

# ***“Lailat al-Qadr”***

## *Night of POWER and MAJESTY*

{ibn Saleh}

**Ramadan is a great month for Muslims. Throughout the month, they feel very close to Allah. Only those who fast know from personal experience that to deprive oneself of the pleasure of eating and drinking when hungry, thirsty and tired on a long, hot summer day, does not make the fasting person bored or depressed. On the contrary, when he remembers that he is doing that solely to please Allah, he feels a sense of satisfaction which is very rare in human experience but it is also very real. He is particularly happy because he is able to overcome even the most pressing of human desire which is closely intertwined with man’s sense of survival. When man can triumph over his strongest desires, he becomes well trained in the art of placing duty before self-interest. He gains the sort of freedom to which every human being should aspire. It is freedom from being enslaved by desire. Examples about in the history of Islam of people who were so courageous that they stood out for the right they believed in the face of great personal danger to themselves and to their families. They come from all parts of the Muslim world. They belonged to different races, different traditions and different environments. They shared in common the fact that they had the same training to overcome through fasting the pressures of self-interest.**

**When we examine this 30-day course of training we find that it progresses in a very subtle and gradual way to the high level of its last ten days and reaches its pinnacle with the Night of Power. Fasting itself works on man and enhances his sense of duty. As he goes on from one day to another, the significance of this hard experience becomes clearer and clearer. Difficult as the task is, he is not bored with it. He is after its great prize. When he has been fasting a few days, he is on the lookout for anything which is certain to increase his reward from Allah. We have been recommended by the Prophet, *peace on him*, to spend much of the nights of Ramadan in worship. People may be slow coming to act on this recommendation in the first few days. More of them do come every day to share in the blessings which are experienced by everyone who goes through his fasting days with patience and stands up in worship for parts of the nights of Ramadan. When two thirds of the month has gone by, a Muslim feels that he has been elevated very highly above his own standard 20 days earlier. For 20 days he has been in the company of sincere worshipers, and for 20 days he has been earning Allah’s pleasure which makes his life blessed, although he may not be physically aware of it. Those 20 days have prepared him for a higher task, following the Prophet’s guidance. Al-Bukhari relates a report by Aisha, the Prophet’s wife, who states:**

**“When the last 10 days [of Ramadan] arrived, the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah on him, used to tighten his dress, stay up the whole night and wake up his household.”**

**This authentic Hadith stresses the fact that the last 10 days of Ramadan are singled out for special significance. Although we are recommended to spend a part of each night of Ramadan which is known to “Taraweeh”, the guidance suggests a stage of full as it were, in the the month. The used to do two things in those 10 Ramadan.**

**The Prophet night. A more translation of the rendered as “he alive,” this he did worship. He spent night praying, Qur’an, Allah’s praises, for His bounty, did so, his night**

**Moreover, the up his household This tells us special. Since is voluntary, the**

**not to wake up anyone for it. We have reports of the Prophet staying in the house of some of his companions on different occasions. Some of them took that opportunity to join the Prophet his night worship. They did so of their own accord. The Prophet, *pbuh*, did not make even an implicit reference that was required of them. In the last 10 nights of Ramadan, however, he broke his habit so as to wake up his household for worship. According to a Hadith related by Al-Tirmithi on the authority of Zainab, the Prophet’s stepdaughter by his wife Umm Salamah:**

**“When only 10 days of Ramadan were left, the Prophet, *pbuh*, woke up everyone in his household who could manage to stay up for night worship.”**

**Most people think that the Night of Power falls on the 27<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan that is the night which follows sunset on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There are certain Hadiths to support that view. If we take all the authentic Hadiths which refer to this point, we cannot come out with any definite conclusion other than saying that the Night of Power is one of the odd nights of the last third of the month of Ramadan. It is important, therefore, to seek it in one of the five nights of 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan.**

**in prayer, all Muslims as Prophet’s that we go into mobilization, last 10 days of Prophet, *pbuh*, important days of**

**stayed up all literal Hadith may be made his night through night the whole reciting the celebrating thanking Him etc. When he came alive.**

**Prophet woke for worship. something night worship Prophet used**

**The fact that the Prophet took extra care to wake them up means that, while night worship remained voluntary, its reward on these 10 nights was so great that no one could afford to miss it.**

**Moreover, one of these 10 nights is the Night of Power. It is the night when the revelation of the Qur'an started. Allah tells us in the Qur'an that "the Night of Power is better than a thousand months." To stay up on that night and to spend it in worship is to attain the best reward any Muslim hopes for.**

**When we say that it is on that night that the revelation of the Qur'an started, we mean that the greatest event in human history took place on that night. It is the night when Allah chose to address man directly, giving him His message which ensures man's happiness in this world and in the life to come. It means that Allah in His great majesty turned to this insignificant creature, bestowing on him His greatest bounty: guidance which spares him all sorts of trouble and shows him the path which leads him to heaven. Human beings cannot thank Allah enough for this blessing, the least they could do is to commemorate that occasion by staying up the whole night in worship praising Allah and asking His forgiveness.**

**Which of the 10 nights is the Night of Power?**

**There are several Hadiths which urge Muslims to seek that night in the odd numbers of the last 10 days of Ramadan. In Islamic terminology, the night precedes the day. If we say the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the month, it means the night which starts with sunset on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan. One must not confuse this with the western way which considers the point of midnight the end of one day and the start of another. Our days finish and start at sunset.**

**Some people always ask: how to worship and what to pray for on the Night of Power? The answer is that whatever one does for worship is good and will be amply rewarded. One can pray, recite the Qur'an, say *tasbeeh* and pray for himself, his family and his community. It may be of interest to remember that Aisha, *Allah be pleased with her*, asked the Prophet, *peace on him*, this very question. She said: "**Messenger of Allah, *peace and blessings of Allah on you*, if I happen to know the Night of Power, how do I pray?**" He answered: "**Say: my Lord, you are much forgiving and you love forgiveness, therefore, forgive me.**" That is all the Prophet said to her. It is very simple but it is also very significant. What does any human being want more than to be forgiven? Is there any greater prize than Allah's forgiveness?**

***"my LORD, you are much forgiving, and you love forgiveness, therefore, forgive me"***