

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَإِذَا جَاءَكَ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِنَا فَقُلْ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ  
كَتَبَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ إِنَّهُ مَنْ عَمِلَ مِنْكُمْ  
سَوْءًا بِجَهَالَةٍ ثُمَّ تَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَنَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ  
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
إِذَا كَانَتْ لَيْلَةُ النِّصْفِ مِنَ شَعْبَانَ فَقُومُوا لَيْلَهَا  
وَصُومُوا يَوْمَهَا...

#### Dear Muslims!

Time is one of the greatest blessings granted by the Almighty Allah (swt) to His servants. Time is a field of possibilities and opportunities which surrounds a man's life story entirely. Therefore, it is a unique wealth, every moment of which is precious and worthy of spending well.

#### Honorable Believers!

Regardless of any specific month, day or hour, every moment of ours spent with the awareness of servitude to Allah (swt) is valuable. But there are certain times that are bestowed as the times of divine grace and are conduced to the acceptance of prayers and the absolution. These periods of time are signs of the infinite mercy of Allah (swt) on the people. Here is the Lailat al-Bara'ah that we shall observe on the evening of February 2nd, it is one of such valuable times.

#### Dear Muslims!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) gave us the glad tidings that the worship, pray, and entreaty to be performed on Lailat al-Bara'ah are going to conduce to our absolution by saying, “Spend the fifteenth day of the month of Shaban by observing a fast. And its night in prayer. Because, when the sun sets at that night, Allah Ta’ala manifests Himself at the nearest

heaven in a state which we cannot know of, and until the time of dawn He says, ‘Is there nobody asking for forgiveness? Forgive I shall! Is there nobody asking for sustenance? Sustenance I shall give him! Is there nobody suffering a calamity? Felicity I shall give him!...”<sup>1</sup>

#### Honorable Believers!

Lailat al-Bara'ah is a time to open a path towards al-Rahman (swt) from the deepest part of our hearts. Lailat al-Bara'ah is high time for us to repent and seek Allah’s (swt) mercy and forgiveness by turning to Him.

Thus, the Almighty Allah (swt) states in the Holy Qur’an by addressing to the Prophet Muhammad (saw), “When those come to thee who believe in Our Signs, say: ‘Peace be on you; Your Lord hath inscribed for Himself (the rule of) mercy: verily, if any of you did evil in ignorance, and thereafter repented, and amended (His conduct), lo! He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.’”<sup>2</sup>

#### Dear Believers!

Let us benefit from the teaching and barakah (abundance) of this night to receive the bara'ah of salvation in eternal life. Let us pursue Allah’s (swt) consent in each breath. Let us shape our lives according to the guidance of the Qur’an and the Sunnah. Let us remember that every moment of ours that we do not spend with the awareness of servitude to Allah (swt) is going to return to us as damage and loss.

With this occasion, I would like to congratulate your Lailat al-Bara'ah. May the Almighty Allah (swt) let this holy night bring prosperity to our noble nation, to the Islam world and to all humanity.

<sup>1</sup> Ibn Majah, Iqamat, 191

<sup>2</sup> An’am 6/54.