

QURAAN BOOTCAMP

LEVEL ONE : SURAH QADR

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Surah Qadr

THIS SURAH IS MAKKI AND IT HAS 5 VERSES

WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE ALL-MERCIFUL, THE VERY-MERCIFUL
[1] WE HAVE SENT IT (THE QUR'AN) DOWN IN THE NIGHT OF QADR.
[2]AND WHAT MAY LET YOU KNOW WHAT THE NIGHT OF QADR IS?
[31 THE NIGHT OF QADR IS MUCH BETTER THAN ONE THOUSAND MONTHS.
[4] THE ANGELS AND THE SPIRIT DESCEND IN IT, WITH THE LEAVE OF YOUR LORD, ALONG WITH EVERY COMMAND.
[51 PEACE IT IS TILL THE RISING OF DAWN.



Occasion of Revelation Ibn Abi HZtim has reported from Mujahid (as mursal hadith) that the Messenger of Allah [s] was told about a mujahid [warrior in the cause of religion] from amongst the Children of Israel who carried weapons of war on his shoulders for a thousand months during which time he never laid down his arms. The Companions were amazed when they heard this. On that occasion, this surah was revealed which describes that worship in the Night of Qadr granted to this Ummah exceeds by more than a thousand months of jihad persistently fought by that warrior. According to another narration of Mujahid cited in Ibn Jarir, a worshipper from among the Children of Israel used to worship Allah the whole night, and as soon as the dawn broke, he would arm himself and fight the whole day. This continued consecutively for a thousand months. This Surah was thus revealed. This shows the superiority of the Ummah of the Holy Prophet (SAW), and that the Night of Qadr is a special characteristic of this ummah.

Meaning of The Night of Qadr

One meaning of the word Qadr is 'greatness, honour or dignity'. Zuhrl and other scholars have assigned this meaning to it. The night is called the Night of Qadr because it is a night of greatness, honour, majesty and dignity.

Abu Bakr Warraq has stated that this night is so called because a person becomes a man of honour and dignity on account of repentance, seeking pardon and righteous acts during this night, whilst prior to this he might have lacked honour and dignity on account of unrighteous life he might have led.

Another meaning of the word Qadr is 'predestination'. From this point of view, the night is so called because the destiny of individuals and nations that was decided in pre-eternity is assigned to the relevant angels who are appointed for cosmic planning. Every man's age, death, sustenance, rain and other things are measured out to the angels to be implemented for a complete year from one month of Ramadan to another. If an individual is destined to perform Hajj in the forthcoming year, it will be prescribed. According to Ibn 'Abbas &, there are four angels in charge of cosmic planning:

It is clearly stated in [44:3-51
We have sent it down in a blessed night, (because) We had to warn (people). [31 In that (night), every wise thing is decided [4] through a command from Us. We were to send the Messenger [51. (44:3-5) 'Laylatun Mubarahah' or the 'blessed', according to overwhelming scholars of the Qur'an, refers to the Night of Qadr. The angels record and Surah Al-Qadr : 97 : 1 - 5 845 descend with whatever Allah has destined or decreed for the coming year. Some scholars hold that the 'blessed night' in 44: 3 refers to the fifteenth night of Sha'bEn, that is, 'Laylatul Bara'ah ' or the 'Night of Immunityt. This view may be reconciled with the former one by holding that the initial Divine decrees are decided on the Night of Immunity, and the details are recorded and handed over to the relevant angels on the Night of Qadr. This is supported by a narration of Ibn 'Abbas & which wasrecorded on the authority of Abiid-DuhS which states that Allah decrees all cosmic matters on the Night of Immunity, but they are only handed over to the relevant angels on the Night of Qadr. [Mazharil.

THE DATE OF THE NIGHT OF QADR

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It is explicitly stated in the Qur'an that the Night occurs in the blessed or auspicious month of Ramadan, but its exact date has not been disclosed. As a result, it is disputed and debated among scholars. There are about forty opinions recorded. Mazhari states that the most authentic opinion is that the Night of Qadr occurs in the last ten nights of Ramadan, but no specific date has been fixed. It could be any of the last ten odd nights which may alternate from year to year. According to authentic Traditions, it could be one of the following nights: 21,23, 25, 27 and 29. Thus all the apparently conflicting Traditions relating to the odd nights are reconciled. All the Traditions pertaining to the date of the Night are authentic, and there is no need for any convoluted interpretation. Most eminent jurists - like Abu Qilabah, Imam Malik, Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, Sufyan Thawri, Ishaq Ibn Rahwaih, Abu Thawr, Muzan; Ibn Khuzaymah and others - agree that the Night occurs in the last ten odd nights, alternating. Imam Shafi has two opinions. In one he sides with the majority, and in another he holds that the night is fixed and does not alternate. [IbnKathirl.

Sayyidah 'A'ishah (ra) narration is recorded in Sahih of Bukhari according to which the Messenger of Allah(SAW) is reported to have said"Look for the Night of Qadr in the last ten nights of Ramadan."

Ibn 'Umar & narrates, as recorded in Sahih Muslim, that the Messenger of Allah said: "Search for it in the last ten odd nights of Ramadan." [Mazharil.

The Value and Importance of the Night and a Special Duas of the Night

The greatest virtue of the Night is mentioned in the Surah itself, that is, the acts of worship performed in this single night is better than worship in one thousand months which amounts to eighty-three years and four months. The figure here and elsewhere in the Qur'an does not signify its precise number, but simply denotes a very large or high number. Allah alone knows how much more or better. It is recorded in Bukhari and Muslim on the authority of Sayyidna Abu Hurairah & that the Messenger of Allah [s said: "He who spends the Night of Qadr in the worship of Allah, all his past sins will be forgiven."

Sayyidnii Ibn 'Abbas & narrates that the Messenger of Allah[s] said: "All the angels resident at the 'Lote Tree of the Uttermost Boundary' descend in the leadership of Sayyidna Jibra'aeel and greet every believer, man or woman, except one who takes wine or eats pork." Another narration reports that anyone who is deprived of the good of the Night of Qadr is in fact deprived of all good

All heavenly Books were revealed in Ramadan Sayyidna Abu Dhar Ghifari [ra] narrates that the Messenger of Allah said: "Holy Prophet Ibrahim's (AS) Scriptures were revealed on 3rd of Ramadan; Torah was revealed on 6th of Ramadan; 1nj;l was revealed on 13th of Ramadan; Zabur was revealed on 18th of Ramadan; and the Holy Qur'an was revealed on 24th of Ramadan."

Descent of the Angels and the Spirit with Divine Decrees Verse [4]The angels and the Spirit descend in it, with the leave of their Lord, along with every command.) 'Spirit' here refers to Jibra'il [AS]
Sayyidna Anas [ra] narrates that the Messenger of Allah [s]said: "When the Night of Qadr occurs, Jibra'il [as] descends on the earth with a huge throng of angels and all of them pray for every servant of Allah, man or woman, busy in salah or dhikr, to be blessed by Allah." [Mazhari] .

The verse under comment means the angels bring down, during the Night of Qadr, the decree for everything destined to occur in the coming year. Some of the commentators, like Mujahid and others, say that the phrasekulli amrin is syntactically related to salam, and the word 'Amr means 'every thing'. Thus they interpret the statement to mean: 'The night is a security from every evil, harm and calamity.' [Ibn Kathir].

THE NIGHT OF POWER

According to there verse 'The Night of Power is better than a thousand months' which equals eighty-three years and four months. Obviously, each year will contain a laylatul Qadr which will be better than a thousand months. As a result, the Night of Qadr will recur ad infiniturn, that is, repeat or continue without an end. For this reason, some of the commentators say the expression 'more than a thousand months' does not include nights of Qadr. Thus this should not pose any problem. [Ibn Kathir on the authority of Mujahid. On account of geographical positions, the time will vary from place to place. As a result, the Night of Qadr will not occur in all the regions of the world simultaneously. This is not a problem because people of each location should calculate and consecrate the night and receive its blessings according to their geographical position. Allah, the Pure and Exalted, knows best.

VIRTUE

If anyone performs the 'Isha' and Fajr salaahs in congregation, he will receive the blessings and reward of the Night of Qadr. The more one performs acts of worship in this night, the more he shall receive its blessings. It is recorded in Sahih of Muslim that Sayyidna 'Uthman [ra] narrates that the Messenger of Allah said: "If a person performs his 'Isha' salah in congregation, he will attain the blessings of spending half the night in devotion; and if he performs Fajr salah in congregation, he will attain the blessings of spending the entire night in devotion."