

Laylat al-Qadr — the night better than a thousand months

One night in the last ten outweighs a lifetime of worship. Nobody is told which — so all ten are kept.



★ Sent down in it

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ

“Indeed, We sent the Qur’an down during the Night of Decree.”
The night is honoured by what came down in it.

Qur’an 97:1

★ A blessed night

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ

“Indeed, We sent it down during a blessed night.” It falls in Ramadan, the month in which the Qur’an was revealed.

Qur’an 44:3 • 2:185

★ Better than a thousand months

A thousand months is more than eighty years. That is the weight given to one night of standing, reciting and asking.

Qur’an 97:3

★ The angels come down

تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالرُّوحِ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ

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

Qur’an 97:4

★ Peace until dawn

سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ

“Peace it is until the emergence of dawn.” The whole night, to the first light — not a single hour of it.

Qur’an 97:5

★ Where to look

“Search for the Night of Qadr in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan” — the 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th.

Sahih al-Bukhari 2017, 2021

★ Why the date was hidden

He ﷺ came out to name it and found two men quarrelling; the knowledge was taken away. Not knowing is what keeps all ten nights alive.

Sahih al-Bukhari 2023

★ What one night is worth

“Whoever stood in prayer on the Night of Qadr out of sincere faith, hoping for reward from Allah, is forgiven what went before.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 2014, 1901

★ What to ask for

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفْوٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

‘A’ishah asked what to say if she found the night. “O Allah, You are forgiving and love to forgive, so forgive me.”

Sunan at-Tirmidhi, Kitab al-Da‘awat • sahih