "فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ" *"O gecede her hikmetli iş belirlenir."* (Duhân, 44:4)

Kardeşlerim, *bu geceyi sadece ibadetle değil, bir iç yenilenme ile değerlendirelim.* Niyetlerimizi gözden geçirelim, yeni bir sayfa açalım ve Ramazan’a maddi ve mnevi arinmis bir sekilde girelim. Inshllh

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*"Allah’ım, bizi Ramazan’a ulaştır, orucumuzu ve ibadetlerimizi kabul eyle."* Âmin.