



Better than a thousand months

The First Khutba

All praises be to Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Beneficent, who honored us in Ramadan with the last ten nights, and made within it a night that is better than a thousand months. And I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah alone, without any partners, and I bear witness that our master and Prophet Sayyiduna Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. O Allah, send Your blessings and peace upon him, his family, his companions, and all of those who follow him in the best of ways until the Last Day.

To continue: I advise you, O servants of Allah and myself, to observe the Taqwa of your Lord, and to make the most of your remaining days and nights, seizing the opportunities of spiritual blessings that are present in this season of worship. Glad tidings to those who seize the opportunity for devotion and drawing near to Allah before it passes and ascend the ranks of piety therein. Allah tells us that this is the real provision that we will take with us into the next life:

وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ

And take provisions, but indeed, the best provision is piety. And fear Me, O you of understanding.

[Qur'an:2:197]

So, O people of understanding: Here we are in the last days of Ramadan, the month is announcing its departure, with only a little bit of it remaining. Most of it has passed, and what remains is the last part, the seal, and we should strive to make this seal one of musk. So we ask Allah, the Bestower of favors, to honor us at it concludes with His forgiveness and pardon, and to bestow upon us His mercy and pleasure. May He grant us the ability to make the most of the remaining days and noble nights of Ramadan, may He allow us to bid them farewell with acts of obedience and us drawing near in closeness to Him, attaining unto its treasures by performing deeds of righteousness. May He grant us success in attaining unto Laylat al-Qadr (the Night of Decree). And what will make us comprehend what Laylat al-Qadr is? It is the essence of this noble month, the condensation of its goodness, and that which is precious is often kept hidden, like a hidden gem, that we are tasked to look and strive for. This is a night that has been magnified and glorified by Allah in His book with the highest esteem, and has been honored beyond measure. For Allah has begun two noble Surahs with its mention (Surah al-Qadr and Surah al-Dukhan) and dedicated an entire Surah (Surah al-Qadr) to elucidate its virtue. About it Allah the Almighty

says: **إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ * وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ * لَيْلَةٌ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ * تَنْزَلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ * سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ**

**Indeed, We sent it down during the Night of Decree.
And what can make you know what is the Night of**

Decree? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The Angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace there is until the emergence of dawn.

[Qur'an:97:1-5]

So, blessed is the one who enlivens it with worship, for they shall receive the reward of worshipping for a thousand months (which amounts to eighty-three years, being more than the average lifespan). Imam Malik, may Allah have mercy on him, narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was shown the lifespans of people before him, and it seemed as if the lifespans of his Ummah (community) were deficient in comparison to others in terms of deeds. Hence, Allah granted them Laylat al-Qadr, which is better for them than a thousand months, hence being better than the lifespan of most people. If they observe this night with sincere faith and seeking its reward, their previous sins will be forgiven. The Prophet said:

مَنْ قَامَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا؛ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Whoever stands (in prayer) on Laylat al-Qadr out of faith and expectation (of reward), will have all of his previous sins forgiven. [Bukhari and Muslim]

In this night, the noble angels and the angelic hosts of the Most Merciful from the Lote Tree of the Utmost Boundary and from every heaven descend. Their numbers are so vast, their goodness so abundant, and their blessings so plentiful that the Prophet said:

إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تِلْكَ اللَّيْلَةَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ عَدَدِ الْحَصَى

The angels on that night on earth are more numerous than the count of pebbles. [Musnad Ahmad]

Amongst these Angels, is the greatest of them, Sayyiduna Gabriel, the Trustworthy, who precedes them, praying for the believers, surrounding those who remember Allah, securing the supplications of the devout, and conveying greetings to the obedient. Hence peace and blessings descend, and goodness prevails for mankind on that night. O Allah, grant us success in attaining unto this blessed night, bestow upon us its goodness and blessings, accept our fasting, our prayers, and our recitation of the Quran. O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. I say this and I seek forgiveness from Allah for myself and for you. O You who believe seek His forgiveness for He is the most forgiving and the most merciful.

The Second Khutba

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of all worlds, and blessings and peace be upon our Master Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets, and upon his family, companions, and followers.

O you who hope for the reward from Allah and desire to attain the virtue of Laylat al-Qadr:

Know that amongst the keys to attaining to the reward of this night is to be in a state of gratitude, to be busied with Allah and not anything else of this world, to not have a grudge or bitterness or argumentation with any of His creation, and not to contend any of the decrees of His destiny. This entails that we be thankful to Allah Almighty for having granted us these blessed days and nights as an opportunity to draw close to Him. Part of that thankfulness is that we strive to make the most of what remains of them

with acts of devotion and obedience, for indeed, the Messenger of Allah used to exert himself in the last ten nights of Ramadan more than at any other time, seeking Laylat al-Qadr to attain its virtue and obtain its reward. Let us follow his guidance and hasten to emulate his example. Whoever among us has been righteous, let them increase in goodness, and whoever has been remiss, let us not despair, and instead let us strengthen our resolve to make up for our shortcomings before it is too late.

Invest every moment in various acts of obedience and different forms of worship. Remember Allah in all of your states, standing, sitting, and lying on your sides. Strive to complete your deeds in the best of manners, pay special attention and seek out the times of acceptance with your supplications, like the times after the call to prayer, the times of our prayers, the times we break our fasts, the time before dawn and other blessed times to make supplication. Make much supplication, supplicate to Allah for yourselves, your families, your children, your country, its leaders, for the Ummah (the collective nation of the believers), for our brothers and sisters who may be suffering under tyranny in parts of the world. A sincere supplication can fulfill goals and bring down divine mercy. If there are issues, now is the time to reconcile with your relatives, to repair relations with your friends, to abandon all forms of animosity, and avoid any estrangement. Whoever harbors ill feelings towards their brother or sister, let them try their utmost to resolve these feelings with peace until their deeds are elevated, their devotion accepted, and their affairs rectified. Think positively and always have a good opinion of your Lord and rejoice in His

acceptance of your deeds, for you have fasted during the day, stood in worship at night, and drawn closer to your Creator, who is Generous and Appreciative, Mighty and Forgiving and who is Noble – and who accepts us and our deeds because of His nobility, despite our lack and shortcomings in them, not because of anything we deserve. For those of you are obligated to pay Zakat in this month, crown your acts of devotion with the payment of Zakat on your wealth and livestock (if any). All of us should ensure we hasten to give our Zakat al-Fitr before the Eid prayer, as it purifies the fasting person from idle speech and indecency and provides food for the needy. Its amount is equivalent to approximately two kilograms of the predominant food of the people of your country, and its monetary value is estimated to be twenty-five dirhams. Pay it with the intention to spread joy and happiness in your community and that you glorify Allah thereby:

وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

To complete the prescribed period and to glorify Allah for guiding you, and that you may be grateful.

[Qur'an:2:185]

Do not forget to ask Allah with the best of what He has been invoked with on the Night of Decree, directing ourselves to Him, saying:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنَّا

O Allah, You are Forgiving and love forgiveness, so forgive us. [Tirmidhi]

O Allah, make us among those who fasted, stood in prayer, and who earned Your pleasure and acceptance thereby. O Generous One, O Allah, seal Ramadan for us with Your

pleasure and deliverance from the Fire. O Allah, make us among those who are granted the Night of Decree, so that they may attain unto its great reward. Our Lord, give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and protect us from the punishment of the Fire, and admit us to Paradise with the righteous, O Mighty One, O Forgiving One.

O Allah, ensure safety, stability, progress, and prosperity for the United Arab Emirates, and spread mercy and peace throughout the world. O Allah, grant success to the President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, his deputies, his brothers, the rulers of the Emirates, and his Crown Prince, in what You love and are pleased with. O Allah, have mercy on Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Rashid, the founding leaders, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, and admit them with Your grace to Your vast Paradise. Include the martyrs of the nation of the believers in Your mercy and forgiveness.

O Allah, have mercy on all of the Muslim men and women, the believers, the living, and the dead. O Servants of Allah, remember Allah, the Great and Majestic, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings, and He will increase you therein. And establish prayer.