



Night of Thousand Months

Salih al-Fauzan

ABU Hurairah reported that Rasulullah Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam said: Whoever performs the night prayer on the night of Al-Qadr with Iman (firm belief) and seeking reward will have all his past sins forgiven. (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

This hadith is evidence for the virtue of the night of Al-Qadr as well as performing qiyam (night prayer) during it.

Grand Night

And it indicates that it is a grand night, which Allah has honoured and made better than a thousand months, with regard to its blessing and the blessings found in the righteous deeds that are performed in it.

Thus it is better than the worship of a thousand months and that is equivalent to eighty-three years and four months. Due to this, whoever performs qiyam (night prayer) with true faith and whilst seeking reward in it, will be forgiven his past sins. There were certain verses revealed concerning this virtue:

Allah says: We sent it (the Quran) down on a blessed night. Verily We are Ever-Warning. Therein (on that night) is decreed every matter of ordainment. (Surah Ad-Dukhan: 3-4)

Blessed Night

Therefore, it is a blessed night meaning it possesses much good and blessing due to its merit and

the great reward that awaits the one who does good deeds in it. Among its blessings, is that Allah revealed Al-Quran in it.

Allah says:

Verily, We have sent it (the Quran) down in the night of Al-Qadr. And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr is? The night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the angels and the Ruh (Jibril) by their Lords permission with all decrees. (All that night) there is peace, until the appearance of dawn. (Surah al-Qadr: 1-5)

Ibn Kathir (rahimahullah) said concerning Allahs saying, Therein descend the angels and the Ruh:

This means that the descending of the angels increases during this night due to the vast amount of its blessings. And the angels descend along with the descent of blessing and mercy, just as they descend during the time when the Quran is

recited and encompass the gatherings in which Allah is remembered and spread their wings for the true seeker of knowledge, out of respect for him. (Tafsir Ibn Kathir)

Only in Ramadhan

This night occurs only in Ramadhan, since Allah revealed the Quran in it. He informs us that its revelation occurred during the month of Ramadhan in His saying: Verily, We have sent it (the Quran) down in the night of Al-Qadr.

And His saying: The month of Ramadhan in which was revealed the Quran. (Surah Ad-Dukhan: 4)

This means that its revelation from Allah to His Prophet Muhammad began in it.

Night of Honour

Allahs statement, The night of Al-Qadr is either an indicative of the honour and station of that night, as it is said, Such and such person has great Qadr.

The conjunction of the night to Al-Qadr is the joining of a descriptive feature to it, thus making it mean an honourable night.

Night of Decrees

The word Al-Qadr may also be in reference to the ordainment and disposal of affairs. Thus, its being joined to the word the night would be in order to denote a place or time for it. So it would mean the night in which all that will occur in the following year will be decreed. This is similar to Allahs saying: Therein (on that night) is decreed every matter of ordainment.

Qatadah said of this, Therein is decreed every matter for the (upcoming) year (Tafsir at-Tabari) and Ibn Al-Qayyim said that this is the correct opinion. (Sifa ul-Alil)

What seems most correct is that there is nothing that restricts the possibility of these two understandings and Allah knows

best.

His statement with Iman means with firm conviction in what Allah has prepared for those who stand in prayer during this magnificent night. And seeking reward means looking for reward and the attainment of recompense.

Thus, this is a grand night, which Allah has chosen for beginning the revelation of the Quran. So the Muslim must acknowledge its weight in worth, by guarding it and spending it in worship whilst having firm conviction and seeking the reward of Allah, in order that Allah may forgive all of his previous sins. This is why the Prophet warned us about being heedless of this night and being neglectful of spending it in worship, for the Muslim would be prevented from its good.

Deprived

Abu Hurairah reported that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam said, Ramadhan has come to you - a blessed month. Allah has made it obligatory upon you to fast in it. During this month, the gates of heaven are open, the gates of the Hellfire are closed and the evil devils are chained. To Allah belongs a night in it, which is better than a thousand months. Whoever is prevented from its good, then he has been deprived. (Ahmad and Nasai)

The Muslim should supplicate much on the nights in which the night of Al-Qadr is sought.

Manhaj