

LAYLATUL QADR

The Night of Power

One of the most meritorious aspects of Ramadhan is that it has the most blessed night of the year. This sacred night is called Laylatul Qadr because it is the night of honour, power and glory as the Qur'aan was first revealed during this night. Laylatul Qadr has been described in the Qur'aan as being "*better than a thousand months*", It means that the worship performed in this night brings more reward than the worship performed in one thousand months.

Laylatul Qadr falls in one of the last five odd nights of Ramadhan i.e 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th as in a Hadith related by Aishah (R.A) we are specifically told by the Prophet (S.A.W) that: "*Seek Laylatul Qadr among the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadhan*". The Prophet (S.A.W) instituted the practice of I'tikaaf especially to look out for Laylatul Qadr during these nights. Therefore we should endeavour to worship Allah more on the 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th nights of Ramadhan in our search for Laylatul Qadr. Many scholars have stated that Laylatul Qadr is most likely to be on the 27th night of Ramadhan, however one should also endeavour to worship on the other odd nights as well.

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) has been reported to have said: "*Whoever stays awake in worship during Laylatul Qadr with sincere belief and with the hope of receiving rewards from Allah, then Allah will forgive his previous (minor) sins*".

It is also reported that the Prophet Muhammad has said: "*When the last one-third of the night remains, our Lord, the Glorious One descends towards the heaven of the earth and proclaims: Who is that who supplicates for Me and I grant his supplication? Who is that who begs Me for anything and I grant it to him? And who is that who seeks My forgiveness and I forgive him?*"

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) used to ponder over the longer lives of people of the past ages and when comparing them with much shorter lives of his Ummah, he became greatly saddened. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) considered if his Ummah wished to compete with the people of the past ages doing of righteous deeds, then because of the shorter lives of his ummah, it would be impossible for them to either emulate or surpass the previous Ummah's. Therefore, Allah in His infinite mercy granted the ummah of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) this night of great blessings. Regarding this night, Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) has been reported to have said: "*Laylatul Qadr was granted to this Ummah (of mine) and not to any other Ummah before this.*" Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) has been reported to have said: "*There is a night within it which is better than a thousand months. Whoever is deprived of its blessings is deprived of all good in totality*".

The best way to benefit from the blessings of this night is to keep awake for the whole night and spend it in worship and prayers. However for the people who cannot remain awakened all night should spare at least a considerable part of the night for acts of worship. Women who are in their menstruation periods cannot perform any Salaah nor read the Qur'aan, but they can recite any Zikr, tasbeeh or send durood to Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) and make dua for the fulfilment of their desires and also ask for forgiveness from Allah.

Recommended Acts on Laylatul Qadr (The Night of Power)

- To visit the cemetery.
- To recite the Holy Qur'aan
- To perform Nafl salaah, preferably Salaatu-tasbeeh.
- To be engaged in the remembrance of Allah (i.e. zikr)
- To frequently send Durood Shareef to the holy Prophet (S.A.W)
- And most importantly to turn to Allah and seek forgiveness of all our sins (One of the best times to do this is the last part of the night).
- The Du'aa below should be recited as often as possible.

Hazrat Aisha (R.A) has been reported to have said, I asked the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W): 'O Messenger of Allah, if I know what night is the night of Qadr, what should I say during it?' Prophet (S.A.W) replied:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُورٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

"ALLAHUMMA INNAKA AFUWWUN TUHIBBUL AFWA FAAFU ANNI"
"O Allah, You are surely most forgiving and You like forgiving. So forgive me"

Actions to avoid

The night of Laylatul Qadr is a night in which special blessings are directed towards the Muslims. Therefore, this night should be spent in total submission to Allah Almighty, and refrain from all those activities which may displease Allah. Although it is always incumbent upon every Muslim to abstain from sins, yet this abstinence becomes all the more necessary in such nights, because committing sins in this night will amount to responding divine blessings with disobedience and felony. Such an arrogant attitude can invite nothing but the wrath of Allah. Therefore, one should strictly abstain from all kind of sins.

Let us observe this great day according to the way of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)
and refrain from all actions which deprive us of the blessings from Allah.
Aameen.