

Laylatul-Qadr - The Opportunity of a Life-Time

The saying of Allah the Most High:

"Verily, We have sent it (i.e. this *Qur'aan*) 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 (i.e. worshipping Allah in *that night* is better than worshipping Him for one thousand months). Therein descend the angels and the ***Rooh*** [Jibraa'eel (the angel Gabriel)] by Allah's Permission with all Decrees. (All that night), there is peace (and goodness from Allah for His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn." [Soorah al-Qadr, 97:1 - 5]

Explanation (*Sharh*):

The saying of Allah, the Most High: "**Verily, We have sent it (i.e. this *Qur'aan*) down in the Night of *al-Qadr* (Decree)...**" means: Verily, the Lord of Might and Majesty has revealed the *Qur'aan* — the whole of it, at one time — from *al-Lawh al-Mahfooth* (the Preserved Tablet) down to *as-Samaa' ad-Dunyaa* (the lowest heaven).

"...**the Night of *al-Qadr* (Decree)...**" - means: during the *Night of Judgment and Decree*, during which the decrees for the whole year are decided, based upon the saying of Allah, the Most High: 'Verily, We have sent it (this *Qur'aan*) down on a Blessed Night (i.e. the Night of *al-Qadr*). Verily, We are ever warning (mankind). In *this night* every matter is *decided* and *decreed*.'" [Soorah ad-Dukhaan, 44:4]

The saying of Allah, the Most High: "...**And what will make you know what the Night of *al-Qadr* (Decree) is?...**" - is an announcement concerning the *greatness* of its *status* [with Allaah]. How could it not be so, when every matter is decided (i.e. the decrees of Allaah are made known) during this night?

The saying of Allah, the Most High: "...**The Night of *al-Qadr* (Decree) is better than a thousand months...**" - means that righteous deeds done during this night - like *Salaah*, recitation of the *Qur'aan*, supplication - are better than all of the worship that one can perform in one thousand months which do not include the Night of *al-Qadr*, one thousand months being equal to eighty-three (83) years and four (4) months.

The saying of Allah, the Most High: "...**Therein descend the angels and the *Rooh* [Jibraa'eel (Gabriel) by Allah's Permission]...**" - means that *al-Malaa'ikah* (Angels) along with *ar-Rooh*, i.e. Jibraa'eel (Alaihis-Salaam) descend by the permission of their Lord with (the decrees for) every affair. This means that they descend accompanied by every matter that Allah, the Most High, has pre-decreed, decided to bring into existence, and written it in *al-Lawh al-Mahfooth* (the Preserved Tablet, above the Heavens).

The saying of Allah, the Most High: "...**(All that night), there is peace (and goodness from Allah to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn,**" - means that there is *Salaam* (safety and security) from every evil - from the setting of the sun until the break of dawn - and *Salaam* (greetings of peace) from *al-Malaa'ikah* (the Angels) upon the worshippers (of Allah), the believing men and believing women.

Guidance and Instructions (*Ir-shaa-daat*) for the Teacher (*Mu-rab-bee*).

1. Read the *Soorah* (chapter) in a *slow rhythmic* manner and *repeat* it until it is **memorized**.
2. Read the explanation (*Sharh*) – line by line – until the listeners **understand** it.
3. *Teach* them (the listeners) that this *Soorah* (chapter) confirms ***al-Wah-ye*** (the Revelation) and establishes ***an-Nuboowah al-Muhammadeeyah*** [the Prophethood of Muhammad (Salla-llaahu Alaihi wa Sallam)].
4. *Teach* them (the listeners) about the obligation of believing in ***al-Qadr*** (the Divine Pre-Decree) and ***al-Qadaa'*** (the Execution of the Divine Pre-Decree); and that it is the *Sixth Pillar of Faith* (in Islam).
5. *Remind* them of the excellence of ***Layla-tul-Qadr*** (the Night of Decrees) and encourage them to *seek it* in the *last ten (nights)* of the month of *Ramadaan* [due to the *Khair* (Good) and *Barakah* (Blessings) that it brings with it].
6. *Inform* them of the saying of the Prophet (Salla-llaahu alaihi wa Sallam): "Indeed, this month has come to you, in it is a night which is better than a thousand months. Whoever has been deprived of it has definitely been deprived of all *Khair* (Good); and no one is deprived of its *Khair* (Good) except a *Mah-room* (one who is deprived and denied all good)." [Ibn Maajah. See: Saheeh al-Jaami', 1/447, no. 2247]
7. Yes, it is just as he (Salla-llaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) has said! If there is **one night** which is **equal** to the worship of **one thousand months**, and a person is *not desirous* of it, *nor seeks it out*, then such a person is - By Allah! - deprived of all *Khair* (Good). And we seek refuge in Allaah, the Most High [from such a condition]!
8. *Remind* them that the saying of the Messenger of Allah (Salla-llaahu Alaihi wa Sallam): "...Seek it (*Laylatul-Qadr*) in the **odd nights of the last ten nights of *Ramadaan*...**" - should *not* be understood to mean the twenty-seventh (27th) night, as some people think. Some of them go so far as to celebrate during this night with food and drink and staying up all night in the Masjid. And some of them do not perform the Night Prayers in *Ramadaan* except on the twenty-seventh (27th) night. This has not been conveyed from the '*Shaari*' (Allaah and His Messenger, Salla-llaahu Alaihi wa Sallam), nor did anyone from *as-Salaf as-Saalih* (the Righteous Predecessors) do it.