

## NIGHTS OF RAMADHAN 10 EMPOWERING THE LAST

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ  
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.  
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ  
وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.  
أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَأْتِيهَا الْمُرْمَلُ ﴿١﴾ فَمِ الْبَلِّ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ﴿٢﴾ نِصْفَهُ، أَوْ أَنْقُصْ مِنْهُ قَلِيلًا ﴿٣﴾ أَوْ زِدْ عَلَيْهِ  
وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا ﴿٤﴾  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. May this Ramadan educate us to be righteous servants of Almighty the Almighty.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

We have come to the last ten nights of Ramadhan al-Mubarak. Many would feel relief that Ramadhan is nearing its end and would be busy making preparations to celebrate Eid Mubarak in the month of Syawal. As such, there would be less people

performing taraweeh prayers that they seem to have forgotten the great rewards offered by Allah the Almighty for the month of Ramadhan. Do they not remember the promise of exceptional rewards that Allah the Almighty has bestowed for the last 10 nights of Ramadhan? Don't they know that even the Prophet(pbuh); who is guaranteed forgiveness for his past and future sins, was willing to leave the comfort of his home to perform i'tikaf at the mosque in order to reap the benefits of the last 10 nights of Ramadhan.

There is one special night in Ramadhan that is called Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Decree). The deeds performed on this night is likened to the reward of a thousand months. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 97 (surah al-Qadr) verse 1-5:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Which means: “Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree. And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn.”

Based on the verses above, it is clear that Laylat al-Qadr offers a great advantage to those who seek it and thus, we should not waste this opportunity. For

the righteous, they seek out this night by increasing their prayers in the last 10 nights of Ramadhan. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

تَحَرَّوْا لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فِي الْوَتْرِ مِنَ الْعَشْرِ الْأَوَاخِرِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ

Which means: “Seek Laylat Al-Qadr in the last ten days of Ramadan.”

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Sayyidatina Aisyah RA, narrated that during the last ten nights of Ramadhan, the Prophet (pbuh): “During the last ten nights of Ramadan, the Prophet (pbuh)) would tighten his waist belt and spend the night in worship. He would also wake up his family.”

The Prophet (pbuh) retreated in the mosques in the last 10 nights of Ramadan with recommended prayers and taraweeh prayers, read the al-Quran and extend supplications to Allah the Almighty.

Laylat al-Qadr which occurs only one night in a year is a night most awaited to those whose seek it. Indeed, blessed are those who manage to get it and what a waste to those who do not.

Let us follow the sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh) by empowering the last 10 night of Ramadhan with supplications and seek forgiveness from Allah the Almighty. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Abu Daud: “I said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, if I know which night is Laylat al-Qadr, what should I say on that night?’ He said, say the following prayer:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفْوٌ كَرِيمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنَّا

Which means: “O Allah, You are forgiving and You love forgiveness, so forgive me.”

May this ramadhan be the turning point in our lives to be better muslims who are righteous and blessed by Allah the Almighty in this world and the hereafter. Allah the Almighty says in Chapter 2(surah al-Baqarah) verse 186:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ  
فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

*Which means:* And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided.

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.