

Laylut Al-Qadr

The Quran states:

“And what will explain to thee what the Night of Power is? The night of Power is better than a thousand Months. Therein come down the angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand: Peace!.....This until the rise of Morn!”

Laylut Al-Qadr

Importance, what to do, how to beg for forgiveness

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Laylut Al-Qadr/Night of Power

1. What is Laylut Al-Qadr/Night of Power?

Laylut Al-Qadr (night of power) is the most important night in the Islamic calendar. Many scholars are of the opinion that it was on this night that the Holy Quran was revealed from *Lowhul Mahooz* (sacred tablets) to the House of Glory (Bayt Al-'Izzah) in the lowest heaven, from where it was revealed piecemeal to the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him (PBUH)) according to events that took place during his life over a period of twenty-three years. The Quran states: "Lo! We revealed it on the Night of Power." (97:1). Some scholars are also of the opinion that it was on this night that the previous scriptures were revealed to Prophets Esa (Jesus), Moosa, Dawood and Ebrahim (peace and blessings upon them all), although there is no definitive proof of this.

Laylut Al-Qadr is referred in the Quran as the "night of power".

There is great reward in spending this night in prayer. In explaining the magnificence and virtue of this night, the Almighty states (sura 97): "And what will explain to thee what the Night of Power is? The night of Power is better than a thousand Months. Therein come down the angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand: Peace!.....This until the rise of Morn!"

Can you conceptualise the value of such a night? One night that is better than a thousand months (that is, 30,000 nights)! In his book *Fiqh-us-Sunnah*, the late Egyptian scholar Sheikh Sayyed Sabiq states: "The night of Qadr is the most virtuous night in the whole year. Any action that is done in this night, such as reciting the Qur'an, making mention of Allah, etc. is better than acting for one thousand months which do not contain the night of Qadr."

The Almighty states that on this night, the Angels descend. Scholars are of the opinion that they descend to say "Ameen" to the duas/supplications of those in an act of worship. There is also a view that the Angels also make dua for those found in an act of worship.

Angel Gabriel (A.S.) on this Night also descends to greet those in an act of worship. Scholars link the descending of Gabriel (A.S.) to the descending of the Spirit referred to in the Holy Quran. One of the companions asked the Prophet (PBUH), "How do we know that Gabriel (A.S.) has greeted us?" The Prophet (PBUH) replied that "one would go into a state of ecstasy, trembling, your heart will soften and you will cry profusely. Then you know Gabriel (A.S.) has greeted you." (Source: Targheeb).

2. When is the night of Laylat al-Qadr?

The exact date is unknown. The knowledge of the date was with the Prophet (PBUH) but the knowledge was taken away from him when he came to announce the date but instead witnessed two Muslims arguing.

Narrated Ubada bin As-Samit: The Prophet (PBUH) came out to inform us about the Night of Qadr but two Muslims were quarrelling with each other. So, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "I came out to inform you about the Night of Qadr but such-and-such persons were quarrelling, so the news of it had been taken away; yet that might be for your own good....." (Bukhari, volume 3, Hadith number 240). The loss of knowledge was due to the Almighty withdrawing the knowledge. It is reported that the Prophet (PBUH) regained the knowledge but was not permitted to reveal the date.

Scholars interpret the statement "yet that might be for your own good..." as a protection for the Ummah. The Night of Qadr should be spent in worship. Not doing so is tantamount to a weakness of faith. Also, some would only pray on the Night of Qadr – we are instead encouraged to devote the last ten nights in prayer.

The guidance provided by the Prophet (PBUH) is that we should seek the Night of Qadr in the last ten days of Ramadan. Narrated Aisha: Allah's Apostle (PBUH) used to practise I'tikaf in the last ten days of Ramadan and used to say, "Look for the Night of Qadr in the last ten nights of the month of Ramadhaan." (Bukhari, volume 3, Hadith number 237).

Narrated Aisha: The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Look for the night of Qadr in the odd nights of the last ten nights of Ramadan." (Bukhari, volume 3, Hadith number 234). In an environment where there is no consensus, on the sighting of the moon, it is advisable to seek the night of power in all the last ten nights as an odd night for one person may not be the same for another.

3. Recommended Acts of Worship

Sheikh Muhammad Nasir-ud-Deen Al-Albani states: "*Laylat Al-Qadr* is the most blessed night. A person who misses it has indeed missed a great amount of good. If a believing person is keen to obey his Lord and increase the good deeds in his record, he should strive to encounter this night and to pass it in worship and obedience. If this is facilitated for him, all of his previous sins will be forgiven."

What to do on this night?

In addition to performing your obligatory prayers on this night, Sheikh Muhammad states that you should:

Pray Qiyam (tahajjud)

"It is recommended to make a long Qiyam prayer during the nights on which *Laylat Al-Qadr* could fall. This is indicated in many Hadiths, such as the following:

Abu Dhar, may Allah be pleased with him, relates: "We fasted with Allah's Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, in Ramadan. He did not lead us in Qiyam (Night Vigil Prayer) at all until there were seven nights of Ramadan left. Then he stood with us (that night, in prayer) until one third of the night had passed. He did not pray with us on the sixth. On the fifth night, he prayed with us until half of the night had passed. So we said, 'Allah's Messenger! Wouldn't you pray with us the whole night?' He replied: 'Whoever stands in prayer with Imam until he (the Imam) concludes the prayer, it will be recorded for him that he prayed the whole night...' (Recorded by Ibn Abi Shaybah, Abu Dawood, At-Tirmidhi (who authenticated it), An-Nasa'i, Ibn Majah, At-Tahawi (in Sharhu Ma'an il-Athar, Ibn Nasr, Al-Faryabi, and Al-Bayhaqi. The Hadith's chain of narrators is authentic.)

Make Supplications (dua):

"It is also recommended to make extensive supplication (dua) on this night. `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, reported that she asked the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, "O Messenger of Allah! If I knew which night is *Laylat Al-Qadr*, what should I say during it?" And he instructed her to say:

"Allahumma innaka `afuwun tuh.ibbul `afwa fa`fu `annee

O Allah! You are Oft-Forgiving, and you love forgiveness. So forgive me." (Recorded by Ahmad, Ibn Majah, and At-Tirmithi. Verified to be authentic by Al-Albani)

Abandon Worldly Pleasures for the Sake of Worship:

“It is further recommended to spend more time in worship during the nights on which *Laylat Al-Qadr* is likely to be. This calls for abandoning many worldly pleasures in order to secure the time and thoughts solely for worshipping Allah. This is based on the following Hadith narrated by `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her: "Upon entering into the last ten (of Ramadan), the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, would tighten his Izaar (i.e. he stayed away from his wives in order to have more time for worship), spend the whole night awake (in prayer), and wake up his family." (Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim) She also said: "Allah's Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, used to exert more efforts (in worship) on the last ten than on other nights." (Reported by Muslim).”
