

THE NIGHT OF DECREE [*LAILAT AL-QADR*]

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THE NIGHT OF DECREE [LAILAT AL-QADR]

PROOF OF THE NIGHT OF DECREE [LAILAT AL-QADR]

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾
تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالرُّوحِ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾

Verily We have sent it [this Qur'an] down in **the night of Al-Qadr [Decree]**. And what will make you know what **the night of Al-Qadr** is? **The night of Al-Qadr** is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the angels and the Ruh [Angel Gabriel] by Allah's Permission with all Decrees. [All that night] there is Peace until the appearance of dawn.¹

THE BLESSING OF LAILAT AL-QADR

“Whoever spends the nights of Ramadan in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward he will be forgiven his previous sins and whoever spends the night of *Lailat Al-Qadr* in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward he will be forgiven his previous sins.”²

“Whoever established *salah* [prayer] on the night of *Qadr* with sincere faith and hoping for a reward from Allah [swt] then all his previous sins will be forgiven; and whoever observes *saum* [fasts] in the month of Ramadan with sincere faith and hoping for a reward from Allah [swt] then all his previous sins will be forgiven.”³

THE SIGNS OF LAILAT AL-QADR

“I [Zirr bin Hubaish (ra)] asked Ubayy bin Ka'b [ra], ‘Your brother Ibn Mas'ud [ra] says that whoever prays *Qiyam* all year he will find *Lailat Al-Qadr*.’ He said, ‘May Allah [swt] have mercy on him he intended that the people should not rely [on just one night]. But he knew that it is in Ramadan and that it is in the last ten nights and that it is the night of the twenty-seventh.’ Then he swore unequivocally that it is the twenty-seventh. I said, ‘On what basis do you say that O Abu Al-Mundhir [ra]?’ He said, ‘By the sign of which the Messenger of Allah [saws] told us, ‘On that day the sun rises with no rays.’”⁴

“We were talking about *Lailat Al-Qadr* in the presence of the Messenger of Allah [saws] and he said, ‘Who among you remembers when the moon rose looking like part of a bowl?’”⁵

¹ Surah Al-Qadr Chapter 97 Verses 1-5

² Sunan An-Nasa'i Sahih 2204, 2208, 2209

³ Sahih Al-Bukhari 1901, 2014

⁴ Sahih Muslim 2777 [220/762]

⁵ Sahih Muslim 2779 [222/1170]

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RECOMMENDED TO SEEK *LAILAT AL-QADR*

“The Prophet [saws] said, ‘Look for [the night of *Qadr*].”⁶

WHILST IN *I’TIKAF*

“Allah’s Messenger [saws] used to practice *I’tikaf* in the last ten nights of Ramadan and used to say, ‘Look for the night of *Qadr* in the last ten nights of the month of Ramadan.”⁷

LAILAT AL-QADR CANNOT BE KNOWN IN ADVANCE BUT IT IS ONE NIGHT IN THE LAST TEN NIGHTS OF RAMADAN

“The Messenger of Allah [saws] said, ‘Seek *Lailat Al-Qadr* in the last ten nights of Ramadan.”⁸

“Whoever wants to seek it let him seek it in the last ten [nights].”⁹

“I heard the Messenger of Allah [saws] say concerning *Lailat Al-Qadr*, ‘Some of you have been shown that it is in the first seven [nights] and some of you have been shown that it is in the last seven so seek it during the last ten [nights].”¹⁰

“I was shown *Lailat Al-Qadr* then one of my family woke me up and I was caused to forget it so seek it in the last ten [nights].”¹¹

“I heard Ibn ‘Umar [ra] say, ‘The Messenger of Allah [saws] said, “Seek it in the last ten [nights],” meaning *Lailat Al-Qadr*, “and if one of you feels weak or tired that should not cause you to miss the last seven [nights].””¹²

IN THE LAST SEVEN NIGHTS

“Some men amongst the companions of the Prophet [saws] were shown in their dreams that the night of *Qadr* was in the last seven nights of Ramadan. Allah’s Messenger [saws] said, ‘It seems that all your dreams agree that [the night of *Qadr*] is in the last seven nights and whoever wants to search for it should search in the last seven [nights of Ramadan].”¹³

⁶ Sahih Al-Bukhari 2019

⁷ Sahih Al-Bukhari 2020; Jami’ At-Tirmidhi Sahih 792

⁸ Sahih Muslim 2776 [219/169]

⁹ Sahih Muslim 2766 [210/1165]

¹⁰ Sahih Muslim 2764 [208/1165]

¹¹ Sahih Muslim 2768 [212/1166]

¹² Sahih Muslim 2765 [209/1165]

¹³ Sahih Al-Bukhari 2015; Sahih Muslim 2761 [205/1165]

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AN ODD-NUMBERED NIGHT IN THE LAST TEN NIGHTS

“We observed *I'tikaf* with the Messenger of Allah [saws] during the middle ten days of Ramadan. He said, ‘I have been shown *Lailat Al-Qadr* then I was caused to forget it so seek it in the last ten nights on the odd numbered nights.’”¹⁴

“Search for the night of *Qadr* in the odd nights of the last ten nights of Ramadan.”¹⁵

“A man saw [in a dream] that *Lailat Al-Qadr* was the night of the twenty-seventh. The Prophet [saws] said, ‘I see that your dreams indicate the last ten [nights] so seek it in the odd numbered ones thereof.’”¹⁶

THE TWENTY-FIRST NIGHT

“The Messenger of Allah [saws] observed *I'tikaf* during the first ten days of Ramadan then he observed *I'tikaf* during the middle ten days in a Turkish tent that had a reed mat over the door. He took hold of the mat and put it in the corner of the tent then he put his head out and spoke to the people who drew close to him. He said, ‘I observed *I'tikaf* during the first ten days seeking this night then I observed *I'tikaf* during the middle ten. Then someone came to me and I was told that it is in the last ten nights so whoever among you wants to observe *I'tikaf* let him do so.’ So the people observed *I'tikaf* with him. And he said, ‘I was shown that it is an odd-numbered night and that I was prostrating the following morning in mud and water.’ On the morning of the twenty-first when he got up to pray *subh* it had rained and the masjid had leaked. When he came out after praying *subh* there was water and mud on his forehead and on the tip of his nose and that was the night of the twenty-first, one of the last ten nights.”¹⁷

“We were talking about *Lailat Al-Qadr* so I went to Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri [ra] who was a friend of mine and said, ‘Let's go out to the palm trees.’ So he came out wearing a *Khamisah* and I said to him, ‘Did you hear the Messenger of Allah [saws] mention *Lailat Al-Qadr*?’ He said, ‘Yes we observed *I'tikaf* with the Messenger of Allah [saws] during the middle ten days of Ramadan and we came out on the morning of the twentieth. The Messenger of Allah [saws] addressed us and said, ‘I was shown *Lailat Al-Qadr* but I forgot it’ or ‘I was caused to forget it so seek it in the last ten nights on the odd numbered nights. And I saw that I was prostrating in water and mud so whoever was observing *I'tikaf* with the Messenger of Allah [saws] let him go back.’ So we went back and we did not see any clouds in the sky then a cloud came and it rained until the roof of the masjid which was made of palm branches flowed with water. The *iqamah* was called for the prayer and I saw that the Messenger of Allah [saws] prostrating in water and mud until I saw the traces of mud on his forehead.”¹⁸

¹⁴ Sunan Ibn Majah Sahih 1766

¹⁵ Sahih Al-Bukhari 2017

¹⁶ Sahih Muslim 2763 [207/1165]

¹⁷ Sahih Muslim 2771 [215/1167], 2769 [213/1167]; Sahih Al-Bukhari 2018, 2027

¹⁸ Sahih Muslim 2772 [216/1167]; Sahih Al-Bukhari 2016

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THE TWENTY-SECOND, TWENTY-FOURTH OR TWENTY-SIXTH NIGHT

“Look for the night of *Qadr* in the last ten nights of Ramadan; on the night when nine or seven or five nights remain out of the last ten nights of Ramadan.”¹⁹

“My father narrated to me, ‘The Night of *Al-Qadr* was mentioned in the presence of Abu Bakrah (ra) so he said, ‘I do not search for it due to something that I heard from the Messenger of Allah [saws] except for during the last ten [nights]; for indeed I heard him say, ‘Search for it when nine remain or when seven remain or when five remain or during the last three nights.’ During the twenty [nights] of Ramadan Abu Bakrah [ra] used to perform *salah* just as he performed *salah* during the rest of the year. But when the [last] ten began he would struggle [performing more *salah* during the night].’”²⁰

“The Messenger of Allah [saws] observed *I'tikaf* during the middle ten days of Ramadan seeking *Lailat Al-Qadr* before it was shown to him. When they were over he ordered that the tent be taken down then he was shown that it was in the last ten nights so he ordered that the tent be put back then he came out to the people and said, ‘O people *Lailat Al-Qadr* was shown to me and I came out to tell you about it but two men came disputing and the Shaytan was with them and I was caused to forget it. So seek it in the last ten nights of Ramadan, seek it on the ninth, the seventh, the fifth.’ I [Abu Nadrah (ra)] said, ‘O Abu Sa’eed [ra] you know more about numbers than I do.’ He said, ‘Yes we are bound to.’ I said, ‘What are the ninth, the seventh and the fifth?’ He said, ‘When twenty-one nights have passed and the next night is the twenty-second that is the ninth. When twenty-three have passed the next night is the seventh. And when twenty-five have passed the next night is the fifth.’”²¹

THE TWENTY-THIRD NIGHT

It was narrated from ‘Abdullah bin Unais [ra] that the Messenger of Allah [saws] said, “I was shown *Lailat Al-Qadr* then I was caused to forget it but I was shown that on the [following] morning I would be prostrating in water and mud.” It rained on the night of the twenty-third and the Messenger of Allah [saws] led us in prayer; when he finished the traces of water and mud were on his forehead and nose.”²²

THE TWENTY-FOURTH NIGHT

“The night of *Qadr* is in the last ten nights of the month [Ramadan] either in the first nine or in the last seven nights.” Ibn ‘Abbas [ra] added, “Search for it on the twenty-fourth of Ramadan.”²³

THE TWENTY-FIFTH, TWENTY-SEVENTH OR TWENTY-NINTH NIGHT

“The Prophet came out to inform us about the night of *Qadr* but two Muslims were quarrelling with each other. So the Prophet [saws] said, ‘I came out to inform you about the night of *Qadr*

¹⁹ Sahih Al-Bukhari 2021

²⁰ Jami' At-Tirmidhi Sahih 794

²¹ Sahih Muslim 2774 [217/1167]

²² Sahih Muslim 2775 [218/1168]

²³ Sahih Al-Bukhari 2022

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but such and such persons were quarrelling so the news about it had been taken away; yet that might be for your own good so search for it on the 29th, 27th and 25th [nights of Ramadan].”²⁴

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH NIGHT

“I [Zirr bin Hubaish (ra)] asked Ubayy bin Ka’b [ra], ‘Your brother Ibn Mas’ud [ra] says that whoever prays *Qiyam* all year he will find *Lailat Al-Qadr*.’ He said, ‘May Allah [swt] have mercy on him he intended that the people should not rely [on just one night]. But he knew that it is in Ramadan and that it is in the last ten nights and that it is the night of the twenty-seventh.’ Then he swore unequivocally that it is the twenty-seventh. I said, ‘On what basis do you say that O Abu Al-Mundhir [ra]?’ He said, ‘By the sign of which the Messenger of Allah [saws] told us, ‘On that day the sun rises with no rays.’”²⁵

IN THE LAST THREE NIGHTS

“My father narrated to me, ‘The Night of *Al-Qadr* was mentioned in the presence of Abu Bakrah (ra) so he said, “I do not search for it due to something that I heard from the Messenger of Allah [saws] except for during the last ten [nights]; for indeed I heard him say, ‘Search for it when nine remain or when seven remain or when five remain or during the last three nights.’ During the twenty [nights] of Ramadan Abu Bakrah [ra] used to perform *salah* just as he performed *salah* during the rest of the year. But when the [last] ten began he would struggle [performing more *salah* during the night].””²⁶

TO SEEK *LAILAT AL-QADR* IN PRAYER

“With the start of the last ten days of Ramadan the Prophet [saws] used to tighten his waist belt and used to keep awake all the night and perform *salah* [prayer] and also used to keep his family awake for the *salah* [prayer].”²⁷

“We fasted with the Prophet [saws] so he did not pray [the night prayer] with us until seven [nights] of the month remained. Then he led us in prayer until a third of the night had gone then he did not lead us in prayer on the sixth. Then he led us in prayer on the fifth until half of the night had gone. We said to him, ‘O Messenger of Allah [saws]! Wouldn’t you lead us in prayer for the remainder of the night?’ He said, ‘Indeed whoever stands [praying] with the Imam until he finishes then it is recorded for him that he prayed the whole night.’ Then he did not lead us in prayer until three [nights] of the month remained. Then he led us in prayer on the third and he called his family and his women to pray with us until we feared missing the *falah*.” I [Jubair bin Nufair (ra)] said to him, “What is the *falah*?” He said, “The *suhur*.”²⁸

WITH SUPPLICATION

“O Messenger of Allah [saws] what do you think I should say in my supplication if I come upon Lailat Al-Qadr?” He said “Say,

²⁴ Sahih Al-Bukhari 2023

²⁵ Sahih Muslim 2777 [220/762]; Jami’ At-Tirmidhi Sahih 793

²⁶ Jami’ At-Tirmidhi Sahih 794

²⁷ Sahih Al-Bukhari 2024

²⁸ Jami’ At-Tirmidhi Sahih 806

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اللهم انك عفو تحب العفو فاعف عني

“O Allah [swt] indeed You are Forgiving and love forgiveness so forgive me.”²⁹

²⁹ Sunan Ibn Majah Sahih 3850; Jami' At-Tirmidhi Sahih 3513