



THE REWARDS OF THE NIGHT OF DECREE

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ

سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ

وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ

أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

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

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



We thank Allah the Almighty for giving us the opportunity to attain multiple rewards in the last ten nights of Ramadhan, hopefully we will be blessed on the Night of Decree (*Lailat al-Qadr*).

Allah the Almighty mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 97 (Surah Al-Qadr) verses (*ayat*) 1 to 5:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ

أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾ نَزَّلَ الْمَلَكُ 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.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him [pbuh]) encouraged his followers to seek *Lailat al-Qadr*, as it is a special gift for them. In the last ten nights of Ramadhan, Muslims around the world are flocking to the mosques to worship and *I'tikāf* (the Islamic practice of retreating to the mosque). It is hoped that the mosques will be kept unlocked so that everyone has the maximum opportunity to worship at any time -night or day- during these last ten days. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

تَحَرَّوْا لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فِي الْوَتْرِ، مِنَ الْعَشْرِ الْأَوَاخِرِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ

Which means: "*Search for the Night of Qadr in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadhan.*"

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) performed *I'tikāf* at the mosque on the last 10 nights of Ramadhan. It is among the *Sunnah (traditions)* of the Prophet (pbuh) in the month of Ramadhan. Ibn Umar said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Muslim:

كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَغْتَكِفُ الْعَشْرَ الْأَوَاخِرَ مِنْ

رَمَضَانَ



Which means: *The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) used to perform I'tikāf during the last ten days of Ramadhan until he died.*

I'tikāf means to sit in a mosque with the intention of worshiping Allah the Almighty. *I'tikāf* has no special designated time. In fact, it is encouraged to do it as much as we can during any month of the year. However, it is highly recommended during the last 10 nights of Ramadhan because the rewards promised by the Almighty are much greater than at other times.

According to Imam As-Syafi', whoever wishes to follow the practice of the Prophet (pbuh), he must enter a mosque with the intention to perform *I'tikāf* on the 21st night of Ramadhan and leave the mosque on the eve of *Eid al-Fitr* (the festival celebrated at the end of the fasting month). It is even more significant if he continues to perform *I'tikāf* throughout the night of Eid until after the special Eid prayer is performed the next day. The revival of this Prophet's tradition (*Sunnah*) requires a well planned and coordinated effort by the committee in charge of the mosque activities.

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Abu Daud:



Which means: I (Aishah, the wife of the Prophet) asked: "O Messenger of Allah! If I realize Lailat-al-Qadr, what should I supplicate in it?" The Prophet replied, "You should supplicate:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ كَرِيمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنَّا

(O Allah, You are Most Forgiving, and You love forgiveness; so forgive me).

وَأَمَّارَتُهَا أَنْ تَطْلُعَ الشَّمْسُ فِي صَبِيحَةِ يَوْمِهَا بَيَضَاءً لَا شُعَاعَ لَهَا

Lailat al-Qadr has its sign as mentioned in one of the Prophet's *Hadith* which means: *...and its indication is that the sun rises bright on that day without rays.*

In the book of *Hadith* by Imam Ahmad, Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said:

“The Prophet (pbuh) used to strive hard (in worship) in the last ten nights of Ramadan as he never did at any other time.”

Imam al-Syafie once said: Whoever establishes the night obligatory prayer (*Isya*) and the dawn obligatory prayer (*Subuh*) at Lailat al-Qadr, then he will get his rewards. Allah the Almighty said in the Quran in Chapter 44 (Surah Ad-Dukhan), verses (*ayat*) 3 and 4:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ ﴿٣﴾ فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ

حَكِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾

Which means: We sent it down during a Blessed Night: for We (ever) wish to warn (against Evil). In the (Night) is made distinct every affair of wisdom.

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.