



ليلة القدر

NIGHT OF DECREE

These notes are based on a previous course. Anything good is from Allah and any mistakes are from ourselves and the shaitan. May Allah forgive us.

www.markazalsalam.com

t.me/markazalsalam

[+97150 8008875](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/00299a63686160000000000000000000)

info@markazalsalam.com

t.me/dropletsofdew

[f](https://www.facebook.com/AlSalamIslamicCenter)

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لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله

ليلة القدر

NIGHT OF DECREE

Night of Decree (ليلة القدر)

Preparing for the Night of the Decree (الاستعداد ليلة القدر)

- Be truthful with Allah and your self (وقفه صادقة مع النفس): you have to remember who you are doing this for.
- Seek forgiveness (الاستغفار): always ask for forgiveness of your sins so that it can make your worship easy and so that you can taste the sweetness of the worship. It is the sins that remove this sweetness.
- Do your best while seeking the help of Allah (الاجتهاد مع الاستعانة بالله): you want to do things with ihsan, and ask Allah to help you every step of the way.
- Keep away from pride and arrogance (إياك الغرور و العجب): protect your heart not to feel proud of yourself if you do some kind of worship. Don't compare yourself to others thinking you did better, this will spoil the deeds – it is Allah who allowed you to do this.
- Seek Allah's pardon (سؤال الله العفو)

What did the Prophet (سبحانه وتعالى) used to do in the last ten nights? (ماذا كان يفعل الرسول صلى الله عليه وسلم اذا دخل العشر؟)

1. Enliven the night (احياء الليل): after maghrib until fajr the Prophet (سبحانه وتعالى) would make the time alive and not a time for sleep. It is not that a person gets no sleep, but only a bit of sleep to have energy to worship. A good time to sleep is half an hour or hour after isha.
2. Awaken the family (ايقظ اهله): awaken his household.
3. 'Tighten his belt' (شد المأزر): meaning he rolled up his sleeves, and takes on these 10 days full on, prepared for it.

Why the last ten nights? (لماذا العشر الاواخر؟):

- To seek the night of the decree. Because we are looking for one night that is worth more than an entire lifetime. You need to search for it every night. Some people say oh it happened on the 21st, and then you slack off, and then you hear others say it was this day, so you would have missed it. So search for it every night.

Surah Al Qadr (سورة القدر):

What is laylt al qadr? (ما هي ليلة القدر؟)

(إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ) (Verily, We have sent it (this Qur'ân) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree))

Ayah 1: Allah revealed the entire Qur'an on the night of the decree, it was taken from the Preserved Tablet and descended to the lowest heaven in all of its entirety. Then the angel Jibreel (عليه السلام) began to reveal to the Prophet (سبحانه وتعالى) in intervals.

(وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ) (And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is?)

Ayah 2: That is the night when Allah will decree all that will happen until the next laylt al Qadr. It takes place on an odd night. Angels are carrying out the commands of Allah. On that night, the angels will have a record of what decrees to execute. For example, one angel is in charge of rain, he will only know the rain for that year, he does not know it for the second year. Only Allah knows this, since it is in the Preserved Tablet. The angels of death are given a record of who will die for that year, who will be born, etc. That is why we ask for all of the goodness on that night. *We need to increase the dua for pardoning.* (اللهم انك عفو تحب العفو فأعفو عني) (Oh Allah You are the All-Pardoning, You love to pardon, so pardon me.) Pardoning is more than forgiveness, you will not be asked about your sin on the Day of Judgement, it will

be deleted from your record. All of the etiquettes of a dua'a are in this dua'a. Subhan Allah.

What is its virtue? (ما فضلها؟)

(لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ) (The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allâh in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months))

Ayah 3: Its virtue is worth more than a thousand months, which is equal to 83 years and 4 months. Imagine, can a person worship for a thousand months straight? No, and this is a mercy from Allah for the Ummah.

What happens? (ماذا يحدث؟)

(تَنْزَلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ) (Therein descend the angels and the Rûh [Jibril (Gabriel)] by Allâh's Permission with all Decrees)

Ayah 4: What happens to the universe? The earth will be filled with the angels, and the angels bring mercy. The dua'as are responded to. Imagine Jibreel (عليه السلام) will descend on this earth! Subhan Allah. You need to believe this, though you cannot see it, you need to believe that angels are crowding the earth. Subhan Allah.

What is its description?

(سَلَّمَ هِيَ حَتَّى مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ) ((All that night), there is Peace (and Goodness from Allâh to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn)

Ayah 5: Peace and tranquility until the fajr time.

Signs on the night of laylt al qadr (العلامات المقاربة):

- The sky will be illuminated, though we cannot see it because of artificial light.
- Peace and tranquility: there will be peace between the people and children during the night.
- Pleasant breeze
- Sweet taste of worship: you will enjoy the worship, you will feel that one particular night you will taste it. May Allah make our heart light and clean in order to feel it. Ameen. When you get to experience this taste in Ramadan, then you want to experience it all the time throughout the year.

Later signs: The sun will have no rays.

What to do?

- It starts from after maghrib, and you want to establish qiyam al layl – whether at the masjid or at home, do it where you find your heart. If you cannot pray due to your cycle, then your test is acceptance, be pleased with the decree of Allah. Your patience will have so much value.

- Read the Qur'an: reflect, memorize, anything related to the Qur'an. May Allah never make us bored of the Qur'an. Ameen.
- Dhikr, dua'a
- Switch off the phone, messages are distracting, make your time full of devotion from maghrib to fajr and all throughout make istia'na, seeking the help of Allah.

May Allah allow us to witness the night of the decree and give it it's due rights and receive all of its benefits. Ameen.

Preparation for Laylat Al Qadr – Night of Decree (ليلة القدر)

Ramadan an Honorable Month

- The month of Ramadan is an honorable month – its days and nights pass by so quickly, though our hearts long for it. There is nothing more beautiful than sweetness of worship in Ramadan.
- The last ten nights of Ramadan are a golden opportunity to grab the blessings and favors of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). We're reaching the end of the race, but the race is not about who reaches 1st, 2nd or 3rd. It's if your sins have been forgiven by Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) by the end of this month. Did Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make you among the muttazeen? This is the true success.

What did the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and the Righteous Predecessors do?

- The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) used to do his best in the month of Ramadan more than other times (كان النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم يجتهد في رمضان). (ما لا يجتهد في غيره). He used to fold his bed and make the nights alive. You can make up your sleep, but you can't miss the opportunity in the last ten nights, subhan Allah.
- The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) is our role model, as long as we're following his steps then we will be guided and we will reach.
- The righteous predecessors used to increase their effort and determination in the last ten nights of Ramadan (كان السلف يجتهدون و (رفعوا الهمة في العشر الأواخر).

- Hastiness is dispraised, but in matters of deen you need to grab the opportunity. You are the one who will be benefitting from this 'race'. Because if the time passes and you didn't do any worship, then it will be against you, you will have lost in the end. Now that you're at the end of the race, what did Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) say?
- Surah Al Imran 133: (وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لَِّلْمُتَّقِينَ) (And march forth in the way (which leads to) forgiveness from your Lord, and for Paradise as wide as are the heavens and the earth, prepared for Al-Muttaqûn)
 - You need to march forth and hasten towards the forgiveness of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and a paradise prepared for the muttaqeen.

What should I do to welcome these last ten nights? (ماذا أفعل لاستقبال العشر؟)

1. Be truthful with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and myself (وقفه صادقة مع الله و مع النفس):
 - Don't cheat or deceive yourself – I need to look at myself and account myself. I need to ask myself, 'what did I do in the previous 20 days?' Was my intention sincere?
 - I need to be firm with myself because I don't know if these opportunities will come again, subhan Allah. So I need to focus and not be lazy. If you missed the opportunity in the last 20 days, you still have a chance in the last third, you don't know how far you can reach to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in these last ten nights. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) forgive us. Ameen.

- I cannot do anything without the help of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) – we all need to sail towards the pleasure of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). The pleasure of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is better and higher than paradise.
- The journey to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is with your heart – how truthful is your heart, how much do you love Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)?

2. Accompany forgiveness (ملازمة الاستغفار):

- Make istighfar your companion. What stops us from being lazy, not benefitting, and not taking the opportunities? It's our sins.
- When you're seeking forgiveness then you will be 'light' because sins weigh us down. And when you're lighter, then you can go faster.
- Dua'as of the Messengers Seeking Forgiveness
 - Invocation of Adam (عليه السلام): Surah Al 'Araf 23: (قَالَا (رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ (They said: "Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If You forgive us not, and bestow not upon us Your Mercy, we shall certainly be of the losers.")
 - Invocation of Nuh (عليه السلام): Surah Hud 47: (وَإِلَّا تَغْفِرْ لِي (وَتَرْحَمْنِي أَكُن مِّنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ (And unless You forgive me and have Mercy on me, I will indeed be one of the losers.")

- Look that their tawheed and how much they're begging Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) yet they are Messengers, subhan Allah.
- Invocation of Musa (عليه السلام): Surah Al Qasas 16: (قَالَ) (رَبِّ إِنِّي ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِي فَاغْفِرْ لِي فَغَفَرَ لَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ) (He said: "My Lord! Verily, I have wronged myself, so forgive me." Then He forgave him. Verily, He is the Off-Forgiving, the Most Merciful)
- Invocation of Yunus (عليه السلام): Surah Al Anbiya'a 87: (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ) (Lâ ilâha illa Anta [none has the right to be worshipped but You (O Allâh)], Glorified (and Exalted) are You [above all that (evil) they associate with You]. Truly, I have been of the wrong-doers.")
 - In all of the dua'as, they're blaming themselves, they're not blaming their spouse, children, or friends. They need Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to forgive them.

3. Ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to pardon you (سؤال الله العفو):

- Hadith: (يا رسول الله أرأيت إن علمت أي ليلة القدر ما أقول فيها؟ قال: "قولي:) (Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported: I asked: "O Messenger of Allah! If I realize Lailat-ul-Qadr (Night of Decree), what should I supplicate in it?" He (صلى الله عليه وسلم) replied, "You should supplicate: Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun, tuhibbul-'afwa,

fa'fu 'anni (O Allah, You are Most Pardoning, and You love to pardon; so pardon me).") – At Tirmidhi Book 9, Hadith 1195

- Pardoning means that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will overlook your mistakes, erase your sins, and open a new white page. It's not only forgiveness, but pardoning in which a new page is opened. The pardoning of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is so vast. No matter how many sins a person may have committed, the pardoning of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is greater, subhan Allah.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves when His servant returns to Him after committing a sin. Imagine Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves to pardon – so never despair from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), never think bad about Him. If you want to think bad, don't think bad about anyone except yourself. And then seek the forgiveness and pardoning of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- If you want to be pardoned by Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), then pardon people. The more you are pardoning others, the more Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will pardon you, subhan Allah.
- And it's not about how many sins you've committed but how much you're attached to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Imagine someone who has committed one sin but didn't attach to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and another has committed a million and attached to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Who is Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) pleased with? The one who committed a million but is attached to Him, subhan Allah.

- We need to increase in saying this dua'a in these last ten nights.

4. Beware of self-amazement and self-deception (ياك العجب و الغرور):

- We can easily think highly of ourselves when we see all the worships we've done in Ramadan – the fasting, praying, reciting Qur'an, charity. We shouldn't look at how much we did, don't look at how many pages of Qur'an you read, how many nights of qiyam, or how much khushu' in your prayer. The moment we look at our good deeds then we will feel proud and deceive ourselves. There are people who think they reached Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) but they didn't reach, why? Because they think they did the max – just this feeling of pride will not make you reach. It's like being on a treadmill, subhan Allah.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) prescribed the worships not to be proud, but to be humble. And you will be humble when you don't look at your deeds, but look at the greatness of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), subhan Allah.

What did the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) do in the last ten nights of Ramadan? (ماذا كان يفعل النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم اذا دخل العشر؟)

- Enliven the night (احيا الليل): the nights were like mornings
- Awaken his family (أيقظ أهله): his household would be awake
- 'Tighten his belt' (شد المأزر): meaning he would put in his best effort
- Why are we doing all of this preparation? To seek the night of decree – we want this one night. Someone might say then why are we worshipping all other nights? Because I don't know when is the Night of Decree for this reason I need to make an effort all ten nights. It's not what people think that it's only the 27th. When you worship all ten nights then you are actually following the Sunnah of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) so you haven't lost anything.
- The righteous predecessors used to even beautify and adorn themselves in the last ten nights – they would wear their best and put perfume. Keep in mind for the lady only at her home, not when going outside. These are special nights and we want to adorn ourselves both inside and out. We are beautifying ourselves when it's Eid, but what about these last ten nights? We are meeting the King of the kings, during a special time, on a special night, subhan Allah.

What is the meaning of Laylat Al Qadr? (ما معنى ليلة القدر؟)

- It comes from (قدر): which means to honor, to give status to something (التقدير). It also means decree.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) favored this night over other nights. And on this Night, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will decree all that will happen in this one year. Who will be born, who will die, who will get married, who will have a child, who will have a house, what will be your provision for the year? All of these decrees for the one year will be shown to the angels.
- That's why we're make so much dua'a on these days – we ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to grant us goodness in the duniya and akhira. Ameen. We especially say (اللهم إنك عفو تحب العفو فاعفُ عني) (Allahumma innaka 'afuwun, tuhibbul-'afwa, fa'fu 'anni (O Allah, You are Most Pardoning, and You love to pardon; so pardon me))
- Hadith: عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " مَنْ يَفْعُمَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا) (رضي الله عنه) (Narrated Abu Huraira (رضي الله عنه): Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "Whoever establishes the prayers on the night of Qadr out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not to show off) then all his past sins will be forgiven.") - Sahih al-Bukhari 35
 - If you establish the Night of the Decree with faith, and hoping for the reward, then your previous sins will be forgiven. If you have your menses, it doesn't mean you can't do anything. You can make dua'a, recite Qur'an, etc.

What is Laylat Al Qadr? (ما هي ليلة القدر؟)

- Let us look at Surah Al Qadr

(إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ) (Verily, We have sent it (this Qur'ân) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree))

- Ayah 1: Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) revealed the entire Qur'an on the Night of the Decree. Other evidence is found in Surah Ad Dhukan 3-4: (إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ (۳) فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ (۴)) (We sent it (this Qur'ân) down on a blessed night [(i.e. night of Qadr) in the month of Ramadân — the 9th month of the Islâmic calendar]. Verily, We are ever warning [mankind that Our Torment will reach those who disbelieve in Our Oneness of Lordship and in Our Oneness of worship]. (3) Therein (that night) is decreed every matter of ordainments (4)).
- The Night of Decree is a blessed night and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) chose Ramadan to be the month of the Qur'an. Allah revealed the entire Qur'an on the night of the decree, it was taken from the Preserved Tablet and descended to the lowest heaven in all of its entirety. Then the angel Jibreel (عليه السلام) first revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) on the Night of Decree.

(وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ) (And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is?)

What is its virtue? (ما فضلها؟)

(لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ) (The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allâh in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months)

- Ayah 3: any worships that you establish on the Night of Decree will be better worshipping for a 1000 months, more than 83 years, subhan Allah. And no one can worship 83 years straight and this is a great favor from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

What happens? (ماذا يحدث؟)

(تَنْزَلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ) (Therein descend the angels and the Rûh [Jibril (Gabriel)] by Allâh's Permission with all Decrees)

- Ayah 4: All of the angels including Jibreel (عليه السلام) will descend on this earth by the permission of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), subhan Allah. You will not find a place on earth not filled with angels, subhan Allah. It will be a night of peace and tranquility.

What is its description? (ما وصفها؟)

(سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ) ((All that night), there is Peace (and Goodness from Allâh to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn)

- Ayah 5: It will be a time of peace until the appearance of dawn. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us reach the Night of Decree. Ameen.

Preparation for Laylat Al Qadr – Night of Decree (الاستعداد لليلة القدر)

Ramadan an Honorable Month

- The month of Ramadan is an honorable month – it is a favor from Allah Al Mannan, Al Wahab, Ar Raqaq, Ar Rahman Ar Raheem – Ramadan is a gift for us and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has removed distractions from us so that we get closer to Him. He has chained the shayateen.
- We are approaching the last ten nights which are the best and cream of this month (نحن أمام عشر ليال رمضان وهي الخلاصة والافضل من هذا الشهر), subhan Allah. And the cherry on the top is laylat Al Qadr.
- As people reach the end of a race, they speed up, and we need to make more effort than the last 20 days of Ramadan. These are your last opportunities to win the race, if you missed opportunities, now is your chance to make it up.

What did the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) do in the last ten nights of Ramadan? (ماذا كان يفعل النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم إذا دخل العشر؟)

- Enliven the night (أحيا الليل): the nights were like mornings, they used to take a short nap
- Awaken his family (أيقظ أهله): his household would be awake because you want to witness the Night of Decree.
- 'Tighten his belt' (شد المأزر): meaning he would stop doing everything else and just focus on worshipping Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), he would put in his best effort

- We need to follow the footsteps of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) because he is our role model. We don't want to be losers this month, it's a loss to enter this month and leave without having our sins forgiven. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) forgive us and free our necks from the hellfire. Ameen.
- There's time to do other things, but we don't know if we will reach the last ten nights, so we need to focus.
- The righteous predecessors used to increase their effort and determination in the last ten nights of Ramadan (كان السلف يجتهدون و (رفعوا الهمة في العشر الأواخر).

What should I do to welcome these last ten nights? (ماذا أفعل لاستقبال العشر؟)

- We need to look our heart first to welcome these last ten nights before looking at the means.

5. What is your concern? (ما همك؟)

- Surah Al Isra'a 19: وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ (سَعِيهِمْ مَشْكُورًا) (And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it (i.e. do righteous deeds of Allâh's Obedience) while he is a believer (in the Oneness of Allâh— Islâmic Monotheism), then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated, (thanked and rewarded by Allâh).)
- Our concern should be the akhira, we want to go to paradise, so we need to work for it. We don't want our deeds or efforts to be lost. We don't want to be awake the

whole night praying and reading Qur'an and it's not appreciated, subhan Allah. We want our efforts to be appreciated, how? You need to start right, your concern should be the akhira.

- Don't make your concern the last ten nights about food for eid, clothes for eid, etc –what a waste, subhan Allah. Remove all concerns of the duniya and put it on hold, focus on the akhira and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will take care of your duniya. The best of the duniya will come to you. But if your concern is the duniya, it won't come to you and you have to run after it and it keeps running away from. So you only get tired and not get what you want in the end, subhan Allah.

6. Be truthful with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and yourself (وقفه صادقة مع الله ومع النفس):

- Surah Az Zumar 33: (وَالَّذِي جَاءَ بِالصِّدْقِ وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ) (And he (Muhammad SAW) who has brought the truth (this Qur'ân and Islâmic Monotheism) and (those who) believed therein (i.e. the true believers of Islâmic Monotheism), those are Al- Muttaqûn)
- When you are truthful then you will graduate with taqwa at the end of the month of Ramadan, beidhn Allah. Don't deceive yourself, don't cheat yourself, if you're truthful that you want to do the best, then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will bring the opportunities to you, but it's up to you to take it. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will take care of your time, health,

children, He will prepare the environment for you to do worship, and if you're truthful, you will take his opportunity. The point is not to see things in place so you sleep more or do other things, subhan Allah. People are either truthful or hypocrites. People say they want to read Qur'an, pray, etc and when it's there, they won't do it. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us. Ameen.

7. Tawwakul in Allah (التوكل) (سبحانه وتعالى)

- Surah Az Zumar 62: (اللَّهُ خَلِقُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ) (Allâh is the Creator of all things, and He is the Wakîl (Trustee, Disposer of affairs, Guardian) over all things)
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) created everything, He created deeds, worships, so rely on Him. You can't do your best in the last ten nights without tawwakul in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Someone might say I can't overcome myself, so what should you do?

8. Seek forgiveness (ملازمة الاستغفار):

- Surah Az Zumar 53: (قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ) (Say: "O 'Ibâdî (My slaves) who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allâh, verily Allâh forgives all sins. Truly, He is Off-Forgiving, Most Merciful)
- Our sins are an obstacle to our worship. Sometimes we feel tired and lazy and can't go on with our worships – this is

from our sins so we need to seek forgiveness. We can even have small sins that are constant and we're unaware of; we to seek forgiveness for that as well.

9. Beware of self-amazement and self-deception (اياك العجب و الغرور):

- Surah Al Isra'a 37: (وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَن تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَلَن تَبْلُغَ) (الْجِبَالَ طُولًا) (And walk not on the earth with conceit and arrogance. Verily, you can neither rend nor penetrate the earth, nor can you attain a stature like the mountains in height)
- We can easily think highly of ourselves when we see all the worships we've done in Ramadan – the fasting, praying, reciting Qur'an, charity. Take yourself out of the picture, it's not you. It's all a favor from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- Pride and arrogance are like Iblis ,thinking highly of himself. Don't look down on others whether you're at home or on the masjid. In one house, maybe one girl is praying and the rest are sleeping or watching TV. It is very dangerous to compare yourself against others because then your deed is gone. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us and purify us. Ameen.

10. Be grateful (الشكر):

- Surah Az Zumar 66: (بَلِ اللَّهُ فَاعْبُدْ وَكُن مِّنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ) (Nay! But worship Allâh (Alone and none else), and be among the grateful)
- You need to thank Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for being able to fast the last 19 days, then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will increase you.

When you pray maghrib, you thank Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and He will increase you. Thank Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for praying the voluntaries and He will increase you. Thank Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for all of your worships and He will increase you.

Why the last ten nights? To seek the night of decree

- When you start tonight, and you thank Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then He will give you tomorrow in sha'a Allah. And continue with this until you witness laylat al Qadr, in sha'a Allah.
- It's not what people think that it's on the 27th because it can change. The scholars said it's an odd night, but the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) would worship all nights and you don't know if the starting day was correct so you can't just depend on an odd night.

What is the meaning of Al Qadr? (ما معنى القدر؟)

- One of the means is (شرف): which is honor, why is Laylat Al Qadr is honorable? Let's us look at Surah Al Qadr.

Surah Al Qadr (سورة القدر)

(إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ) (Verily, We have sent it (this Qur'ân) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree))

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) revealed the entire Qur'an on the Night of the Decree. It is the connection between the heavens and the earth.

(وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ) (And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is?)

What is its virtue? (ما فضلها؟)

(لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ) (The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allâh in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months))

- Any worships that you establish on the Night of Decree will be better worshipping for a 1000 months, more than 83 years, subhan Allah. And no one can worship 1000 months straight and this is a great favor from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). So if you pray on that night, give charity, ponder the Qur'an, recite the Qur'an, then it's like you worshipped for a 1000 months. Imagine if you awaken your family and they worship on that night, you will have thousands of rewards, so make your concern the akhira. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) help us. Ameen.

What happens? (ماذا يحدث؟)

(تَنْزَلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ) (Therein descend the angels and the Rûh [Jibril (Gabriel)] by Allâh's Permission with all Decrees)

- All of the angels including Jibreel (عليه السلام) will descend on this earth by the permission of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), subhan Allah. The earth will be filled with angels, subhan Allah. Look at the honor of this night.

What is its description? (ما وصفها؟)

(سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ) ((All that night), there is Peace (and Goodness from Allâh to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn)

- It will be a time of peace and tranquility until the appearance of dawn. You will witness tranquility on that night. The descent of the angels brings peace. You will taste the sweetness of worship on that night. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us reach the Night of Decree. Ameen. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) never deprive us of this night. Ameen.

Second meaning of Al Qadr

- It comes from (التضييق), which is tightness. The earth will be filled and packed with angels (الارض تضيق بالملائكة بكثرتهم), subhan Allah. So the earth will be tight because of the many angels on it. The angels want to witness your worship, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is allowing them to see how His servants are worshipping Him, look at how Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has honored us, subhan Allah.

Third meaning of Al Qadr

- Third meaning of qadr is (التقدير), decree. Everything is decreed in the Preserved Tablet, and on the Night of Decree, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will tell the angels what will happen to the person for that year until the next Night of Decree. Imagine as if each person's file for that year will be shown to the angels, who will die, who will be born, what incidents will happen, who will get married, where will rain fall – the angels carry out the commands of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). For example, the angel of the wombs will be told whom he needs to blow the souls into which wombs for that year. The angels will see those who were laughing and walking but are decreed to die, subhan Allah. We need to make so much dua'a. Or someone is decreed to be sick, but with the dua'a it can change. Make the best dua'a, because dua'a can change the decree.
- Surah Ad Dhukan 3-4: إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ (٣) فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ (٤) (We sent it (this Qur'ân) down on a blessed night [(i.e. night of Qadr) in the month of Ramadân — the 9th month of the Islâmic calendar]. Verily, We are ever warning [mankind that Our Torment will reach those who disbelieve in Our Oneness of Lordship and in Our Oneness of worship]. (3) Therein (that night) is decreed every matter of ordainments (4)).
 - Make so much dua'a on the night of decree, but our hearts need to be focused. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is able to do anything, but we need to take the opportunities.

What should we do on the night of decree?

Establish the night prayer

- Hadith: عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " مَنْ يَقُمْ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا) (Narrated Abu Huraira (رضي الله عنه): Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "Whoever establishes the prayers on the night of Qadr out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not to show off) then all his past sins will be forgiven." - Sahih al-Bukhari 35
 - If you establish the Night of the Decree with faith, and hoping for the reward, then your previous sins will be forgiven. If you have your menses, it doesn't mean you can't do anything. You can make dua'a, recite Qur'an, etc.
- Surah Az Zumar 9: (أَمَّنْ هُوَ قَلْبُتْ ءَانَاءَ اللَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُوا رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ ۗ) (قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ) (Is one who is obedient to Allâh, prostrating himself or standing (in prayer) during the hours of the night, fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the Mercy of his Lord (like one who disbelieves)? Say: "Are those who know equal to those who know not?" It is only men of understanding who will remember (i.e. get a lesson from Allâh's Signs and Verses).)
 - What is feeling should you have when standing on the night of decree? Fearing the hereafter and hoping for Allah's mercy.

Qur'an: read it, ponder it

- Surah Az Zumar 23: (اللَّهُ نَزَّلَ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابًا مُتَشَابِهًا مَثَانِيَ تَقْشَعِرُّ مِنْهُ جُلُودُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ) رَبَّهُمْ ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ هُدَىٰ اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهِ ۗ مَنْ يَشَاءُ ۗ وَمَنْ يُضَلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ) (Allâh has sent down the Best statement, a Book (this Qur'ân), its parts resembling each other (in goodness and truth), and oft-repeated. The skins of those who fear their Lord shiver from it (when they recite it or hear it). Then their skin and their heart soften to the remembrance of Allâh. That is the guidance of Allâh. He Guides therewith whom He wills and whomever Allâh sends astray, for him there is no guide)

Make dua

- The best dua'a on laylut al qadr is (اللهم إنك عفو تحب العفو فاعفُ عني) (Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun, tuhibbul-'afwa, fa'fu 'anni (O Allah, You are Most Pardoning, and You love to pardon; so pardon me))
- You want Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to pardon your sins and shortcomings in worship but this dua'a won't come from the heart unless you know Who is Allah?
- Surah Az Zumar 67: (وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ ۗ وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا قَبْضَتُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَالسَّمَاوَاتُ) (مَطْوِيَّاتٌ بِيَمِينِهِ ۗ سُبْحَانَهُ ۗ وَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ) (They made not a just estimate of Allâh such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the earth will be grasped by His Hand and the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand. Glorified is He, and High is He above all that they associate as partners with Him!)

- Surah Al Isra'a 44: (تُسَبِّحُ لَهُ السَّمَوَاتُ السَّبْعُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَنْ فِيهِنَّ وَإِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا يُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِهِ) (The seven heavens and the earth and all that is therein, glorify Him and there is not a thing but glorifies His Praise. But you understand not their glorification. Truly, He is Ever Forbearing, Oft-Forgiving)

 - If you're not worshipping Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), then the whole world is glorifying Him, subhan Allah. We cannot hear them or understand them. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has favored Bani Adam over the other creations. And when you worship Him, though other creations are worshipping Him too, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will bring down the angels to see you, subhan Allah.

- Surah Az Zumar 7: (إِنْ تَكْفُرُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنْكُمْ وَلَا يَرْضَىٰ لِعِبَادِهِ الْكُفْرَ وَإِنْ تَشْكُرُوا يَرْضَهُ) (لَكُمْ وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ) (If you disbelieve, then verily, Allâh is not in need of you, He likes not disbelief for His slaves. And if you are grateful (by being believers), He is pleased therewith for you. No bearer of burdens shall bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return, and He will inform you what you used to do. Verily, He is the All-Knower of that which is in (men's) breasts.)

 - When you worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then it's good for you, and if you don't worship Him, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is the Most Rich. If you're grateful and you appreciate that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) made a human, made you a Muslim,

bestowed knowledge upon you, then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will be pleased with you, though He is the Most Rich.

Reminder for all of us

Establish the night of decree with your heart before your feet (قم ليلة القدر) (بقلبك قبل قدمك): focus on your heart before your limbs.

Establish the night of decree with your neediness before your confidence (قم ليلة القدر بفقرك قبل ثقتك): don't think you have health, wealth, so you will be able to do it. Don't ever rely on yourself for a blink of an eye.

Don't rely on yourself, rely on the mercy of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) (لا تثق بنفسك) (ثق برحمة الله): don't rely on your deeds or yourself, trust Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) one.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

**All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the 'Ālamîn
(mankind, jinn and all that exists)**

Preparation for Laylat Al Qadr – Night of Decree (الاستعداد لليلة القدر)

Ramadan an Honorable Guest

- We need to thank Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for bringing all the opportunities to us. Though the human is just arguing, busy with himself. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) made everything for us in order in order to draw closer to Him.

Surah Al Baqarah 185: (شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ) وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ) (The month of Ramadân in which was revealed the Qur'ân, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadân i.e. is present at his home), he must observe Saum (fasts) that month, and whoever is ill or on a journey, the same number [of days which one did not observe Saum (fasts) must be made up] from other days. Allâh intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you. (He wants that you) must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allâh [i.e. to say Takbîr (Allâhu-Akbar; Allâh is the Most Great) for having guided you so that you may be grateful to Him)

- Ramadan is the month of the Qur'an and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) made the connection between the heavens and the earth in the month of Ramadan, subhan Allah. You will find Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) made

Ramadan easy for us – the prayer and fasting is easy. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants us to draw closer to Him and to magnify Him because He guided us. We need to be grateful to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and appreciate all that He has given us.

- We are approaching the last ten nights which are the best and cream of this month (نحن أمام عشر ليال رمضان وهي الخلاصة والافضل من هذا الشهر). Ramadan can be 29 or 30 days, so the last ten nights would begin from tonight assuming it's 29 days.
- The first ten days are resetting and adjusting, the second ten days are climbing and increasing in faith, and the last ten nights are to increase in more faith.
- It's a golden opportunity while you're reaching the end of the race. You always hasten as you reach the end of the race.

Surah Al Imran 133: (وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لَِّلْمُتَّقِينَ) (And march forth in the way (which leads to) forgiveness from your Lord, and for Paradise as wide as are the heavens and the earth, prepared for Al-Muttaqûn)

- We need to hasten to forgiveness and paradise. And we need Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to pardon us. We need to feel as if it's our last, we don't know if we'll reach the next Ramadan, so we need to hasten and grab the opportunities because we're reaching the end of the race.

What did the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) do in the last ten nights of Ramadan? (ماذا كان يفعل النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم إذا دخل العشر؟)

- The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) would make more effort in the month of Ramadan than any other month, and he would put in more effort in the last ten nights of Ramadan than the rest. May Allah (سبحانه) give us health and use all He gave us to worship Him. Ameen.
- You have the most precious nights ahead of you, so you need to make more effort.

What did he do?

- Enliven the night (أحيا الليل): the nights were like mornings, the night become alive and everyone is awake. You can notice the nights of Ramadan are different from other nights of the year. It's peaceful and tranquil in these nights.
- Awaken his family (أيقظ أهله): his household would be awake, why? You need to protect yourself and family from the hellfire. Surah At Tahreem 6: (يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا) (O you who believe! Ward off from yourselves and your families against a Fire (Hell))
- 'Tighten his belt' (شد المأزر): he would work hard

What should I do to welcome these last ten nights? (ماذا أفعل لاستقبال العشر؟)

11. What is your concern? (ما همك؟)

- The matter of faith is not a default setting, it's something you need to constantly refresh and reset your system, and this is your intention. What is your intention? What is your concern?

Surah Al Isra'a 19: (وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا) (And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it (i.e. do righteous deeds of Allâh's Obedience) while he is a believer (in the Oneness of Allâh— Islâmic Monotheism), then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated, (thanked and rewarded by Allâh).)

- No matter how long we live in this life, we will go in the end so we should make the akhira our concern. There is a meeting with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and there's a meeting with our deeds, what did you do in this life? What did you struggle for? We want Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to forgive us, we want Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to appreciate our efforts. If a human being doesn't worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is not his concern, then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is able to bring someone else who will struggle for the sake of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), though Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is the Most Rich. Everyone in life is struggling, even children, but make your struggle worthy for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and He will appreciate it.

12. Be truthful with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and yourself (وقفه صادقة مع الله و مع) (النفس)

Surah At Tawbah 119: (يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ) (O you who believe! Be afraid of Allâh, and be with those who are true (in words and deeds).)

- Be truthful in your claim that your concern is the akhira. Some people come into the month of Ramadan just for desires, but Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants us to have devotion and worship, and worship means no one else has a share in it except Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

13. Tawwakul in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) (التوكل)

- Rely in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), who said you're the one doing it? You need your heart to be switched on and make your concern the akhira.

Surah Al An'am 102: (ذَٰلِكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَأَعْبُدُوهُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ) (Such is Allâh, your Lord! Lâ ilâha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Creator of all things. So worship Him (Alone), and He is the Wakîl (Trustee, Disposer of affairs, Guardian) over all things)

- We have a big opportunity to worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) even more in the next ten nights, but He's telling us to rely on Him, though He's the One commanding us to worship Him, subhan Allah. For example, when you tell someone to do something, you won't help them. Imagine Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) created us, He choose the time, He commanded us, but He said don't do it by yourself, rely on Me. We make the mistake thinking I will do this, I will read Qur'an after maghrib, then I will pray, then I won't sleep, you make a plan and you fail. You end up sleeping the whole time. Remember there is

لا حول و لا قوة الا (سبحانه وتعالى)
 لا حول و لا قوة الا (سبحانه وتعالى)
 (بالله)

- Remove yourself from the equation, don't put yourself in the competition. Our test in life is how much we rely on Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), not rely on ourselves.

14. Seek forgiveness (ملازمة الاستغفار)

- We need to make istighfar because it's the sins that are stopping us from doing good deeds, istaghfar Allah.

Surah Al Imran 147: (وَمَا كَانَ قَوْلُهُمْ إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَإِسْرَافَنَا فِي أَمْرِنَا وَثَبِّتْ)
 (أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ) (And they said nothing but: "Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and our transgressions (in keeping our duties to You), establish our feet firmly, and give us victory over the disbelieving folk.")

- Don't rely on your goodness or purity of heart. You need to always do istighfar. When you increase in istighfar then you will do your best. You need to be humble.

15. Beware of self-amazement and self-deception (إياك العجب و الغرور)

Surah Luqman 18: (وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ)
 (فَخُوزٍ) ("And turn not your face away from men with pride, nor walk in insolence through the earth. Verily, Allâh likes not any arrogant boaster)

- Don't put yourself in the picture at all, because then you put yourself in deception and you hear your voice only.
- What made Iblis to be casted out though he was worshipping Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)? Because of his arrogance and pride. We need to be humble despite the worships we're doing, and it's only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) Who helped us to do these worships.

16. Be grateful (الشكر)

Surah An Nahl 78: (وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ) (And Allâh has brought you out from the wombs of your mothers while you know nothing. And He gave you hearing, sight, and hearts that you might give thanks (to Allâh).)

- Be grateful that you're alive, be grateful that you're Muslim, be grateful of knowledge, be grateful of the Qur'an, be grateful of reciting the Qur'an, be grateful for your house, be grateful for all Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has given you. When you're grateful then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will increase you.
- Alhamdulillah Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) taught us how to be grateful by teaching us Surah An Nahl, He's teaching us of blessings we're unaware of, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) taught us about (لا اله الا الله). When you look at the full year and all that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) taught us, you feel so low and humbled. Don't think of the means because there are no means on the Day of Judgement – it's only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

Why the last ten nights? To seek the night of decree

- It's all for one night, we want to witness laylut al qadr. Imagine days and hours all to get a night of hours, subhan Allah. We need to so much tawakkul and truthfulness because we can't do it by ourselves.

What is the meaning of Al Qadr? (ما معنى القدر؟)

- It's a night of status (شرف): because of the great reward which is better than 1000 months.
- The earth becomes tight (التضييق) because of the many angels coming down, the earth is crowded with angels, subhan Allah. The angels normally come down for study circles, when you recite the Qur'an, to take the souls, but on Laylut Al Qadr, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will command them to come. And when there are angels, there is peace, tranquility and the dua'a is accepted. Laylut al qadr is a favor from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) which we need to be even more grateful. We have a month of Ramadan, we have last ten nights and a night of decree, alhamdulillah.
- It's the night when all decrees will be made apparent for the one year (التقدير). From the Preserved Tablet, all decrees will come down to the angels. There might be someone walking in the markets, but angels see it's decreed for him to die that year, subhan Allah.

Surah Al Qadr (سورة القدر)

(إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ) (Verily, We have sent it (this Qur'ân) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree))

○ Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) sent down the Qur'an on the night of decree.

(وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ) (And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is?)

What is its virtue? (ما فضلها؟)

(لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ) (The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allâh in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months))

○ Whatever worships you do will be better than a thousand months. We can only depend on Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to make us witness it. There is no might and power except with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). We think it's only outwardly worships such as prayer, Qur'an and dua, but even actions of the heart are greatly appreciated. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us witness laylut al qadr. Ameen. If you pray in laylut al qadr then as if you've done it for a thousand months. If you're grateful, then as if you've done it for a thousand months. This is the great favor upon ummah Mohammed (صلى الله عليه وسلم). You have to want it and hope for it and believe in it, and you have to feel helpless and only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) can help you. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us true slaves broken to Him. Ameen.

What happens? (ماذا يحدث؟)

(تَنْزَلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ) (Therein descend the angels and the Rûh [Jibril (Gabriel)] by Allâh's Permission with all Decrees)

What is its description? (ما وصفها؟)

((سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ)) ((All that night), there is Peace (and Goodness from Allâh to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn)

○ There is peace that night until the dawn.

We ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) by all of His names and attributes to make us rely only on Him and make us from those who will witness laylut al qadr. Ameen

(يا حي يا قيوم برحمتك أستغيث أصلح لي شأني كله و لا تكلني الى نفسي طرفة عين) (O Ever-Living, O Self-Sufficient Master, by Your mercy I seek relief, correct all of my affairs and do not let me rely on myself for a blink of an eye.

اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنِي لَأَحْسَنِ الْأَعْمَالِ وَأَحْسَنِ الْأَخْلَاقِ لَا يَهْدِي لِأَحْسَنِهَا إِلَّا أَنْتَ وَقِنِي سَيِّئَ الْأَعْمَالِ وَسَيِّئَ الْأَخْلَاقِ (O Allah, guide me to the best of deeds and the best of manners, for none can guide to the best of them but You. And protect me from bad deeds and bad manners, for none can protect against them but You)

Dua'a for the night of decree: (اللهم إنك عفو تحب العفو فاعفُ عني) (O Allah, You are All-Pardoning, and You love to pardon; so pardon me)

Hadith: عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " مَنْ يَقُمْ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا) (Narrated Abu Huraira (رضي الله عنه): Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "Whoever establishes the prayers on the night of Qadr out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not to show off) then all his past sins will be forgiven." - Sahih al-Bukhari 35

Surah Al Baqarah 163: (وَاللَّهُكُمْ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ) (And your Ilâh (God) is One Ilâh (God - Allâh), Lâ ilâha illa Huwa (there is none who has the right to be worshipped but He), the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.)

○ Your ilah is One and there is no one like Him.

Surah Ta Ha 8: (اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى) (Allâh! Lâ ilâhla illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He)! To Him belong the Best Names)

○ There is no one except Him so we need to believe in Allah (سبحانه) , rely in Him and be truthful to Him.

Reminder for all of us

Establish the night of decree with your heart before your feet (قم ليلة القدر) (بقلبك قبل قدمك): focus on your heart before your limbs.

Establish the night of decree with your neediness before your confidence (قم ليلة القدر بفقرك قبل ثقتك): don't think you have health, wealth, so you will be able to do it. Don't ever rely on yourself for a blink of an eye.

Don't rely on yourself, rely on the mercy of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) (لا تثق بنفسك)
(ثق برحمة الله): don't rely on your deeds or yourself, trust Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)
one.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

*All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the 'Âlamîn
(mankind, jinn and all that exists)*

Last Ten Nights of Ramadan

Introduction

- We want to do our best in these last ten nights and knowledge is so important. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) cared about the month of Ramadan and made an extra effort in the last ten nights. He would tighten his belts, awaken his household, and make the night as day.
- We don't want to come across opportunities and we don't do anything or we don't know what to do. Only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows the max we can do and it's important to ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to help us.
- We are worshippers and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gives us different seasons and different feelings.

Five matters that will help us in the Last Ten Nights of Ramadan

1. There is no might or power except with Allah (لا حول و لا قوة الا بالله). We need to free ourselves from whatever is around us and free ourselves from anyone to help us, not our parents, not our husband, children or friends can help. Increase in saying (لا حول و لا قوة الا بالله) and truly feel it inside. Free yourself that you can't even do one sujud, one ruku' and one istighfar without Allah's help.
2. Do deeds as if it's your last (اعمل عملا من لا يدركها غير السنة). Don't think you'll have next year, maybe we don't even have the next day. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) prolong our lives in goodness. Ameen. When

we feel we're getting into lazy or weak mode, we need to remind ourselves of this.

3. Avoid gatherings where there's heedlessness and vain talk (ابتعد عن (مجلس اللهو و الغفلة). Avoid unnecessary time on the phone. It's important to focus in this time.
4. Do a variety of worships (نوع العبادات). Don't do just one worship the whole night because we get bored. You can recite Qur'an, prayer, dua, dhikr, taffakur which is to see things and it reminds you of the akhira. In between you can sleep, eat and drink and this can be worship if it's for the sake of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
5. Beware of pride and self-amazement because it can wipe away your deeds (اياك والعجب فانه محبط للعمل), astaghfar Allah. How can we protect ourselves from self-amazement?
 - o Seek forgiveness, especially before fajr (المستغفرين بالاسحار). It's important to conclude your worships with forgiveness.
 - o Remember there are worshippers who are more active and have more taqwa than you (تذكر أن هانك عباد انشط منك واتقي)

Supplication for the laylut al qadr

وعنها قالت: قلت: يا رسول الله أرأيت إن علمت أي ليلة القدر ما أقول فيها؟ قال: "قولي: اللهم إنك عفو (تحب العفو فاعفُ عني)" ('Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported: I asked: "O Messenger of Allah! If I realize Lailat-ul-Qadr (Night of Decree), what should I supplicate in it?" He (صلى الله عليه وسلم) replied, "You should supplicate: **Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun, tuhibbul-'afwa, fa'fu 'anni** (O Allah, You are Most Pardoning, and You love to pardon; so pardon me).")

– Riyadh As Saliheen, At Tirmidhi Book 9, Hadith 1195

- You not only want forgiveness but pardoning which is to overlook all your sins and mistakes. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is the Most Pardoning and He loves to pardon us, not punish us. Our worship is never up to standard and we need Allah's pardoning.
- As if you lost hope in the last ten nights and you want to be pardoned. Forgiveness is for sins and pardoning us for the good deeds. We need to be pardoned for our worships.
- It's important to increase in making this dua the most in the last ten nights.

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) help us in the last ten nights and pardon us.

Ameen.

Surah Al Qadr (سورة القدر)

Introduction

- Ramadan is a blessed month, there's encouragement to do good and discouragement to stay away from evil. The cream of this month is the last ten nights, and the cream of the last ten nights is Laylut Al Qadr. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us establish this night with ihsan. Ameen.

Surah Al Qadr (سورة القدر)

- We have entire surah for this one night and this is significant. Surah Al Qadr is mentioned in the last part of the Qur'an, Part 30. Surah Al 'Alaq is mentioned before Surah Al Qadr and Surah Al Bayyinah come after Surah Al Qadr, and this sequence is divine.
- The first surah ever revealed from the Qur'an was Surah Al 'Alaq and this was revealed on the Night of Decree. The start of revelation was on the Night of Decree.
- The last ayah of Surah 'Al Alaq is (وَأَسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِبْ) (Fall prostrate and draw near to Allâh!) and then comes Surah Al Qadr – you will taste the sweetness of faith and being close to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) on Laylut Al Qadr.
- After Surah Al Qadr is Surah Al Bayyinah, even if Laylut Al Qadr is over, you still have Surah Al Bayyinah which is about the Qur'an.
- Al Qadr means high status and position (شرف) and decree (قدر). All decrees for the next year will be revealed to the angels so we need

to increase in worships and increase in saying (اللهم إنك عفو تحب العفو فاعفُ) (Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun, tuhibbul-'afwa, fa'fu 'anni (O Allah, You are Most Pardoning, and You love to pardon; so pardon me)).

Ayah 1: (إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ) (Verily, We have sent it (this Qur'ân) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree))

- (إِنَّا): Verily We and here Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is magnifying Himself.
- (أَنْزَلْنَاهُ): Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) sent down the Qur'an which is the Speech of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) sent down the Qur'an on the Night of Decree.
- (فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ): Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) chooses the time He wills and its virtue is at night, from the time of breaking your fast at maghrib until fajr.
- What does Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) mention in Surah Ad Dhukhan?

Surah Ad Dhukhan 3-4: (إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ (۳) فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ (۴)) (We sent it (this Qur'ân) down on a blessed night [(i.e. night of Qadr) in the month of Ramadân — the 9th month of the Islâmic calendar]. Verily, We are ever warning [mankind that Our Torment will reach those who disbelieve in Our Oneness of Lordship and in Our Oneness of worship]. (3) Therein (that night) is decreed every matter of ordainments (4)).

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) sent it down on a blessed night and Laylut Al Qadr is a blessed night. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is the Blessed One and He blesses whatever He wills. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has already decreed

everything in the Preserved Tablet, but everything until the next Laylut Al Qadr will be revealed to the angels from life, death, provision, etc. Dua is so powerful and we don't know what's written for us. And the best dua to make on the Night of Decree is: (اللهم إنك) (عفو تحب العفو فاعفُ عني) (Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun, tuhibbul-'afwa, fa'fu 'anni (O Allah, You are Most Pardoning, and You love to pardon; so pardon me)). We need to get pardoned because if we're pardoned then we can get all goodness, but if we're not pardoned then we don't know what can happen. May Allah (سبحانه) (وتعالى) pardon us. Ameen.

Ayah 2: (وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ) (And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is?)

- The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) would awaken all of his household in the last ten nights in order to not miss this one night. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said to seek the Night of Decree in the last ten nights and the odd nights. There are those who only focus on the 27th and Sheikh bin Uthaymeen may Allah have mercy on him said to focus only on the 27th can be bida'a because this is specifying only one night and the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) didn't do this. Any night can be the Night of Decree and this is a blessing for us so we should increase in worships in all nights and any worship will not go to waste. Truthfulness is needed, if you truly want to seek the Night of Decree, then you will seek it all nights.

Ayah 3: (لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ) (The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allâh in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months))

- The goodness of Night of Decree is that it's better than a thousand months which is more than 83 years. If you do any worship on that night then it's like you did it for more than 83 years, whether it's praying, Qur'an, taddabur, advice, helping, charity, dhikr. This is a huge favor for us because our lifespan is limited. Not many of us even reach the 80s. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) prolong our lives in goodness. Ameen.

Ayah 4: (تَنْزَلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ) (Therein descend the angels and the Rûh [Jibril (Gabriel)] by Allâh's Permission with all Decrees)

- What gives Laylut Al Qadr its high status? When the angels come down. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gives permission to all the angels to come down. At the time of death of the good soul, angels come down in succession but not all at the same time. However in Laylut Al Qadr the angels all come down together (تَنْزَلُ), subhan Allah. Imagine the inhabitants of the heavens are allowed to come down on earth while everyone is worshipping and doing their best, subhan Allah.
- Angels are so pure and when the earth is filled with angels, imagine the feelings we will have at that time, subhan Allah. The earth will be filled with angels and they will come down to look at the believers and see what they're doing. Angels come to study circles,

fajr and asr prayer, but on the Night of Decree they will fill the earth, subhan Allah.

- Imagine how peaceful it will be when they come down though they're a huge creation. They don't make any noise, but peace and tranquility on that night. We human beings are the ones making noise and commotion. What an honor for the human to have angels coming down.
- Jibreel (عليه السلام) used to come to the messengers. When the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) died, the Companions cried because Jibreel would no longer come down, but Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gave permission even to Jibreel (عليه السلام) to come down, subhan Allah. Jibreel is the head of the angels and he's in charge of revelation, he taught the Qur'an to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), and he comes down on the Night of Decree. This is a huge honor, so we don't want to waste these nights.
- The angels will come down by the permission of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and they will come down with every command from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). So when they come, they're commanded to do something which only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows, subhan Allah.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) revealed which night the Night of Decree would take place to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and he went out to tell the Companions but there were two people fighting and he forget the day, subhan Allah. If people are arguing and disputing then how do they expect to be pardoned? Angels don't sit with those who argue and fight because they get disturbed. They're a

creation that gets disturbed from noise, arguing, music, fighting, etc. Imagine if you have guests and children are fighting, so what about angels which are guests coming down on that night.

Ayah 5: (سَلَّمَ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ) ((All that night), there is Peace (and Goodness from Allâh to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn)

- This is a night of peace because so many will be pardoned and when you're pardoned from sins then you'll have peace. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) pardon us. Ameen. Take the opposite, when there's no peace then it's because of the sins.
- When we talk about the angels, we feel we want to be like them. They don't fight, they don't shout, they come in rows, they don't make commotion, even when we hear about the angels we feel calm. We are all invited to this event but how poor is the one who declines it. We don't need to travel anywhere for the Night of Decree unlike the hajj, the Night of Decree is everywhere, even in your room. The righteous predecessors would wear their best clothes. The mosques would be scented and fragrant with bukhooor. Do ihsan and keep your room fragrant.
- Don't come to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) with pride, but come with your head down. This an opportunity for all of us to come forward and hasten to Allah's forgiveness and paradise.

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make it easy for us to establish the Night of Decree and do our best. Ameen.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله

الاستعداد لليلة القدر

PREPARATION FOR THE NIGHT OF DECREE

12 MAY 2020 | 19 RAMADAN 1441 |
SPECIAL

INTRODUCTION

SUPPLICATION TO RELIEVE ALL OUR DEBTS

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَأْمُرُنَا إِذَا أَخَذَ أَحَدُنَا
مَضْجَعَهُ أَنْ يَقُولَ " اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَرَبَّ الْأَرْضِينَ وَرَبَّنَا وَرَبَّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَفَالِقَ الْحَبِّ
وَالنَّوَى وَمُنْزِلَ التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ وَالْقُرْآنِ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ كُلِّ ذِي شَرٍّ أَنْتَ آخِذٌ بِنَاصِيَتِهِ أَنْتَ

الأَوَّلُ فَلَيْسَ قَبْلَكَ شَيْءٌ وَأَنْتَ الآخِرُ فَلَيْسَ بَعْدَكَ شَيْءٌ وَالظَّاهِرُ فَلَيْسَ فَوْقَكَ شَيْءٌ وَالْبَاطِنُ
فَلَيْسَ دُونَكَ شَيْءٌ أَفْضِلْ عَنِّي الدَّيْنَ وَأَغْنِنِي مِنَ الْفَقْرِ "

Abu Hurairah (رضي الله عنه) said: "The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) used to order that when one of us went to sleep, he should say:

'O Allah, Lord of the heavens and Lord of the earths, and our Lord, and the Lord of everything, splitter of the seed-grain and date-stone, and Revealer of the Tawrah and the Injil and the Qur'an. I seek refuge in You from the evil of every evil that You are holding by the forelock. You are the First, there is nothing before You, You are the Last, there is nothing after You, and The Apparent, there is nothing above You, and You are The Hidden, there is nothing below You.

Relieve me of my debt, and enrich me from poverty.¹

PREPARATION FOR LAYLUT AL QADR – NIGHT OF DECREE

- The best preparation for the Night of Decree is to believe in what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) told us. It is a great night when the decrees are set for the next year and this will be a great change and we want the best. It is not about having a list of what to do because we know all of this. It is an internal preparation that we are all in need of Allah

¹ Sahih Muslim 2713

(سبحانه وتعالى), we need His nurturing to reform us so that we do our best. And when He nurtures, His nurturing is full of mercy and compassion.

- He is The Ever-Living Who Never dies so He will give us the best life.
- He is Al Hayy Al Qayoom and when He teaches us or reforms us, He will make us upright and established. He is Al Wadood – The Most Loving and we want to feel His Love as we pray and worship in these nights.
- He is The Most Forgiving and we want Him to forgive all our sins, the hidden and apparent, the big and small.
- He is The Most Strong to grant us strength to do our best in these nights.
- Every Ramadan is distinct, each Ramadan is different and as we go through the days, we want to come closer to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), especially in the last ten nights. It is important to feel the Closeness of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and surely He will respond to us.
- He never ignores us because He is Al Mujeeb. The One responding to us is The King of Kings. All honor and dominion belong to Him so we ask Him for whatever we want.
- No matter how many people supplicate to Him or have feelings towards Him, He can accommodate all because He is As Samad, The Most Solid, He can take on the feelings of everyone. He is Al Hameed – The Most Praiseworthy and when we praise Him, it fills our scale.

- Despite the many people turning to Him, He is the Most Rich and He is the Enricher.
- He is Al Hakeem, He is The Most Wise and He places and puts everyone in their position. Everything in our life is in its right place.
- He is Al Qawwiyy and we want our heart and body to be strong. He is Ar Raziq Ar Razaq constant in bringing us provision. He is the All-Hearer Al-Seer, He hears and sees us as we pray.
- He is The Bestower to grant us the Night of Decree. He is Al Barr to grant us vast goodness and when He opens, He opens with no limit.
- He is At Tawwab and wants all of us to return back to Him. He is the Most Forbearing and we want Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to overlook our mistakes.
- He is Ash Shaheed witnessing everything we do. May He make us witness the last ten nights and the Night of Decree. Ameen.
- All praises are due to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for His many blessings. He will provide us in a way we cannot image.
- He is Al Qudoos and wants us to purify ourselves by seeking forgiveness and seeking forgiveness from each other.
- He is As Salam and is gentle and subtle in making us know Him. We need to magnify and exalt Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

RAMADAN IS AN HONORABLE MONTH

- The month of Ramadan is an honorable month which contains the Night of Decree.

WHAT DID THE PROPHET (صلى الله عليه وسلم) DO IN THE LAST TEN NIGHTS OF RAMADAN?

- Enliven the night (احيا الليل)
- Awaken his family (أيقظ أهله)
- 'Tighten his belt' (شد المأزر): this means he would put in his best effort.

We should not forget, "there is no change or power except by Allah's might" (لا حول ولا قوة الا بالله).

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO WELCOME THE LAST TEN NIGHTS?

WHAT IS YOUR CONCERN?

SURAH AL ISRAA 19

وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَّشْكُورًا

And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it (i.e. does righteous deeds of Allah's Obedience) while he is a believer (in the Oneness of Allah - Islamic Monotheism) - then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated, (thanked and rewarded by Allah).

- Whoever's concern is the hereafter then surely Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will give him the best.

BE TRUTHFUL WITH ALLAH AND YOURSELF

SURAH AZ ZUMAR 33

وَالَّذِي جَاءَ بِالصِّدْقِ وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ ۖ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ

And he (Muhammad **صلى الله عليه وسلم**) who has brought the truth (this Qur'an and Islamic Monotheism) and (those who) believed therein (i.e. the true believers of Islamic Monotheism), those are Al-Muttaqun

- We need to know who we are and our weaknesses, otherwise we cannot be truthful or have taqwa.
- We do not want to show something different in front of Allah (**سبحانه** (وتعالى)). We want our entry and exit to be with honor because of our taqwa.

TAWWAKUL (RELIANCE) IN ALLAH

SURAH AZ ZUMAR 62

اللَّهُ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ ۖ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ

Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is the Wakil (Trustee, Disposer of affairs, Guardian) over all things.

- Rely on Allah (**سبحانه وتعالى**) to do your best in the last ten nights. Do not think it is about setting up a timetable.

SEEK CONSTANT FORGIVENESS

SURAH AZ ZUMAR 53

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ
جَمِيعًا ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Say: "O 'Ibadi (My slaves) who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah: verily, Allah forgives all sins. Truly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

- We do not want our sins to stop us from doing our best in this time.
- All of us have transgressed against ourselves, this is our reality, but we should not despair from the mercy of Allah (**سبحانه وتعالى**) because He forgives all sins.
- When we enter Ramadan, we want to enter to humility and humbleness, and not with pride.

BEWARE OF SELF-AMAZEMENT AND SELF-DECEPTION

SURAH AL ISRAA 37

وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا ۖ إِنَّكَ لَن تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَلَن تَبْلُغَ الْجِبَالَ طُولًا

And walk not on the earth with conceit and arrogance. Verily, you can neither rend nor penetrate the earth, nor can you attain a stature like the mountains in height.

- We do not want to perform good deeds and stay up all night praying, but then become deceived with ourselves.
- We are humans and we need to know our position.

BE GRATEFUL

SURAH AZ ZUMAR 66

بَلِ اللَّهِ فَاعْبُدْ وَكُن مِّنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ

Nay! But worship Allah (Alone and none else), and be among the grateful.

- Appreciate your health, appreciate your family, appreciate your home, appreciate your spouse and children, appreciate the country you are living in, appreciate the knowledge, appreciate

the Qur'an because when we are grateful then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will increase us.

WHY THE LAST TEN NIGHTS ?

TO SEEK THE NIGHT OF DECREE

- It is not what people think that it must be on the 27th because it can change. We seek it in these last ten nights.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF "AL QADR" ?

- One of the meanings is (شرف): which is honor, status, position and value. The earth will be filled with angels on that night. It also means decree.
- All the decrees written in the Preserved Tablet for the one year will be revealed to the angels.

SURAH AL QADR 1 TO 2

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1.

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ

Verily, We have sent it (this Qur'an) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree).

2.

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ

And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is?

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) revealed the entire Qur'an on the Night of the Decree when it came down from the Preserved Tablet to the lowest heaven. And it can be the start of revelation on the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) in parts which lasted for 23 years.

WHAT IS ITS VIRTUE?

SURAH AL QADR 3

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ

The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allah in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months, i.e. 83 years and 4 months).

- The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. All that we pray and worship in that one night is better than praying a thousand months which is more than 83 years.

WHAT HAPPENS?

SURAH AL QADR 4

تَنَزَّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ

Therein descend the angels and the Ruh [Jibril (Gabril)] by Allah's
Permission with all Decrees,

- All of the angels including Jibreel (عليه السلام) will descend on this earth by the permission of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), subhan Allah. The earth will be filled with angels.

WHAT IS ITS DESCRIPTION?

SURAH AL QADR 5

سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ

(All that night), there is Peace (and Goodness from Allah to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn.

- It will be a time of peace and tranquility until the appearance of dawn.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ON THE NIGHT OF DECREE?

ESTABLISH THE NIGHT PRAYER

- If we cannot pray, then we can perform other good deeds.

FORGIVENESS FOR THE ONE ESTABLISHES THE PRAYERS ON THE NIGHT OF DECREE

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " مَنْ يَقُمْ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا
عُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ "

Narrated Abu Huraira (رضي الله عنه): Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه) said, "Whoever establishes the prayers on the night of Qadr out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not to show off) then all his past sins will be forgiven."²

- This is a great opportunity from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to be forgiven.

How should we feel as we pray during the night?

SURAH AZ ZUMAR 9

أَمْ مَنْ هُوَ قَائِلٌ أَنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُو رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ ۗ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ
يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۗ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

² Sahih al-Bukhari 35

Is one who is obedient to Allah, prostrating himself or standing (in prayer) during the hours of the night, fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the Mercy of his Lord (like one who disbelieves)? Say: "Are those who know equal to those who know not?" It is only men of understanding who will remember (i.e. get a lesson from Allah's Signs and Verses).

○ We should have fear of the hereafter but hope for Allah's mercy.

RECITE AND PONDER THE QUR'AN

SURAH AZ ZUMAR 23

اللَّهُ نَزَّلَ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابًا مُتَشَابِهًا مَثَابًا تَقَشَعُ مِنْهُ جُلُودُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ هُدَىٰ اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ ۚ وَمَن يُضَلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ

مِن هَادٍ

Allah has sent down the Best Statement, a Book (this Qur'an), its parts resembling each other (in goodness and truth) (and) oft-repeated. The skins of those who fear their Lord shiver from it (when they recite it or hear it). Then their skin and their heart soften to the remembrance of Allah. That is the guidance of Allah. He Guides therewith whom He wills; and whomever Allah sends astray, for him there is no guide.

○ We want to establish the night with while reciting and pondering the Qur'an.

MAKE DUA

- The best dua on the Night of Decree

SUPPLICATION ON THE NIGHT OF DECREE

وعنها قالت: قلت: يا رسول الله أرأيت إن علمت أي ليلة القدر ما أقول فيها؟ قال: "قولي:

اللهم إنك عفو تحب العفو فاعفُ عني"

'Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported: I asked: "O Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)! If I realize Lailat-ul-Qadr (Night of Decree), what should I supplicate in it?" He replied, "You should supplicate: Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun, tuhibbul-'afwa, fa'fu 'anni (O Allah, You are Most Pardoning, and You love to pardon; so pardon me)."³

- Allah is Al 'Afuw, the One Who pardons our sins and removes it from our Book of Records.
- We want to pardon all and start a new page. We ask forgiveness and overlook the forgiveness of others. We ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to overlook and pardon the shortage in our belief, gratitude and reliance in Him. We are not giving Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) what He deserves, but we ask Him to overlook us.

³ Riyadh As Saliheen, At Tirmidhi Book 9, Hadith 1195

- We overlook and pardon the shortcomings of others because we want Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to overlook and pardon us.

A REMINDER FOR ALL OF US

- Establish the Night of Decree with your heart before your feet (قم ليلة القدر بقلبك قبل قدمك)
- Establish the Night of Decree with your neediness before your confidence (قم ليلة القدر بفقرك قبل ثقتك)
- Do not rely on yourself, but rely on the mercy of Allah (لا تثق بنفسك) (ثق برحمة الله)



الحمد لله رب العالمين

ALL PRAISES ARE DUE TO ALLAH – LORD OF THE
WORLDS.

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