

Laylatul Qadr (The Night of Power/Decree)

Surah Qadr

Indeed, We revealed [the Qur'an] during the Night of Decree. And what may let you know what the Night of Decree? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit descend in it with the permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the rising of dawn. (97:1-5)

The companion Anas ibn Malik (RA) reported: "Ramadan approached, so the Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: *'This month has come to you, and in it there is a night that is better than a thousand months. Whoever is deprived of it is deprived of all goodness, and no one is deprived of its goodness except one who is truly deprived.'*" [Ibn Majah]

Why is it called the Night of Power/Decree?

'Qadr' means 'destiny/decreed' i.e., this is the night in which the destiny of each person is decided. It would be this night in which a person's sustenance, lifespan, and other important matters would be sealed for the coming year.

'Qadr' also means 'power,' indicating the greatness of the honour and might of the night. Also, the righteous deeds performed during this night are far more powerful than they would be on any other night.

When?

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, "Search for Laylatul-Qadr in the odd nights of the last ten nights of Ramadan." [Sahih Bukhari]

Why is this night special?

Laylatul-Qadr has also been described as a **gift for the Prophet Muhammad's community (ummah)**. The lifespan of the people from the Prophet (SAW)'s ummah is much shorter compared to the nations before so they would not be able to do as many good actions as the people before them. Therefore, Allah gave this ummah Laylat al-Qadr, which is better than a thousand months i.e., the reward for worship on this night is equal to 1000 months or 83 years.

In Surah al-Qadr (97:1) and Surah al-Dukhan (44:3), it is mentioned that the **Qur'an was revealed on this night**.

In one narration, the Prophet (SAW) stated: "Truly the angels on this night are as **numerous** as the pebbles upon the earth." [Musnad Admad]

Furthermore, since angels stay in the highest heavens, they are described in the Qur'an as 'close to Allah'; yet on Laylatul-Qadr they are 'seeking permission' from Allah to descend to earth because they **recognise the divine blessings that Allah places on earth during this night**.

Rewards:

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, "Whoever stands in prayer during Laylatul-Qadr with faith and hope in the reward of Allah, **all of his previous sins will be forgiven.**" [Sunan Nasa'i]

Du'a on this night has the greatest power to change decree, hence the night is both the Night of Power and the Night of Decree. There is also a special link between this night and **seeking forgiveness from Allah.**

A'isha asked the Prophet, "O Messenger of Allah! If I knew which night is Laylatul-Qadr, what should I say during it?"

And he instructed her to say:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ غَفُورٌ كَرِيمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

O Allah! You are Most Forgiving, and you love to forgive. So, forgive me. [Jami' Tirmidhi]

Laylatul-Qadr provides the perfect opportunity to pray for the realisation of your best dreams, and the prevention of misfortunes. This is the night when the yearly decree is finalised. We have an **exclusive opportunity to gain the forgiveness of Allah SWT to erase our sins from our fates for the upcoming year.**

Why is the specific date of this special night hidden?

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) stated to his companions: "I came to inform you of the (specific) night of Laylatul Qadr but found so-and-so arguing and the knowledge of the night was lifted from me." [Sahih Bukhari]

Lesson: Due to the arguments/grudges between others, this knowledge was hidden from the prophet (SAW). It is by forgiving others, and overlooking each other's faults, that we discover the forgiveness of Allah during Laylatul-Qadr, IA.

Wisdom:

There is a tremendous wisdom behind not knowing exactly when the special night occurs. Ibn Qudamah (RA) writes, "*Allah has concealed this night from the ummah so that they may strive in seeking it and performing worship throughout the month in the hopes of catching it.*"

Prophet (SAW)'s practice:

As the Prophet' (SAW)'s wife `A'isha (RA) narrates, "When the last ten nights began, Allah's Messenger (SAW) kept awake at night (for prayer and devotion), wakened his family, and prepared himself to observe salah (with more vigour)." [Sahih Muslim]

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) used to practice i`tikaf for the entirety of the last ten days of Ramadan.