



Striving Hard in the Last Ten Days & in The Night of al-Qadr

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praise is due to Allāh, the Knower of the seen and the unseen, and Exterminator of the tyrants with might and power, He completely calculated (every) drop of water as it flows in the rivers, the One who sends forth the darkness of the night which is caused to disappear by the light of the dawn, the Giver of reward to the worshipers in full, the Knower of the cheating of the eye and what is hidden in the hearts.

His provisions encompass all the creatures, He did not leave out the ants in the sand and neither the chickens in the nest. He sustains and withholds, and it is from His wisdom that poverty and wealth exist. He has given preference to some of the creatures over others, even certain parts of the year: the night of al-Qadr is better than a thousand months.

I praise Him with a praise without limitation, and I thank Him with a thanks that drives in ample blessings from Him, I testify that none has the right to be worshiped but Allāh alone without a partner, a testimony of one sincere in his creed. And I also testify that Muḥammad is His slave and messenger, the one whom water gushed forth from his fingers.

May Allāh shower His blessings on Him, on Abu Bakr, his companion at times of ease and hardship, on 'Umar bin al-Khattāb the cave of Islām and its supporter, on 'Uthmān the compiler of the Book of Allāh, on 'Alī who sufficed the Muslims in their wars with his courage by himself, and on (the Prophet's)



family members, and his companions who were sincere in their deeds and objectives.

O My Brothers! In these ten blessed days, there is the Night of Decree which is given preference by Allāh over other days. Allāh has blessed this ummah with its ample virtues and bounties. Allāh (ﷻ) has recognized this night in His book with His saying:

﴿ إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ ۚ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ ۚ فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ ۚ - أَمْرًا مِّنْ عِنْدِنَا ۚ
إِنَّا كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ ۚ - رَحْمَةً مِّنْ رَبِّكَ ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ۚ - رَبِّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا
بَيْنَهُمَا ۚ إِن كُنتُمْ مُوقِنِينَ ۚ - لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ يُحْيِي ۚ وَيُمِيتُ ۚ رَبُّكُمْ وَرَبُّ آبَائِكُمُ الْأَوَّلِينَ ﴾

“We sent it (this Qur’ān) down on a blessed night (i.e. night of Qadr in the month of Ramaḍān.) 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]. Therein (that night) is decreed every matter of ordainments. (A Command) from Us. Verily, We are ever sending (the Messengers), (As) a Mercy from your Lord. Verily! He is the All- Hearer, the All-Knower. The Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, if you (but) have a faith with certainty. (None has the right to be worshipped but He). It is He Who gives life and causes death, your Lord and the Lord of your fore-fathers” [ad-Dukhān: 3-8]

Allāh (ﷻ) has described it with being blessed due to its abundant good and virtues. From among (the blessings of this night) is that the Qur’ān was revealed in it. Allāh described (this Night) saying that, in it, every matter of ordainment



is pre-decreed. This means: (Allāh) exposed to the Angels what is predestined in the [Preserved Tablet, Book of Divine Decrees] concerning what will happen from Allāh's command, in that year pertaining to provisions, life spans, good and evil, and more of every wise affair from the affairs of Allāh which are perfect, proficient, have no faults, nor deficiency, stupidity, or falsehood. That is the determination of the Almighty the All-Knowing. Allāh said:

﴿إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ - وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ - لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ حَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ -
- تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَكَةِ وَالرُّوحِ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ - سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ﴾

"Verily! We have sent it (this Qur'ān) down in the night of Al- Qadr (Decree) And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is? The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the angels and the Rūh [Jibrīl (Gabriel)] by Allāh's Permission with all Decrees, Peace! (All that night, there is Peace and Goodness from Allāh to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn" [al-Qadr: 1-5]

The word "Qadr" means honor and respect. It also means determined and predestined. That is because this Night is honorable and great. Allāh determines in this night what will happen in that year and the things that He will allow to occur according to His wisdom.

Allāh's statement in this verse: **"The Night of Honor is better than a thousand months,"** means: in virtue, honor, and the abundant reward that we get for our deeds. This is the reason why the one who stands in prayer in this night, seeking Allāh's pleasure and reward, will have his previous sins forgiven.

His statement, **"the angels descend,"** The Angels are slaves from the slaves of Allāh. They worship Him day and night,



﴿وَلَهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۚ وَمَنْ عِنْدَهُ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِهِ ۚ وَلَا يَسْتَحْسِرُونَ﴾
- يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لَا يَفْتُرُونَ ﴿﴾

"And those who are near Him (Le. the angels) are not too proud to worship Him, nor are they weary (of His worship). They glorify His Praises night and day, (and) they never slacken (to do so)" [al-Anbiyā: 19-20]

They descend to the earth with good, mercy, and blessings in the Night of Honor. "The Rūh" is Jibrīl (ﷺ) he is mentioned separately because of his rank and honor.

"It is peaceful," referring to the night of power. It is peaceful for the believers from all fear because of the large number of people who will be freed from the hell fire in that night and be granted salvation from it.

"Till the rising of the dawn," it means the night of power ends with the rising of the dawn, because the night worship ends with the rising of the dawn.

In this Noble Quranic Chapter there are a number of Virtues for the Night of Honor

The First Virtue: In this Night, Allāh the Most High revealed the Qur'ān, which is a source of guidance for humanity and a means for them to obtain happiness in this world and the hereafter.

The Second Virtue: The question in His statement: "What will make you know what the night of honor is?" indicates the greatness of this night and its loftiness.

The Third Virtue: It is better than a thousand months.



The Fourth Virtue: The Angels descend in that night, only descending with good, blessings, and mercy.

The Fifth Virtue: It is peaceful because of the salvation many people will have from the punishment, due to their obedience to Allāh.

The Sixth Virtue: Allāh has sent down a chapter regarding its virtues which will be recited until the Day of Judgment. From among the virtues of the night of honor is the hadīth which is narrated by Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه): who said that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

{ مَنْ قَامَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ }

“Whoever stands the night of honor in prayer, with faith and hope will have his previous sins forgiven” [Collected by al-Bukhārī and Muslim]

The meaning of the Prophet’s (ﷺ) statement, **“With faith and hope:”** is having faith in Allāh and the reward which He has prepared for the believers who stand during the night in prayer, seeking with it Allāh’s reward. The reward is obtained by the one who knows that it is the Night of Honor and the one who does not know, because the Prophet (ﷺ) did not make that as a condition for obtaining the reward.

The night of honor is in the month of Ramaḍān because it is in (this month) that Allāh revealed the Qur’ān, as He the Most High mentioned in the Qur’ān:

﴿ إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴾

“We have indeed revealed it in the Night of al-Qadr” [al-Qadr: 1]

And His statement:

﴿ شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ ﴾



“The Month of Ramaḍān in which the Qur’ān was revealed” [al- Baqarah: 185]

With these proofs it is clearly determined that the night of honor is in the month of Ramaḍān. It existed in the previous nations just as it exists in ours, and it will continue to exist till the Day of Judgment. The proof for this is the narration of Abu Dharr (رضي الله عنه) who said to the Prophet (ﷺ):

{ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَخْبِرْنِي عَنْ لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ أَيْ رَمَضَانَ هِيَ أَوْ فِي غَيْرِهِ قَالَ بَلْ هِيَ فِي رَمَضَانَ قَالَ قُلْتُ تَكُونُ مَعَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ مَا كَانُوا فَإِذَا قُبِضُوا رُفِعَتْ أَمْ هِيَ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ قَالَ بَلْ هِيَ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ }

“O messenger of Allāh Tell me about the Night of Honor. Is it in the month of Ramaḍān or in other months?” So the Prophet responded saying: **“Rather it is in the month of Ramaḍān.”** He said: **“Does it remain with the Prophets till they pass away or it will remain with us till the day of Judgment?”** The Prophet (ﷺ) said: **“Rather it will remain till the Day of Judgment”** [Narrated by Aḥmad, an-Nasa’ī and al-Ḥakīm.

He said: the hadīth is sound]

However the virtues of this month are exclusive to this nation (i.e. the nation of Muḥammad (ﷺ) and Allāh knows best, just as this ummah is gifted the virtue of Friday and some other virtues. And all praise belongs to Allāh. Also the night of honor is in the last ten days of Ramaḍān due to the Prophet’s (ﷺ) statement,

{ تَحَرَّوْا لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فِي الْعَشْرِ الْأَوَّخِرِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ }

“Search for the night of honor in the last ten days of Ramaḍān”

[Collected by al-Bukhārī and Muslim]

It is most likely to be in the odd nights rather than the even nights, because of his statement:



{ تَحَرَّوْا لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فِي الْوَتْرِ مِنَ الْعَشْرِ الْأَوَاخِرِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ }

“Search the night of honor during the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramaḍān” [Collected by al-Bukhārī]

It is most likely to be in the last seven days because of the narration of ‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Umar (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا):

{ أَنَّ رِجَالًا، مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أُرُوا لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فِي الْمَنَامِ فِي السَّبْعِ الْأَوَاخِرِ، فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ " أَرَى رُؤْيَاكُمْ قَدْ تَوَاطَأَتْ فِي السَّبْعِ الْأَوَاخِرِ، فَمَنْ كَانَ مُتَحَرِّبَهَا فَلْيَتَحَرَّهَا فِي السَّبْعِ الْأَوَاخِرِ " }

“A group of men from the Companions of the Prophet (ﷺ) saw the Night of Honor in their dreams in the last seven nights. So the Prophet (ﷺ) said to them: ‘I can see that your dreams confirm one another that it is in the last seven. Therefore whoever is searching for it should do so in the last seven nights.’” [Reported by al-Bukhārī and Muslim]

It is also narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

{ التَّمِسُّوْهَا فِي الْعَشْرِ الْأَوَاخِرِ - يَعْنِي لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ - فَإِنْ ضَعُفَ أَحَدُكُمْ أَوْ عَجَزَ فَلَا يُغْلَبَنَّ عَلَى السَّبْعِ الْبَوَاقِي }

“Seek the night of honor during the last ten days, and if one of you becomes weak or is unable, then he should not miss the last seven.”

[Collected by Muslim]

From the odd nights (the Night of Honor) is most likely to be the twenty seventh night, which is supported by the narration of Ubayy bin Ka’b (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) who said:



{ وَاللَّهِ إِنِّي لَأَعْلَمُ أَيُّ لَيْلَةٍ هِيَ . هِيَ اللَّيْلَةُ الَّتِي أَمَرْنَا بِهَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ بِقِيَامِهَا هِيَ لَيْلَةُ صَبِيحَةِ
سَبْعٍ وَعِشْرِينَ }

“By Allāh I know in which night is the night of Honor. It is the night in which the Prophet (ﷺ) commanded us to stand in prayer. It is that which precedes the morning of twenty-seventh (i.e. the twenty seventh night as the night precedes the day)” [Collected by Muslim]

The Night of Honor is not exclusive to one specific night every year. Rather it moves from one day to another. For example if it is the twenty seventh night in this year, it may be in the twenty fifth night the following year based on Allāh’s Will and His wisdom.

This is supported by the Prophet’s statement (ﷺ)'.
{ التَّمِسُّوْهَا فِي تَاسِعَةٍ تَبْقَى ، فِي سَابِعَةٍ تَبْقَى ، فِي خَامِسَةٍ تَبْقَى }

“Seek the night of honor in the last ninth or the last seventh or the last fifth.” [Narrated by al-Bukhārī]

Ibn Ḥajar mentioned in Fatḥ al-Bārī: **“The closest opinion to the truth is that it is in the odd nights of the last ten and that it moves from one odd to another.”**

Allāh has hidden the knowledge of this night from the slaves as a mercy for them, in order that they will increase in their deeds pursuing this night, striving with prayer, remembrance of Allāh, and supplication. This is a means of them gaining nearness to their Lord and an increased reward.

Likewise Allāh hid it as a trial and a test for slaves, in order to distinguish between the one who is serious in seeking it, eager to acquire it, and the one who is lazy and neglectful of it. This is because the one who is eager to obtain



something will be serious in seeking it and he will overlook (the trials) and bear the hardships in the way.

Perhaps Allāh may expose the knowledge of the night of honor to some people by (allowing them to) see some of the signs which the Prophet (ﷺ) saw. He saw himself in a dream prostrating in water and mud. In that night it rained and he prostrated, while praying Fajr, in water and mud.

O My Brothers! In the night of honor, the doors are opened, the beloved ones are drawn near, their call is heard, (their supplications are accepted) and the laborers of this night receive great rewards. The night of honor is better than a thousand months! Therefore strive hard in seeking it. For verily this is the time to seek it and beware of negligence for verily negligence is perdition.

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