

Tafseer of Surah Qadr

?P3REP 'DDQNGP 'D1QN-REN@FP 'D1QN-PJEP >

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. ?%PFQN' #NF2NDRFN@GO API DNJRDN)P 'DRBN/R1P - HNEN" #N/R1N'CN EN' DNJRDN)O 'DRBN/R1P - DNJRDN)O 'DRBN/R1P .NJR1L EQPFR #NDRAP 4NGR1M - *NFN2QNDQ 'DRENDN@&PCN)O HN'D1QOH-O APJGN' (P%P0RFP 1N(QPGPE EQPF CODQP #NER1M - 3NDN@EL GPIN -N*QNI EN7RDN9P 'DRAN,R1P >

(1. Verily, We have sent it down in the Night of Al-Qadr.) (2. And what will make you know what the Night of Al-Qadr is) (3. The Night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months.) (4. Therein descend the angels and the Ruh by their Lord's permission with every matter.) (5. There is peace until the appearance of dawn.)

The virtue of the Night of Qadr (The Decree)

Allah informs that He sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Al-Qadr, and it is a blessed night about which Allah says, ?%PFQN" #NF2NDRFN@GO API DNJRDN)M EQO(N@1NCN)M>

(We sent it down on a blessed night.) (44:3) This is the Night of Al-Qadr and it occurs during the month of Ramadan. This is as Allah says, ?4NGR1O 1NEN6N'FN 'DQN0PI #OF2PDN APJGP 'DRBO1R"FO>

(The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Qur'an.) (2:185) Ibn `Abbas and others have said, "Allah sent the Qur'an down all at one time from the Preserved Tablet (Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuz) to the House of Might (Baytul-`Izzah), which is in the heaven of this world. Then it came down in parts to the Messenger of Allah based upon the incidents that occurred over a period of twenty-three years." Then Allah magnified the status of the Night of Al-Qadr, which He chose for the revelation of the Mighty Qur'an, by His saying, ?HNEN" #N/R1N'CN EN' DNJRDN)O 'DRBN/R1P - DNJRDN)O 'DRBN/R1P .NJR1L EQPFR #NDRAP 4NGR1M >

(And what will make you know what the Night of Al-Qadr is The Night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months.) Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah "When Ramadan would come, the Messenger of Allah would say, «BN/R ,N'INCOER 4NGR1O 1NEN6N'FN 4NGR1L EO(N'1NCL 'AR*N1N6N 'DDGO 9NDNJRCOER 5PJN'ENGO *OAR*N-O APJGP #N(RHN'(O 'DR,NFQN)P HN*O:RDNBO APJGP #N(RHN'(O 'DR,N-PJEP HN*O:NDQO APJGP 'D4QNJN'7PJFO APJGP DNJRDN)L .NJR1L EPFR #NDRAP 4NGR1M ENFR -O1PEN .NJR1NGN' ANBN/R -O1PE»

(Verily, the month of Ramadan has come to you all. It is a blessed month, which Allah has obligated you all to fast. During it the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are shackled. In it there is a night that is better than one thousand months. Whoever is deprived of its good, then he has truly been deprived.)" An-Nasa'i recorded this same Hadith. Aside from the fact that worship during the Night of Al-Qadr is equivalent to worship performed for a period of one thousand months, it is also confirmed in the Two Sahihs from Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah said, «ENFR BN'EN DNJRDN)N 'DRBN/R1P %PJEN'FK' HN'-R*P3N'(K' :OAP1N DNGO EN' *NBN/QNEN EPFR ONFR(PG»

(Whoever stands (in prayer) during the Night of Al-Qadr with faith and expecting reward (from Allah), he will be forgiven for his previous sins.)

Specifying the Night of Decree and its Signs

This is supported by what Imam Ahmad recorded from `Ubadah bin As-Samit that the Messenger of Allah said, «DNJRDN)O 'DRBN/R1P APJ 'DR9N4R1P 'DR(NHN'BPJ ENFR BN'ENGOFQN '(R*P:N'IN -P3R(N*PGPFQN AN%PFQN 'DDGN JN:RAP1O DNGO EN' *NBN/QNEN EPFR ONFR(PGP HNEN' *N#N.QN1N HNGPJN DNJRDN)O HP*R1M: *P3R9M #NHR 3N(R9M #NHR .N'EP3N)M #NHR +N'DP+N)M #NHR ".P1P DNJRDN)»

(The Night of Al-Qadr occurs during the last ten (nights). Whoever stands for them (in prayer) seeking their reward, then indeed Allah will forgive his previous sins and his latter sins. It is an odd night: the ninth, or the seventh, or the fifth, or the third or the last night (of Ramadan).) The Messenger of Allah also said, «%PFQN #NEN'1N)N DNJRDN)P 'DRBN/R1P #NFQNGN' 5N'APJN)L (NDR,N)L CN#NFQN APJGN' BNEN1K' 3N'7P9K' 3N'CPFN)L 3N',PJN)L DN' (N1R/N APJGN' HNDN' -N1QN HNDN' JN-PDQO DPCNHRCN(M JO1RENI (PGP APJGN' -N*RI JO5R(P-N HN%PFQN #NEN'1N*NGN' #NFQN 'D4QNER3N 5N(PJ-N*NGN' *N.R1O,O EO3R*NHPJN)K DNJR3N DNGN' 4O9N'9L EP+RDN 'DRBNEN1P DNJRDN)N 'DR(N/R1P HNDN' JN-PDQO DPD4QNJN'7N'FP #NFR JN.R1O,N EN9NGN' JNHREN&P0»

(Verily, the sign of the Night of Al-Qadr is that it is pure and glowing as if there were a bright, tranquil, calm moon during it. It is not cold, nor is it hot, and no shooting star is permitted until morning. Its sign is that the sun appears on the morning following it smooth having no rays on it, just like the moon on a full moon night. Shaytan is not allowed to come out with it (the sun) on that day.) This chain of narration is good. In its text there is some oddities and in some of its wordings there are things that are objectionable. Abu Dawud mentioned a section in his Sunan that he titled, "Chapter: Clarification that the Night of Al-Qadr occurs during every Ramadan." Then he recorded that `Abdullah bin `Umar said, "The Messenger of Allah was asked about the Night of Al-Qadr while I was listening and he said, «GPJN APJ CODQP 1NEN6N'F»

(It occurs during every Ramadan.)" The men of this chain of narration are all reliable, but Abu Dawud said that Shu`bah and Sufyan both narrated it from Ishaq and they both considered it to be a statement of the Companion (Ibn `Umar, and thus not the statement of the Prophet). It has been reported that Abu Sa`id Al-Khudri said, "The Messenger of Allah performed I`tikaf during the first ten nights of Ramadan and we performed I`tikaf with him. Then Jibril came to him and said, 'That which you are seeking is in front of you.' So the Prophet performed I`tikaf during the middle ten days of Ramadan and we also performed I`tikaf with him. Then Jibril came to him and said; 'That which you are seeking is ahead of you.' So the Prophet stood up and gave a sermon on the morning of the twentieth of Ramadan and he said, «ENFR CN'FN '9R*NCNAN EN9PJN ANDRJN1R,P9R AN%PFQPJ 1N#NJR*O DNJRDN)N 'DRBN/R1P HN%PFQPJ #OFR3PJ*OGN' HN%PFQNGN' APJ 'DR9N4R1P 'DR#NHN'.P1P APJ HP*R1M HN%PFQPJ 1N#NJR*O CN#NFQPJ #N3R,O/O APJ 7PJFM HNEN!'»

(Whoever performed I`tikaf with me, let him come back (for I`tikaf again), for verily I saw the Night of Al-Qadr, and I was caused to forget it, and indeed it is during the last ten (nights). It is during an odd night and I saw myself as if I were prostrating in mud and water.) The roof of the Masjid was made of dried palm-tree leaves and we did not see anything (i.e., clouds) in the sky. But then a patch of wind-driven clouds came and it rained. So the Prophet lead us in prayer until we saw the traces of mud and water on the forehead of the Messenger of Allah, which confirmed his dream." In one narration it adds that this occurred on the morning of the twenty-first night (meaning the next morning). They both (Al-Bukhari and Muslim) recorded it in the Two Sahihs. Ash-Shafi`i said, "This Hadith is the most authentic of what has been reported." It has also been said that it is on the twenty-third night due to a Hadith narrated from `Abdullah bin Unays in Sahih Muslim. It has also been said that it is on the twenty-fifth night due to what Al-Bukhari recorded from Ibn `Abbas that the Messenger of Allah said, «'DR*NEP3OHGN' APJ 'DR9N4R1P 'DR#NHN'.P1P EPFR 1NEN6N'FN APJ *N'3P9N)M *N(RBNI APJ 3N'(P9N)M *N(RBNI APJ .N'EP3N)M *N(RBNI»

(Seek it in the last ten (nights) of Ramadan. In the ninth it still remains, in the seventh it still remains, in the fifth it still remains.) Many have explained this Hadith to refer to the odd nights, and this is the most apparent and most popular explanation. It has also been said that it occurs on the twenty-seventh night because of what Muslim recorded in his Sahih from Ubay bin Ka`b that the Messenger of Allah mentioned that it was on the twenty-seventh night. Imam Ahmad recorded from Zirr that he asked Ubay bin Ka`b, "O Abu Al-Mundhir! Verily, your brother Ibn Mas`ud says whoever stands for prayer (at night) the entire year, will catch the Night of Al-Qadr." He (Ubayy) said, "May Allah have mercy upon him. Indeed he knows that it is during the month of Ramadan and that it is the twenty-seventh night." Then he swore by Allah. Zirr then said, "How do you know that" Ubayy replied, "By a sign or an indication that he (the Prophet) informed us of. It rises that next day having no rays on it -- meaning the sun." Muslim has also recorded it. It has been said that it is the night of the twenty-ninth. Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal recorded from `Ubadah bin As-Samit that he asked the Messenger of Allah about the Night of Decree and he replied, «APJ 1NEN6N'FN AN'DR*NEP3OHGN' APJ 'DR9N4R1P 'DR#NHN'.P1P AN%PFQNGN' APJ HP*R1M %P-R/NI HN9P4R1PJFN #NHR +NDN'+M HN9P4R1PJFN #NHR .NER3M HN9P4R1PJFN #NHR 3N(R9M HN9P4R1PJFN #NHR *P3R9M HN9P4R1PJFN #NHR APJ ".P1P DNJRDN)»

(Seek it in Ramadan in the last ten nights. For verily, it is during the odd nights, the twenty-first, or the twenty-third, or the twenty-fifth, or the twenty-seventh, or the twenty-ninth, or during the last night.) Imam Ahmad also recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah said about the Night of Al-Qadr, «%PFQNGN' DNJRDN)O 3N'(P9N)M #NHR *N'3P9N)M HN9P4R1PJFN HN%PFQN 'DRENDN'&PCN)N *PDRCN 'DDQNJRDN)N APJ 'DR#N1R6P #NCR+N1O EPFR 9N/N/P 'DR-N5NI»

(Verily, it is during the twenty-seventh or the twenty-ninth night. And verily, the angels who are on the earth during that night are more numerous than the number of pebbles.) Ahmad was alone in recording this Hadith and there is nothing wrong with its chain of narration. At-Tirmidhi recorded from Abu Qilabah that he said, "The Night of Al-Qadr moves around (i.e., from year to year) throughout the last ten nights." This view that At-Tirmidhi mentions from Abu Qilabah has also been recorded by Malik, Ath-Thawri, Ahmad bin Hanbal, Ishaq bin Rahuyah, Abu Thawr, Al-Muzani, Abu Bakr bin Khuzaymah and others. It has also been related from Ash-Shafi`i, and Al-Qadi reported it from him, and this is most likely. And Allah knows best.

Supplication during the Night of Decree

It is recommended to supplicate often during all times, especially during the month of Ramadan, in the last ten nights,

and during the odd nights of it even more so. It is recommended that one say the following supplication a lot: "O Allah! Verily, You are the Oft-Pardoning, You love to pardon, so pardon me." This is due to what Imam Ahmad recorded from `A'ishah, that she said, "O Messenger of Allah! If I find the Night of Al-Qadr what should I say" He replied, «BOHDPJ: 'DDRGOEQN %PFQNCN 9NAOHQL *O-P(QO 'DR9NARHN AN'9RAO 9NFQPJ»

(Say: "O Allah! Verily, You are the Oft-Pardoning, You love to pardon, so pardon me.") At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah have all recorded this Hadith. At-Tirmidhi said, "This Hadith is Hasan Sahih." Al-Hakim recorded it in his Mustadrak (with a different chain of narration) and he said that it is authentic according to the criteria of the two Shaykhs (Al-Bukhari and Muslim). An-Nasa'i also recorded it. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surah Laylat Al-Qadr, and all praise and blessings are due to Allah.