



*A small discourse on the virtues of
Lailatul Qadr, the Night of Destiny
in the light of Qur'an and Hadith
named:*

Better than a
Thousand Months

Penned By:

A speck of Dust at the feet of Islamic Scholars

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(May Allah forgive him, his progeny and kin)

Published By:

An-Najm Islamic Media

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Better than a Thousand Months

Allah's name (we) begin with the Most Affectionate the Merciful

The month of Ramad an has indeed countless blessings embroidered in its cloak, it is no-doubt the month of self-reflection, forgiveness, mercy and solace. And amongst the best of those beautiful and blissful bounties is the night which is considered by many to be the Holiest night in the Islamic calendar. It is none other than "ليلة القدر" (Lailatul Qadr)" or The Night of Destiny. It is a very virtuous night, the night on which the first verses of the Holy Qur'an were revealed to the Beloved Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). A night which as per the Holy Qur'an is better than a thousand months, Prophetic Narrations command us to look for this night and spend it engrossed in prayers and Dua'. This night falls somewhere in the last ten days of the Holy month of Ramadan, the exact date is unknown but the majority of scholars believe that it is the 27th night.

As Muslims, we must always strive to fulfill our purpose of creation, which is to strengthen our bond with our Creator the Almighty Allah through I'badah and following the Divine and blessed path taught to us by the Merciful Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). We must, at all times, work harder and harder to fill our book of deeds with good and righteous deeds, with acts of love and compassion, with

exhibits of following the Islamic way and being a true Human 'Insan' as the Qur'an commands us.

Self-reflection and quiet introspection are two things we must focus on, we must strengthen our relationship with The Almighty Allah and this night gives us the opportunity for doing just that. Muslims around the world spend this night staying awake, reciting the Holy Qur'an, praying Salah, turning rosary beads, making Dua' and asking for forgiveness. Why shouldn't we as well, use this night as a means to turn our life to the right side and bring about an Islamic change? Repentance takes only a moment if you think about it, but it can be the turning point in our whole lives which can lead us to tread the Divine Path and ultimately reaching our goal.

To further understand the virtue and greatness of The Night of Destiny, we must look into what the Qur'an and Hadith say about it and how do they command us to behave in this blissful night. Following are some of the passages which unfold the merits of this blessed night.

The Holy Qur'an says:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ ﴿الدخان، 44:3﴾

“We have indeed sent it down in a blessed night - indeed it is We Who warn”. Qur'an (44:3)

Imagine how noble this time is, for there is not just one verse but an entire Surah revealed about this night.

Surah Al-Qadr:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ۝ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ۝ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ۝ تَنَزَّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ ۚ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ۝ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ۝ (القدر، 97: 1-5)

“We have indeed sent down the Qur’an in the Night of Destiny.

And what have you understood, what the Night of Destiny is!

The Night of Destiny is better than a thousand months.

In it descend the angels and Jibreel, by the command of their Lord – for all works.

It is peace until the rising of dawn.” Qur’an (97: 5-1)

What a joy it is for a believer! Just knowing that there is a night in which if he prays, he can fill his book of deeds with a reward equivalent to praying for thousands of days!

If we look from another perspective, this night is also a great time for celebration. For, the blessed Qur’an which is a guidance to all of mankind was revealed to our Beloved Prophet (ﷺ) in this very night. We should be grateful to

our Lord Allah the Almighty to have bestowed us with such a profound gift, the priceless gift of guidance and mercy and a cure for all our apparent and esoteric ailments.

The Blessed Prophetic Narrations, Ahadith, are also filled with illustrious themes about the blessed night.

Hadith 1:

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: تَحَرَّوْا لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فِي الْوَتْرِ مِنَ الْعَشْرِ الْأَوَّلِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ، وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ: فِي السَّبْعِ الْأَوَّلِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ. مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

“Narrated from Hadhrat Ayesha (Allah is pleased with her) that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: Look for the Night of Destiny in odd (numbered) nights of Ramadan and in another narration, it is: In the last seven odd nights of Ramadan”. This is a Muttafaqun Alaih Hadith. [Sahih Bukhari: 1913]

Hadith 2:

عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: التَّمَسُّوْهَا فِي الْعَشْرِ الْأَوَّلِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فِي تَاسِعَةٍ تَبْقَى، فِي سَابِعَةٍ تَبْقَى، فِي خَامِسَةٍ تَبْقَى. رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ وَالْبَيْهَقِيُّ

“Narrated from Hadhrat Ibn Abbas (Allah is pleased with him) that the Prophet of Allah (ﷺ) said: Look for it (The Night of Destiny) from the

last ten days of Ramadan in the ninth, seventh and fifth night”. Recorded by Imam Bukhari and Imam Baihaqi. [Sahih Bukhari: 1917 Sunan Baihaqi: 8316]

Hadith 3:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: مَنْ يَقُمْ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فَيُؤَافِقَهَا، أَرَاهُ قَالَ: إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ. مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ وَاللَّفْظُ لِمُسْلِمٍ

“Narrated by Hadhrat Abu Huraira (Allah is pleased with him) that the Prophet (ﷺ) said: One who finds it and prays in the Night of Destiny his Sins are forgiven, the narrator also says that I think that Abu Huraira also added: With Faith and Intention of reward”. This is a Muttafaqun Alaih Hadith. [Sahih Bukhari: 35]

Hadith 4:

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَرَأَيْتَ إِنْ عَلِمْتُ أَيُّ لَيْلَةٍ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ، مَا أَقُولُ فِيهَا؟ قَالَ: قُولِي: اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ كَرِيمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي. رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ وَأَحْمَدُ وَالتَّسَائِيُّ. وَقَالَ التِّرْمِذِيُّ: هَذَا حَدِيثٌ حَسَنٌ صَحِيحٌ

“Narrated from Hadhrat Ayesha (Allah is pleased with her) that I asked the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ): If I find the Night of Destiny what Dua’ should I ask? He (ﷺ) said: say

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ كَرِيمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

(Oh Allah! Indeed you are the oft-forgiving, you love to forgive, so forgive me)". This Hadith is narrated by Imam Tirmidhi, Imam Ahmad and Nisai, and Imam Tirmidhi categorized it as Hasan Sahih. [Tirmidhi: 3513]

Hadith 5:

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: دَخَلَ رَمَضَانَ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ: إِنَّ هَذَا الشَّهْرَ قَدْ حَضَرَ كُمْ وَفِيهِ لَيْلَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ مَنْ حُرِمَهَا فَقَدْ حُرِمَ الْخَيْرَ كُلَّهُ وَلَا يُحْرَمُ خَيْرَهَا إِلَّا مَحْرُومٌ. رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَهَ

“Narrated by Hadhrat Anas Ibn Malik (Allah is pleased with him) that the Prophet (ﷺ) said: In this month (of Ramadan) has come to you a night which is better than a thousand months, one who was kept (away) from its blessings has indeed missed all blessings and only an unfortunate person is kept from its blessings”. Recorded by Imam Ibn Majah. [Ibn Majah:1644]

Hadith 6:

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَهَبَ لِأُمَّتِي لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ، وَلَمْ يُعْطَهَا مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ. رَوَاهُ الدَّيْلَمِيُّ

“Narrated by Hadhrat Anas Ibn Malik (Allah is pleased with him) that the Prophet (ﷺ) said: Indeed Allah the Exalted has bestowed upon my Ummah The Night of Destiny, and none of the

Ummahs before it were bestowed with it". Recorded by Imam Dailmi. [Musnad al-Firdous: 647, Imam Suyooti in Tanweer ul Hulook:1/237]

Hadith 7:

There is another Hadith mentioned by Imam Malik (Allah is pleased with him) which says that he heard this from authentic scholars, that the Prophet (ﷺ) was shown the ages (life span) of previous Ummahs (which were great in numbers), so he thought about the ages of people of his Ummah (which were lesser), and as to how will they perform deeds like the previous Ummahs? So Allah the Exalted bestowed him with The Night of Destiny which is better than a thousand months. [Muatta Imam Malik: 698, Shoaib ul Imaan:3667]

Hadith 8:

It is an excerpt from a long Hadith recorded by Imam Baihaqi, that on The Night of Destiny, Hadhrat Jibreel (Salutations be upon him) descends along with a group of Angels and sends blessings upon every standing and sitting one in remembrance of Allah the Exalted... and for these people who fulfill their duties and then supplicate to Allah, He says: (I swear) By My Glory, My Magnificence, My Generosity and Highness, I will surely answer their prayers and then says to his

bondmen: Go back, for you have been forgiven, and your sins have been replaced by good deeds and people return back forgiven. [Shoaib ul Imaan Lil Baihaqi: 3717]

These Prophetic narrations really should be eye openers for us and an alarming bell, as to what a great and magnificent night we have been bestowed with and what ignorance we display towards the same! Least concerned with gaining its Barakah and let alone worshiping, most of us spend such Divine nights engrossed in sins and illicit activities.

We should at least think for a second, it may be the last Ramadan we are getting. It is possible that our life ends before the next Ramadan. Just imagine if we are not forgiven even in the month of forgiveness what torment lies before us in the grave!

We are young and active, our worship should also reflect that, what good is lifting up heavy pounds of weight if we cannot even lift our blanket for Fajr? What good is an athletic body which cannot even pray a few Raka'hs at night. Worshiping at night and standing in prayer is a very desired act in the Shariah, books are filled with its virtues. O young ones! Pay heed and start praying at night, especially in this Night of Destiny.

Mevlana Rumi (Allah is pleased with him) has written a beautiful poem on the night prayer, which says:

*If you stay awake for an entire night,
Watch out for a treasure trying to arrive.
You can keep warm by the secret sun of
the night,
Keeping your eyes open for the softness of
dawn.
Try it for tonight, challenge your sleepy
eyes,
Do not lay your head down and wait for
the heavenly alms.
For the night is the bringer of gifts...”*

I pray to Almighty Allah that he bestows us with the zeal to worship more and more and become better Muslims every day.

Ameen O Lord of the Worlds through the Waseela of the one whom you sent as a Mercy unto the worlds (upon him and his progeny be peace and blessings)

- 22nd Ramadan 1442 Hijrah, 5th of May 2021,
Pilibhit

