

On how to make best use of night time

First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah Who made night a source of light for the worshippers and a resort for those who remember Allah much and turn in repentance to Him. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. He spent his nights in performing acts of worship and praising his Lord for His favours. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his pure blessed family and superior companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you and myself, **O Servants of Allah**, to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted, in line with His orders: **“indeed, in the alternation of the night and the day and [in] what Allah has created in the heavens and the earth are signs for a people who fear Allah.”** (Yunus: 6).

Dear Muslims,

Allah the Almighty has made the time for His servants to make best use of it by occupying it with acts of obedience and righteous actions, especially during the night part of the day. In this respect, the Prophet pbuh has set the best example for us to emulate. He pbuh strived to embrace his nights with acts of obedience that were conducive to draw him nearer to his Lord, Dhikr (remembrance of Allah) and supplications. He also made the night a time for relaxation and opportunity to sit with his family. So doing, he pbuh followed Allah’s guidance for He says, **“and it is He who has made the night and the day in succession for whoever desires to remember or desires gratitude.”** (Al-Furqan: 62). The Most Exalted has further praised the Prophet pbuh as being a role model for the believers for He says, **“there has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern.”** (Al-Ahzab: 21).

Thus, it is good to advise each other on how our Master Muhammad pbuh invested the hours of his nights. He pbuh used to begin his night with Maghrib (sunset) and Isha prayers in his mosque. Thereafter, he pbuh would go back home and pray two Rakaat, then sit with his family members, talk to them pleasantly and listen to what they had to say. On this matter, it was narrated that Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “I stayed overnight in the house of my aunt Maimuna. The Messenger of Allah pbuh talked with his wife for a while (before going to bed).” Indeed, he pbuh used to make his time with his family full of tranquillity, affection and kindness.

O Servants of Allah,

Other traditions of the Prophet pbuh included that he used to perform ablution before going to sleep. He pbuh said, “Whenever you go to bed perform ablution like that for the prayer.” Once he completed his ablution, he pbuh would turn to Allah the Almighty in supplication, saying, “In Your Name, my Lord, I lay my side down, and by Your Grace I raise it. And if You take my soul (cause me to die), then have mercy upon it, and if You release it (let me live), then protect it with that which You protect Your righteous servants.”

After that he pbuh would praise Allah, the Most Exalted, for bestowing upon him the favour of having a home to resort to. So, he pbuh would say, “All praise is due to Allah Who has given us food and drink and Who has sufficed us and provided us with shelter. Many are those who have no one to provide for them, or give them shelter.”

Furthermore, from the guidance of the Prophet pbuh is that when he went to bed each night he would join his hands, then blow in them as he recited in them: “Say, ‘He is Allah, [who is] One’, Say, ‘I seek refuge in the Lord of daybreak,’ and Say, ‘I seek refuge in the Lord

of mankind’.” Then he would wipe as much as he was able to of his body with them, beginning with them first of his head and face, and the front of his body. He would do this three times, then he would lie down on his right side and sleep during the early part of night.

Truly, Allah the Almighty has made the night for rest. The Most Exalted says, “**and made your sleep [a means for] rest. And made the night as clothing.**” (An-Nabaa; 9-10). This means Allah has made your sleep as a rest for your body and the night as a cover and shield for you.

Amongst the other traditions of the Prophet pbuh related to night time is that when he pbuh woke up in the night he would supplicate to His Lord and remember Him. On this account, he pbuh said, “Whoever gets up at night and says: ‘None has the right to be worshipped but Allah. He is the Only One and has no partners. To Him belongs all the Dominion and all the praises are due for Him. He is Omnipotent. All the praises are due to Allah. All the glories are due to Allah. And none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and Allah is Great and there is neither Might nor Power Except with Allah. And then says: O Allah! Forgive me, or invokes (Allah)’, he will be responded to and if he performs ablution (and prays), his prayer will be accepted.”

This is because, the Prophet pbuh said, “There is an hour in the night and if a Muslim gets it and ask Allah for goodness in this world and the Hereafter, then Allah will definitely meet his demand. And that is in every night.” The Messenger of Allah pbuh also said, “One of my followers gets up at night pushing himself to perform ablution (for prayer). On him there are several knots (of the Satan). When he washes his hands, a knot loosens. When he washes his face, another knot loosens. When he passes his wet hands over his head, yet another knot loosens. When he washes his legs, the last knot loosens.

Then Allah, the Most Exalted, says to those beyond the eyes (angels), ‘Look at this slave of Mine who cures/his inner-self in order to ask Me. So, what he asks is given to him. what he asks is given to him’.”

O Followers of the Prophet’s Guidance,

Another act of obedience that the Messenger of Allah pbuh used to perform in the night is that he would wake in the middle of the night, perform ablution in a perfect manner and then establish prayer. This is in line with the orders of Allah the Almighty, for He says, “**and from [part of] the night, Tahajjad (pray) with it as additional [worship] for you; it is expected that your Lord will resurrect you to a praised station.**” Here, Tahajjud means to recite the holy Quran for a longer time during prayer and contemplate on its meanings.

As such, when he pbuh reached an Aya that spoke of glorifying Allah, he would glorify Him; when he reached to an Aya that spoke of asking Allah, he would ask Him; and when reached to an Aya that spoke of seeking refuge with Allah, he would seek His refuge. This was the way of the Prophet pbuh in showing gratitude to Allah the Almighty for the bounties that He endowed upon him as he pbuh said, “Shouldn’t I be a thankful servant of Allah)?”

By so doing, the Messenger of Allah pbuh sought to teach Muslims the virtues of Tahajjud and the elevated status of those who stand for prayer in the night. Emphasising such status, Allah the Almighty says, “**is one who is devoutly obedient during periods of the night, prostrating and standing [in prayer], fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord, [like one who does not]? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding.**” (Az-Zumar: 9).

In like manner, the Messenger of Allah pbuh highlighted the importance of night prayer as he said, “The most excellent prayer after the prescribed one is the night prayer.” He pbuh also said, “Our Lord, the Blessed, the Superior, comes every night down on the nearest Heaven to us when the last third of the night remains, saying: ‘Is there anyone to invoke Me, so that I may respond to invocation? Is there anyone to ask Me, so that I may grant him his request? Is there anyone seeking My forgiveness, so that I may forgive him?’” More to the point, it is from Allah’s blessings to grant success to the Muslim to wake his family members in the night to offer prayer. The Prophet pbuh used to encourage this matter as he said, “When a man wakes up at night and wakes his wife, and they pray two Rakaat, they will be recorded among the men and women who remember Allah much.” Concluding his night, the Prophet pbuh used to offer Al Witr prayer (odd Rakaa). He pbuh said, “Make Witr the end of your night prayer.”

With this in mind, let us implore to Allah the Almighty to make us amongst those who stand for prayer at night and recite His holy Book much.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to guide us all to obey You and obey Your Messenger Muhammad and obey those You have commanded us to obey in line with Your orders: “**O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.**” (An-Nisaa: 59).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

O Allah, all praise is due to You; You are the Maintainer of the Heavens and the Earth and all that which in them. All the praises are

due to due to You; You are the Light of the Heavens and the Earth and whatever in them. All the praise is due to You; You are the Sovereign of the Heavens and the Earth. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most Exalted and Sublime.

O Worshipers,

It was narrated that Bilal, may Allah be pleased with him, once came to the Prophet pbuh to inform him about the Fajr (morning) prayer and found him crying. So, he said, “O Messenger of Allah! Why are crying (in spite of the fact) that your earlier and later sins have been pardoned for you?” Thereupon, the Prophet pbuh said, “last night, an Aya has been revealed to me, and woe to those who read it and do not think about its meaning. It is: **‘indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day are signs for those of understanding.’** (Al-Imran: 190).

In this Hadith there is an indication to that the Prophet pbuh used to make best use of the night’s quietude and tranquillity in observing prayer, reciting the holy Quran and pondering on its meanings as well as contemplating upon Allah’s Creation. When the dawn has emerged and the call for prayer raised, he would go out to offer the prayer.

He pbuh used to begin his day with this invocation: “O Allah, please place light in my heart, light in my eyesight, light in my hearing, light on my right hand, light on my left hand, light above me, light below me, light in front of me, light behind me, and appoint light for me.” Thereafter, he would establish the Fajr prayer in congregation.

You are urged, therefore, to take example of the Prophet pbuh and follow his guidance with regards to making best use of the night. You should also teach your sons and daughters to follow suit. That is said, please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, **“indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.”** (Al-Ahzab: 56).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

O Allah, we seek Your grace to make us amongst those who remember you much and are steadfast on performing acts of worship.

O Allah, please forgive us all.

O Allah, we seek refuge in Your perfect words from the evil of that which descend from the sky and from the evil of that which ascends in it, and from the evil of what is created in the earth and the evil of that which comes out of it. O Allah we seek refuge in You from the trials of the night and the day, and from the visitations of the night and day, except for one that knocks with good. Indeed, You are the Most Merciful.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets. May Allah make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You answer to the supplications.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners. O Lord, please be by their side and guide the Yemeni

people to everything that is good. O Allah, make them rally for the word of truth and legitimacy, and bless them with welfare and stability, O the Most Generous.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

May Allah grant success and continued health and care to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. May Allah have mercy on Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the Late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on them and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and bless its provisions. O Allah, please continue blessing the UAE with safety and security.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand up for prayer.