

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي مَنَّ عَلَيْنَا بِلَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ، وَجَعَلَ ثَوَابَهَا خَيْرًا مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ، تَنْزَلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ فِيهَا بِالرَّحْمَاتِ، وَالْخَيْرِ وَالْبَرَكَاتِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، رَبُّ الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ....أما بعدُ: فأوصيكم و نفسي بتقوى الله و اعملوا بما فيه رضاه (وتزودوا فإن خير الزاد التقوى).

عباد الله في هذه الليالي المباركة من هذا الشهر، يحرص المسلمون على الإكثار من الطاعات، و المبادرة إلى الخيرات، ابتغاء الثواب و الأجر، و طلباً لفضل ليلة القدر، فإنها ليلة عالية الشرف، عظيمة القدر، و لذلك سميت ليلة القدر، و قد أنزل الله تعالى في القرآن الكريم سورة تتحدث عن خصائصها و تبين للناس فضائلها، و هي سورة القدر....

Servants of Allah, we are in the last ten days and nights of the blessed month of Ramadan. We should be increasing in acts of obedience seeking Allah's abundant rewards, and specifically trying to observe the blessed night of decree or power. Allah revealed an entire surah about this blessed night saying: "Verily I sent down the Quran on the night of decree/power. And what will make you truly know what the night of decree/power is? The night of decree is better than 1000 months. The angel Jibreel and the other angels come down by Allah's permission with every decree. It is a peaceful and tranquil night until the time of Fajr"

Worshipping Allah within these last ten nights and specifically the night of decree/power is equivalent to worshipping Allah for 83 years and four months.

All year athletes prepare for the super bowl, or world series, or world cup, or NBA final....if they win they get a trophy and

a few hundred thousand dollars.....but they have to work hard all throughout the year, training day and night, lifting weights, running, watching their diet and focusing all of their efforts and attention to winning the final game...

Well we as Muslims don't have a super bowl, or world cup or world series, but we have something far better and far more rewarding....we have laylatul qadr.....We have been training our hearts, bodies and minds by fasting, praying and reading Quran for the first twenty days....Now we need to work even harder, tighten our belts, wake our families and try to stay up during these nights in acts of obedience. Brothers in sisters, from Allah's mercy is that he only asks us to worship him for a few hours at night by praying, reading Quran, supplicating at night for about 10 hours and you get the reward of worshipping him for 83 years...For those of us who are always looking for bargains and deals, observing laylatul qadr is the best deal in the universe, then no Muslim should neglect.

Those who have been entrenched in sins, disobedience, oppressing others, neglecting other people's rights....do not despair from Allah's mercy and forgiveness, this is the time to repent, this is the time to abandon you old habits, this is the time to rectify your heart, this is the time to perfect your manners and etiquettes with your parents, your spouses, your children, your employees. Now is the time to change brothers and sisters, now is the time that Allah is waiting for you and

me to call upon him, supplicating to him for his guidance and forgiveness.

So to be sure that we observe the night of decree it is recommended that we try to stay up at night in worship of Allah. No one knows exactly when it is, but we know for sure that it is within these last ten nights of Ramadan. The reason it's hidden from us is because this way we will worship Allaah in all the last ten nights of Ramadhān and thus earn even more rewards and have a greater hope of having our sins forgiven.

How do we know if we observed the night of decree/power or not? Are there any signs that we could recognize?

The scholars say that Laylatul Qadr has signs that occur during the night and signs afterwards.

As for the signs that occur in the night, they are:

***Strong light in that night. ***

***Tranquility: *-the tranquility of the heart and expanding of the chest of the believer. It will feel peaceful and quiet due to the abundance of angels that have descended.**

***Dream: * That Allaah may show person the night in his dream as it happened to some of the Companions**

-Enthusiasm-That a person will find pleasure and enthusiasm in the standing for prayer more than he will find in other nights

As for the signs afterwards:

The sun rises without rays, The Prophet sal Allaahu Alayhi wa sallam said:

"On the morning following Laylatul-Qadr the sun rises not having any rays, as if it were a brass dish, until it rises up."(Muslim)

2 The moon is like half a plate

 **Abu Hurairah radhi Allaahu anhu**

said : "We were discussing Laylatul-Qadr in the presence of Allaah's Messenger so he said : 'Which of you remembers [the night] when the moon arose and was like half a plate... ?'" (Muslim)

3 The night is very calm, tranquil and pleasant.

 **The Prophet sal Allaahu Alayhi wa sallam said:**

"Laylatul-Qadr is calm and pleasant, neither hot nor cold, the sun arises on its morning being feeble and red."

4 There might be light rain

 **Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri radhi Allaahu anhu said:**

“The Prophet sal Allaahu Alayhi wa sallam said:

“I have been shown the Night of ‘Qadr’, but have forgotten the date, but it is in the odd nights of the last 10 nights.

I saw in my dream that I was prostrating in mud and water.”

In those days the roof of the masjid was made of branches of date palm trees.

At the same time the sky was clear and no cloud visible, but suddenly a cloud came and it rained.

The Prophet Sal Allaahu Alaiyihi wa Sallam led us in the prayer and I saw the traces of mud on the forehead and the nose of the Prophet Sal Allaahu Alaiyihi wa Sallam. So it was the confirmation of that dream.”

[al-Bukhaari (2027) and Muslim (1167)]

[at-Tayaalisee, Ibn Khuzaimah and al-Bazaar with a Hasan Isnad].

Someone may ask *what is the benefit of the signs afterwards?

The answer: is to give the hard worker a glad tiding in the night and to strengthen his Imaan and affirmation.

It will increase his hope in what he did that night“[Sharh Mumti’ (6/497)]

These are “SOME” of the signs of Laylatul-Qadr.

But just because ‘some’ or ‘all’ of these signs are there, it does not mean that it’s Laylatul-Qadr for sure.

Shaykh al-Albaani said:

” ...The tangible signs (for Laylatal Qadr) are signs which don’t necessarily prove that whoever witnesses them or experiences them has indeed seen Laylatal Qadr, this is obvious...”

But we HOPE with Allaah that we may have witnessed this blessed night and we make duaah that Allaah accepts it from us.

So do your VERY BEST.

Strive HARD in worship in ALL the last ten nights of Ramadhan.

Make FIRM resolve

Seek SINCERE Taubah.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Don’t let it go.

Second Khutbah

تَرَحَّلَ الشَّهْرُ وَ لَهْفَاهُ وَ انْصَرَمَا
وَ اخْتَصَّ بِالْفَوْزِ فِي الْجَنَاتِ مَنْ خَدَمَا
مَنْ فَاتَهُ الزَّرْعُ فِي وَقْتِ الْبَدَارِ فَمَا
تَرَاهُ يَحْصُدُ إِلَّا الِهَمَّ وَ النَّدَمَا
طُوبَى لِمَنْ كَانَتْ التَّقْوَى بِضَاعَتَهُ
فِي شَهْرِهِ وَ بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ مُعْتَصِمَا

عباد الله قد شمّر رمضان عن الساق، و آذن بالانطلاق، فوّضتُ خيامه، و تصرّمتُ أيامه، و أزفت رحيله، كنّا بالأمس نتلقى التهاني بقدومه، و اليوم نتلقى التعازي برحيله.

قد مضى هذا الشهر الكريم، وقد أحسن فيه أناسٌ و أساء آخرون، و هو شاهدٌ علينا أو لنا بما أودعناه من أعمالٍ، شاهدٌ للمشمرين بصيامهم و قيامهم وبرّهم و إحسانهم، و شاهدٌ على المقصرين بغفلتهم و إعراضهم، و شحّهم و عصيانهم، و لا ندري والله هل سنذكره مرة أخرى، أو سيحول بيننا و بينه هادم اللذات و مفرق الجماعات...

Brothers and sisters in Islam, take advantage of these last remaining days and nights of ramadan. Some of us increased in good deeds in this month while others didn't take advantage of it. This month is a witness for those who did good and a witness against those who didn't leave off sinning and didn't take advantage of this month. We don't know if we will be here to witness another Ramadan, so seize the opportunity now while we still have time brothers and sisters.

Be informed dearly beloved servants of Allah, that at the end of this month of Ramadan there are three affairs that we need to be aware of: Zakatul Fitr, At Takbeer and Salatul Eid.

As for Zakatul Fitr then it is obligatory upon every Muslim, old, young, male and female as the Prophet Muhammad told us:

فَرَضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ زَكَاةَ الْفِطْرِ صَاعًا مِنْ تَمْرٍ أَوْ صَاعًا مِنْ شَعِيرٍ عَلَى الْعَبْدِ وَالْحُرِّ وَالذَّكَرِ وَالْأُنْثَى وَالصَّغِيرِ وَالْكَبِيرِ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَأَمَرَ بِهَا أَنْ تُؤَدَّى قَبْلَ خُرُوجِ النَّاسِ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ

Ibn 'Umar said Allah's messenger prescribed Zakatul Fitr upon every Muslim one sa'aa (5-6 pounds) of dates or a sa' of barley, and gave command that this should be paid before the people pray the Eid Al Fitr Prayer.

Why do we pay the Zakatul Fitr, what is the wisdom behind it?

The Prophet Muhammad told us:

فَرَضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - زَكَاةَ الْفِطْرِ; طُهْرَةً لِلصَّائِمِ مِنَ اللَّغْوِ وَالرَّفَثِ، وَطُعْمَةً لِلْمَسَاكِينِ، فَمَنْ آدَاهَا قَبْلَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ زَكَاةٌ مَقْبُولَةٌ، وَمَنْ آدَاهَا بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ صَدَقَةٌ مِنَ الصَّدَقَاتِ.

Allah's Messenger prescribed Zakatul Fitr as a purification for the fasting person from indecent speech and acts and to provide food for the needy. Whoever pays it before the Eid prayer it is an accepted Zaktul Fitr, and whoever pays it after the Eid prayer it is just a voluntary charity."

Zakatul Fitr can also be distributed a day or two before the Eid prayer as it was done by many of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad.

Also from the acts of worship that Allah has prescribed for us in the end of this month is making Takbeer. Glorifying Allah, Praising Him for allowing us to fast, pray, and finish the month of Ramadan. It is recommended for men as well as women to make the takbeer starting from the last day of Ramadan up until the Eidul Fitr prayer.

Lastly, brothers and sisters is that after fasting this blessed month and increasing in good deeds, we pray the Eidul Fitr prayer. Praising Allah, glorifying Him, while having our best appearances. Eidu Fitr prayer is obligatory upon all men and an emphasized sunnah for the women. It is from the sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad to eat a few dates before going to the eid Musalla.

May Allah enable us to observe laylatul qadr, and may it be a means to provide Allah's forgiveness for us.

Brothers and sisters Islamic Ministries and community development is requesting your support and participation in or dawah activities.