

# What to do/pray in the last ten nights of Ramadan

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## 1. Beg for protection from hell in the last 10 days

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "It (Ramadan) is a month whose....end is freedom from hell." A person should beg Allah to protect them from hell. "O Allah give us good in this world and in the hereafter."

Freedom from hell is also the reward for complying with the requirements set by the Almighty and the Prophet (PBUH) for the month.

Narrated Abu Huraira: When the Prophet (PBUH) stated that his people would be granted forgiveness on the last night of Ramadan and was asked whether it was Laylat al-Qadr, he replied, "No, but a workman is paid his full wages only when he has finished his work." (Mishkat).

Narrated Aisha: With the start of the last ten days of Ramadan, the Prophet (PBUH) used to tighten his waist belt (i.e. hard work) and used to pray all the night, and used to keep his family awake for the prayers. (Bukhari, volume 3, Hadith number 241).

You should focus your energies in the last ten days in extra prayer and begging the Almighty for protection from the fire of hell.

## 2. Other actions

Dr. Muhammad M. Abu Laylah, professor of the Islamic Studies & Comparative Religions at Al-Azhar University states:

"The duties of the Muslim in this last third of Ramadan is to try his best to perfect his fasting, to avoid any shortcomings or sins that can harm his fasting, to offer more prayers, preferably in *jama`ah* (congregation), to advance in reading the Qur'an, to make *dhikr* (remembrance of Allah), to help others to be more committed to religion, to enter *i`tikaf* if it is possible for him/her, and to remember that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to give extra attention to the last ten days of Ramadan. He could hardly sleep, and his family used also to stay in vigilance with him. The Prophet's generosity in this month and particularly in the last ten days was compared to a fast wind.

"We should not miss to remind you and all Muslims to try to settle disputes. It is the best occasion to forgive one another and forget about all enmities and grudges. We should come out of Ramadan in a better shape, understanding, and moral behavior. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) made it clear that **'if any Muslim comes out of Ramadan without gaining forgiveness and goodness, he/she is a real loser.'**"

Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal Nadvi, Director and Imam of Al-Falah Islamic Center, Oakville, Ontario, Canada, and former Professor at King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, adds:

"Some of the duties may be outlined as follows:

1. Purification of one's soul from all sins and evaluating one's actions to be always in accordance with the teachings of Islam.
2. Exerting much effort to elevate the soul by doing a lot of good deeds.
3. Acting seriously and using every minute to gain protection from the Hell-fire.
4. Developing a sense of determination in one's soul that he or she will be always fearful and mindful of Allah and to continue with this spirit after Ramadan."

Muslims are encouraged to spend the last ten days observing *I'tikaf* Muzammil H. Siddiqi, President of the Fiqh Council of North America states<sup>1</sup>: "*I'tikaf* in the last ten days of Ramadan in the *Masjid* (mosque) is a beautiful tradition of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). It is like a spiritual retreat. It is reported by `Aishah, may Allah be pleased with her, that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to observe *I'tikaf* during the last ten days of the month of Ramadan and he continued this practice until his death. After him, his wives carried on this practice of observing *I'tikaf* regularly. (Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

"It is recommended that every Muslim make at least one *I'tikaf* in his/ her life. There must be at least a few people in every community who should do it in every *Masjid* every year to keep this tradition alive. Men should do *I'tikaf* in the *Masjid* so that they can pray in *Jama`ah* (congregation) and also offer the Friday prayers. Women can also do *I'tikaf*, but theirs must be at home for reasons of modesty and for their own convenience. There is a great blessing in *I'tikaf* and people who do it bring blessings upon themselves, upon their families, and upon the Muslim community at large.

"The Sunnah of *I'tikaf* is that one make the intention and begin the *I'tikaf* on the evening of the 20th of Ramadan from sunset time and continue until the sighting of the moon for `Edu-Fitr. During *I'tikaf* men should stay in the *Masjid* day and night and should not leave it except for the use of toilet or shower. They are allowed to eat also inside the *Masjid*, but if it is not convenient they may go outside and come back as soon as they finish."

### **Advice from Soundvision on what to do/pray in the last ten nights of Ramadan**

#### **1. Take a vacation for Allah**

We take a break from our jobs for almost everything in life to focus on worshipping and thanking our Creator. If this is not possible at least take a few days off if you can. This can make it easier to stay awake at night to do extra acts of worship, not having to worry about getting to work the following day. This will also make *I'tikaf* easy.

#### **2. *I'tikaf***

It was a practice of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) to spend the last ten days and nights of Ramadan in the mosque for *I'tikaf*. In *I'tikaf* one makes a spiritual retreat in the mosque all the time, performing various forms of *Dhikr* (the remembrance of Allah), like doing extra *Salah* and recitation and study of the Qur'an. One does not go outside the mosque except in case of emergencies. *I'tikaf* of a shorter period of time, like one night, a day or a couple of days is encouraged as well.

#### **3. Make this special *Du`a'***

`Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: I asked the Messenger of Allah: 'O Messenger of Allah, if I know what night is the night of Qadr, what should I say during it?' He said: '**Say: O Allah, You are Oft-Pardoning and You love to pardon, so pardon me.**'" (Reported by Ahmad, Ibn Majah and At-Tirmidhi).

#### 4. Recite the Qur'an

Perhaps one can choose Surahs or passages from the Qur'an which one has heard in *Tarawih* this Ramadan to recite. On attending a class for Qur'anic recitation, this is a great time to put one's knowledge into practice.

#### 5. Get your sins wiped out

Abu Hurayrah quoted Allah's Messenger as saying: "**Whoever stands (in prayer) in *Laylatul-Qadr* while nourishing his faith with self-evaluation, expecting reward from Allah, will have all of his previous sins forgiven.**" (Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

#### 6. Evaluate yourself

Ask yourself those questions that need to be asked. Do an evaluation of where you are and where you are going. Let this evaluation lead you to feel happiness for the good you have done and remorse for the bad you have done. This latter feeling should make it easier to seek Allah's sincere forgiveness when invoking Allah and supplicating to Him in these blessed nights.

#### 7. Make long, sincere and deep *Du`a`*

One of the best times to do this is during the last part of the night. Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) quoted the Prophet as saying: "**When the last one-third of the night remains, our Lord, the Glorious One descends towards the lower heaven and proclaims: Is there anyone supplicating to Me, so that I grant his supplication? Is there anyone begging of Me for anything so that and I grant him his wish? Is there anyone who seeks My forgiveness, so that I forgive him?**" (Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

This means, for instance, waking up one hour before *Suhur* (pre-dawn meal) time to invoke Allah for anything and everything is something recommendable. This can be done using the *Du`a`* (supplication) recorded in the Sunnah, but one is also allowed to say *Du`a`* in one's own language, with sincerity and conviction.

#### 8. Have *Iftar* with the family

If you've spent *Iftar* time on weekdays at work alone with a couple of dates, now is the last few days you'll have this Ramadan to spend with your family. Use it wisely.

#### 9. Take the family to *Tarawih* Prayer

Have your spouse and kids missed *Tarawih* most of Ramadan because you weren't there to drive them to the mosque, which is too far away to walk to? If so, do all of yourselves a favor and bring everyone for *Tarawih* in these last ten nights.

#### 10. Attend the *Du`a`* after the completion of the Qur'anic recitation

Almost all the mosques where the Imam aims to finish an entire reading of the Qur'an in *Tarawih* prayers in Ramadan will now be approaching the end of the task in these last ten

nights. They may try to end on one of the odd nights and read the *Du`a`* at the end of reading the Qur'an. Attend this particular night's *Tarawih* Prayer with your family. See if you can attend different mosques' *Tarawih* Prayers the night they finish reading the Qur'an.

### **11. Finish reading a book on the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him)**

Read about the Prophet's life, which can increase your love for him and Islam by seeing how much he struggled for Allah's sake. It may inspire you to push yourself even harder during these last ten nights. This community is built on sacrifice.

All these are just some hints on what is recommended for a Muslim to do during the last ten nights of Ramadan. May Allah Almighty accept our worship and devotions, Amen!

Source: [www.soundvision.com](http://www.soundvision.com)

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<sup>1</sup> *Tikaf* in the Last Third of Ramadan – Islamonline – 12/11/03