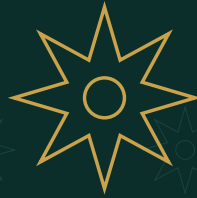


SURAH AS A STORY



Surah Al-Qadr

The Night of Decree

The complete journey — one night better than a lifetime —
told the way a loving elder shares it with a child



Surah No. 97 • 5 Ayahs • Meccan

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The Surah at a Glance

Innaaa anzalnaahu fee Laylatil-Qadr

1. Indeed, We sent it down in the Night of Decree.

Wa maaa adraaka maa Laylatul-Qadr

2. And what will make you know what the Night of Decree is?

Laylatul-Qadri khayrum-min alfi shahr

3. The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months.

*Tanazzalul-malaaa'ikatu war-Roohu feehaa
bi-izni Rabbihim min kulli amr*

4. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter.

Salaamun hiya hattaa matla'il-fajr

5. Peace it is, until the emergence of dawn.

Listen to the Arabic recitation of this Surah, ayah by ayah, with the Qari
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The Night the Quran Came Down

Beta, this surah is only five ayahs — and it describes a single night that is worth more than most human



lifetimes.

'INNA ANZALNAHU FEE LAYLATIL-QADR — indeed,
WE SENT IT DOWN in the NIGHT OF QADR.'

Notice, beta, Allah does not name what 'it' is — He simply says 'anzalnahu', We sent IT down. The scholars say this is a form of honour: the thing is so magnificent that no introduction is needed. It is the Quran.

And the scholars explain that the Quran descended in two stages: first, it was sent down COMPLETE from the Preserved Tablet to the lowest heaven on this one night — and then it was revealed piece by piece to the Prophet ﷺ over twenty-three years, as events required.

Beta, feel what this ayah is really saying: the greatness of this night is not because of the weather or the stars. It is great because THIS IS THE NIGHT THE GUIDANCE OF MANKIND WAS SENT DOWN. A night is honoured by what happens in it — and nothing greater has ever happened in any night.



'WA MA ADRAKA MA LAYLATUL-QADR — and WHAT WILL MAKE YOU KNOW what the Night of Qadr is?' Beta, you know this phrase by now: whenever Allah asks it, the answer is beyond our reach.

And the word 'QADR' itself carries two meanings, and both are true. It means DECREE and measuring out — because on this night the decrees for the coming year are apportioned and handed to the angels. And it means VALUE and honour — a night of immense worth, and a night that gives worth to whoever stands in it.

Better Than a Thousand Months

'LAYLATUL-QADRI KHAYRUN MIN ALFI SHAHR — the Night of Qadr is BETTER THAN A THOUSAND MONTHS.'

Beta, do the arithmetic slowly, because it will change how you treat Ramadan for the rest of your life. A thousand months is eighty-three years and four months. That is a full, long human lifetime.



So a person who stands in prayer on this one night — and Allah accepts it — has earned more than someone who worshipped for eighty-three years without it. And note the word 'khayrun MIN' — BETTER THAN. Not equal to. More than a lifetime.

The scholars mention a reason behind this gift. It is reported that the Prophet ﷺ was shown the long lifespans of earlier nations — people who worshipped Allah for hundreds of years — and he felt concern for his ummah, whose lives are short, and who could never match those totals. So Allah gave this ummah Laylatul-Qadr: a night by which a short life can outweigh a long one.

Beta, that is a mercy specific to us. Our lifespans are around sixty or seventy years — but with this night, a believer who catches it for even a few Ramadans has gathered lifetimes.

And the Prophet ﷺ told us how to earn it: 'Whoever stands (in prayer) on Laylatul-Qadr out of faith and



seeking reward, his previous sins are forgiven.' Two conditions, beta: IMANAN — with faith, believing in its reward; and IHTISABAN — seeking the reward from Allah alone, not as a ritual or a social event.

A Night Crowded With Angels

'TANAZZALUL-MALA'IKATU WAR-ROOHU FEEHA BI-IZNI RABBIHIM MIN KULLI AMR — the ANGELS and the SPIRIT DESCEND therein, by the PERMISSION of their Lord, for EVERY MATTER.'

Beta, picture the earth on that night. Angels descending — and the reports describe them as more numerous that night than the pebbles of the earth. Among them 'ar-Ruh' — Jibreel (alaihis salam) himself, mentioned separately because of his rank.

Why do they come? 'Min kulli amr' — for every matter: carrying the decrees apportioned for the year, and, as the narrations describe, surrounding the gatherings of those who remember Allah, and saying ameen to duas.



Beta, think about a night when the sky is thick with angels and the earth is full of sleeping people. Some are watching entertainment; some are quarrelling; some are simply asleep. And a few — in a masjid corner, on a prayer mat in a small room, a mother whispering after tahajjud — are awake, and the angels are with them.

'SALAMUN HIYA HATTA MATLA'IL-FAJR — PEACE IT IS, until the emergence of DAWN.'

Beta, the entire night is described in one word: SALAM. Peace. From maghrib to fajr, it is peace — peace descending, angels greeting the believers, safety from harm and decree of evil for those Allah protects. And it ends exactly at dawn, not a moment later.

And notice the beauty, beta: the surah does not end with reward or punishment. It ends with 'peace... until dawn.' The whole night is a blanket of tranquillity for the one who spends it with his Lord.

How to Catch It



Beta, now the practical part, because Allah did not tell us the exact date — and that itself is a mercy.

The Prophet ﷺ said: 'Seek it in the LAST TEN nights of Ramadan' — and: 'Seek it in the ODD nights of the last ten.' And in one narration, when two men quarrelled, its exact knowledge was lifted, and he ﷺ said: perhaps that is better for you.

Why better, beta? Because if we knew the date, most people would worship one night and sleep for twenty-nine. By hiding it among ten, Allah gets us to strive for TEN nights — and the striving itself is the point. The reward was never only in the night; it is in the search.

The Prophet ﷺ, in the last ten, would 'tighten his waist-belt, stay awake at night, and wake his family.' And he would perform i'tikaf in the masjid for those ten days, seeking it.

And our mother Aisha (radiyallahu anha) asked him: O Messenger of Allah, if I know which night is



Laylatul-Qadr, what should I say? He ﷻ taught her:

'ALLAHUMMA INNAKA 'AFUWWUN
TUHIBBUL-'AFWA FA'FU 'ANNI — O Allah, You are
Pardoning, You LOVE to pardon, so pardon me.'

Beta, look at that dua closely. The greatest night of the year, the doors of heaven open, angels everywhere, decrees being written — and what is the one thing to ask for? Not wealth. Not success. PARDON.

Because 'afw', beta, is a special word: it means Allah wipes the sin away completely — not merely forgiving it, but erasing it so it is not even brought up. And notice the reasoning inside the dua: 'You LOVE to pardon.' You are not begging a reluctant judge; you are asking the One who LOVES to do exactly what you are asking for.

So beta, three things to carry: worship all ten nights so you cannot miss it; do it 'imanan wahtisaban'; and let this dua be the sentence you repeat most. A single accepted night can rewrite a life.



What This Surah Teaches Us

1. A night's greatness comes from what happens in it — this one carried the guidance of mankind.
2. One accepted night outweighs eighty-three years — a mercy given to an ummah with short lifespans.
3. Stand it with faith and seeking reward, and previous sins are forgiven.
4. The date was hidden so that we would strive for ten nights, not one — the search is part of the worship.
5. Angels fill the earth that night; be among the few who are awake to meet them.
6. Ask for 'afw above all: 'Allahumma innaka 'Afuwwun tuhibbul-'afwa fa'fu 'anni.'
7. The night is 'salam' until dawn — spend it in the peace of His remembrance, and let it end with Fajr in congregation.

Allahumma innaka 'Afuwwun tuhibbul-'afwa fa'fu 'anna — Ya Allah, let us catch this night and pardon us



completely. Ameen.

— This is a simplified, faithful retelling for understanding, based on the Quran's translation and established tafseer (Ibn Kathir and others). For deeper study, always read with a qualified teacher. —

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