



Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. Ramadan is a month of intense spiritual rejuvenation with a heightened focus on devotion, during which Muslims spend extra time reading the Qur'an and performing special prayers. Those unable to fast, such as pregnant or nursing women, the sick, or elderly people and children, are exempt from fasting.

Ramadan is a month of fasting, reflection, devotion, generosity and sacrifice observed by Muslims around the world. Ramadan also brings out a person's potential good, by displaying kind acts towards others. Through organising iftar gatherings, charity events and appeals, long night prayers in congregation and much more, this month helps to gather people from all walks of life. Over the centuries Ramadan has retained its passionate spiritual meaning. The word "Ramadan" comes from the Arabic word for "Parched Thirst" and "Sun-Baked Ground." It is meaningful of the hunger and thirst felt by those who spend the month in fasting and get benefits of fasting in the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is by nature a time of sacrifice.

The Prophet (May Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said, "Fasting is a shield (or a screen or a shelter). So, the person observing fasting should avoid sexual relation with his wife and should not behave foolishly and impudently, and if somebody fights with him or abuses him, he should tell him twice, 'I am fasting.'" The Prophet added, "By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, the smell coming out from the mouth of a fasting person is better in the sight of Allah than the smell of musk. (Allah says about the fasting person), 'He has left his food, drink and desires for My sake. The fast is for Me. So I will reward (the fasting person) for it and the reward of good deeds is multiplied ten times." (Bukhari)

The Prophet (saw) said, "There are two occasions of joy for a fasting person: one when he breaks his fast, and the other when he meets his Lord, and the (bad) breath (of a fasting person) is better in the sight of Allah than the fragrance of musk." [Al-Bukhari]

Each year Muslims spend the ninth month of the Islamic calendar observing a community wide fast. The fast of the month of Ramadan considered one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims who are physically able to required to fast each day of the entire month from sunrise to sunset.

The month of Ramadan lasts 29 to 30 days depending on moon sighting and according to narration; Allah Almighty divides the Holy month of Ramadan into three Stages that's known as Ashra of Ramadan.

Ashra of Ramadan

First Part Reflects Mercy of Allah (Rehmah)

Second Part Reflects Forgiveness of Allah (Maghfirah)

Third Part Reflects Safety from the Hell (Nijat)

The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: It (Ramadan) is the month, whose beginning is mercy, its middle, forgiveness and its end, emancipation from the fire (of hell).

No doubt, the month of Ramadan is full of blessings, mercy and forgiveness. It's the best opportunity for all the Muslims to collect more blessings of Allah and pray for their forgiveness and to be saved from the Hell fire. Additionally, Ramadan is seen as 'the month of the Qur'an,' which encourages Muslims to appreciate this Book more by reciting and deriving lessons from Allah (swt)'s noble words.

First Ashra of Ramadan - Mercy

First ten days of Ramadan are the days of Mercy and blessing and every Muslim must seek the Mercy and Blessings of Almighty Allah. It's a special verse that usually recites the Muslims in first ten days.

The Dua for the first Ashra is:

رَبِّ اغْفِرْ وَارْحَمْ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّحِيمِينَ

O! My Lord forgive and have Mercy and You are the Best of Merciful.

Translation: “O! My Lord forgives and have Mercy and You are the Best of Merciful”

The objective of first Ashra is practicing being merciful to your fellow beings by

1. Giving charity, the act Allah loves the most.
2. Treat fellow Muslims well by controlling your temper.
3. Help people whenever wherever and never say no to them because Allah helps those who help others.

Second Ashra of Ramadan - Forgiveness

Second ten days of Ramadan day 11th to, day 20th consists of the second Ashra and its called Ashra or forgiveness. Muslims must seek for the forgiveness of Allah Almighty and regret for all their sins.

The Dua for second Ashra is:

Forgiveness is to do Astaghfaar for all sins committed so far by Muslims especially in the second Ashra of Ramadan and to repent unto Allah. Do Astaghfaar, feel sorry, desist from committing it again, and make sure not to fall for the same sin again.

Dua for the second Ashra is:

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ رَبِّي مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ ،

“I seek forgiveness from Allah, my Lord, from every sin I committed”

Translation: “I ask forgiveness of my sins from Allah who is my Lord and I turn towards Him.”

Days Of Maghfirah

These are the days of Maghfirah and in the mid of Ramadan Allah's forgiveness is at peak. He forgives only those who prostrate in front of Him with ashamed spirit and pledge in heart not to do the same again ever. Do Tauba as Allah loves those who repent on their sins, verily He is the only forgiver.

Be Kind – Forgive All

While you are asking for Allah's forgiveness in this Ashra make sure that you do the same to our fellow Muslims by adopting alike trait of your Lord and let forgive them for all their deliberate mistakes.

Third Ashra of Ramadan - Safety

The last Ashra comprises the vital days of Ramadan as it unveils those days that are termed as "mother of all days- Lailat-tul-Qadar" whose reward is the highest among rest of the days. Though the entire month is a blessing, yet Allah has provided Muslims with a night the last Ashra, night of decree greater in virtue and is better than the nights of thousand months. Stated in Quran

"We sent it (Quran) down on a blessed Night. Verily, We are ever warning. Therein (in that Night) is decreed every matter of ordainment. Amran (i.e. a command or this Quran or His Decree of every matter) from Us. Verily, We are ever sending (the Messenger) (As) a Mercy from your Lord." [Ad-Dukhaan 44: 3-6]

Muslim besides zikar and recitation of Quran do Itikaf and observe special Nawafil, Salatuh Tasbeeh in third Ashra for beseeching sanctuary from hell. Dua for the last Ashra is

Dua of third Ashra is:

اللَّهُمَّ أَجِرْنِي مِنَ النَّارِ

"O Allah! Save me from the Hell – Fire."

Translation: *"I seek forgiveness from Allah, my Lord, from every sin I committed"*

Why is Ramadan so Powerful for a Believer?

Ramadan changes a person for the better. Being unable to eat and drink during fasting hours allows us to appreciate what Allah (swt) blesses us with each and every day. This makes Muslims turn to Allah (swt) more, full of gratitude. The shaytaan are locked away in this month, which prevents their negative whispering to Muslims. Bad language, arguments and other negative actions are heavily discouraged in Ramadan too. In turn, the good in the fasting person is revealed in volumes and adds positively to the joyous, spiritual atmosphere.

The Prophet occupied the greatest and most honourable rank among generous people. He never sent away a person in need or a person who asked him for something. He gave generously without limit, which is rarely found. A Bedouin spoke of such generosity when he went to the Prophet and saw a herd of sheep that filled the whole valley. The generosity of the Prophet made the Bedouin aspire for all the sheep in the valley, so he asked him for them and the Prophet gave them to him. The man returned to his people and said, "O people! Embrace Islam. By Allah, Muhammad gives in charity as if he does not fear poverty." [Muslim]

Why is Ramadan Considered so Sacred?

Allah says, "O mankind, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous." [Qur'an: 2:21]

In Ramadan, every good deed is multiplied between ten and seven hundred times. This is another reason why Muslims engross themselves into doing good to race for an increase in good deeds.

`A'ishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to strive more in worship during Ramadan than he strove in any other time of the year; and he would devote himself more (in the worship of Allah) in the last ten nights of Ramadan than he did in the earlier part of the month. (Muslim).

Why is Charity Given Eagerly in Ramadan?

"Allah, the Exalted, says, 'Spend, O son of Adam, and I shall spend on you.'" – Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) (Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

There is a chance for immense reward and forgiveness from Allah (swt) in this month, which makes Muslims work towards gaining these benefits. Giving to charity is one gateway that leads to great rewards. For this reason, you will find many Muslims immerse themselves in both giving to charity and encouraging others to donate. Since deeds are multiplied, Muslims acknowledge that every penny that they donate magnifies on their scale of good deeds.

The Prophet (s) said, “Upper hand is better than the lower hand. The upper hand is the hand of a giver, and the lower hand is the hand of a beggar.” (Bukhari)

Can Non-Muslims Take Part in Ramadan?

Of course. As mentioned before, Ramadan is a time of unity, thus getting others involved helps achieve this aim. This is also a chance to exhibit Islam, displaying our peaceful religion and how we work and strive to worship Allah (swt) as one Ummah.

Inviting non-Muslims for an iftar meal will give them a chance to learn more about our religion. This will also help them feel special and included and will show non-Muslims the beauty of Islam through manners.

“Nothing is heavier on the Scale of Deeds than one’s good manners.” [Tirmidhi]

Some Muslims feed the homeless as an act of charity during Ramadan. These homeless people can be non-Muslims, thus are appreciative and educated that Islam doesn’t restrict itself to just helping Muslims. Non-Muslims can also be invited to charity events to join in with the goodness of raising money for those most in need, acknowledging humanity and the precarious environment we inhabit.

What is Eid-al-Fitr?

Eid-al-Fitr is celebrated at the end of Ramadan upon the sighting of the new moon. This joyous festival lasts for three days.

During Eid-al-Fitr, in accordance to the Sunnah, Muslims wake up early, have a shower and wear their best clothes. They are then advised to eat a date (in odd numbers) and attend the mosque to perform the Eid prayer. Muslims also contribute towards charity on this day, as well as greeting one and another, ‘Eid Mubarak!’ This festival also encourages Muslims to unite by visiting family and friends and exchanging gifts.

As seen from the above, Ramadan isn’t solely focused on going hours without eating. The yearning one has for Ramadan to enter upon us is due to the unity, spiritual cleansing and immense reward this month has to offer.

Significance of Ramadan in Islamic history

Prior to becoming a messenger of God, Muhammad used to withdraw to the Hira mountain top cave. He would meditate in solitude, away from the polytheistic culture

of tribal Mecca for the whole month of Ramadan. We are not sure if this retreat involved fasting at the time.

In 610, when he was 40, he again went to the same mountain top to meditate. Several weeks into the retreat, he experienced an angelic form appearing before him, commanding him to read. He replied he did not know how to read. The angelic form squeezed him tight and repeated the command to read. This continued three times, after which the first five verses of the holy Qur'an was revealed:

Read in the name of your Lord who created humans from a piece of flesh. Read, for your Lord is Most Generous. Who taught humans with the pen. Who taught humans what they do not know.

Muhammad still was not able to read in a conventional way, but he understood that he was being asked to read the book of the universe and learn from it, and also understand that it points to its creator.

This incident marked the beginning of Islam, revelation of the Qur'an and the prophetic mission of Prophet Muhammad.

In 624, when Muslims migrated to Medina to escape persecution, the month of Ramadan was declared holy by virtue of the start of the mission of the Prophet and revelation of the Qur'an. Fasting was instituted in this month as one of the five pillars of Islam as a way for believers to show their thanks to God and reflect on the teachings of the Qur'an and its importance for believers.

Spiritual significance and benefits of Ramadan fasting

What may seem to some to be a self-inflicted ordeal has profound meaning for human beings and God, and their reciprocal relationship. God exhibits the perfection of lordship, grace and mercy by making the surface of this Earth a table of blessing, and placing all kinds of sustenance on that table for every creature to enjoy.

In Ramadan, believers show a collective act of worship in the presence of the mighty and universal Mercy as they wait for the divine invitation to the table of blessings at the time of breaking the fast. As the Earth revolves around its axis, the jubilant timeframe is repeated in a continuous manner for the whole month.

Many people forget the fact God is the source of all sustenance. While they readily thank agents of delivery, they forget to remember and thank God as the one who ultimately meets all their needs. God expects the price of thanksgiving for the sustenance he has provided.

True thanksgiving is to know that all sustenance comes directly from God, to acknowledge its value and to feel our own need and dependence on that sustenance.

A fasting person physically feels the value of, and their need for, basic sustenance when they experience the pangs of hunger and thirst. Since a believer fasts for the sake of God, they acknowledge the sustenance, which may be taken for granted, actually comes from God. Therefore, fasting in the Islamic tradition is the best way to show a true and sincere thanksgiving.

Laylatul Qadr



The **Qadr Night** or **Laylat al-Qadr** ([Arabic](#): ليلة القدر), variously rendered in English as the **Night of Decree**, **Night of Power**, **Night of Value**, **Night of Destiny**, **Night of Measures**, is, in Islamic belief, the night when the Quran was first sent down from Heaven to the world and also the night when the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Islamic Prophet Muhammad and it is described to be better than a thousand months of worshipping. According to many Muslim sources its exact date is uncertain but it was one of the odd-numbered nights of the last ten days of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Since that time, Muslims have regarded the last ten nights of Ramadan as being especially blessed. Muslims believe that the Night of Qadr comes with blessings and mercy of God in abundance, sins are forgiven, supplications are accepted, and that the annual decree is revealed to the angels who carry it out according to God's grace.

Qadr, (قدر) in Arabic, means measure and limit or value of something or destiny.^[6] Some reasons have been offered for its naming:

It is said that it was called al-Qadr because the annual destiny of every person will be determined by God.

Some say that if one stays awake at this night praying, reading Quran, or repenting, one will reach a high state.

Some have said that it was called al-Qadr because it is a grand and high-value night.

Other names such as "Laylat al-'Azama" (Arabic:ليلة العظمة; night of the greatness) and "Laylat al-Sharaf" (Arabic:ليلة الشرف; night of the honor) have also been mentioned for this night.

"We have indeed revealed this in the 'Night of Power'. And what will explain to you what the night of power is? The Night of Power is better than a thousand months. Therein come down The Angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand. "Peace!...This until the rise of Morn!" -Surah Al-Qadr

Revelation to Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

Some commentators believe that the Quran was revealed to Muhammad twice;

- the 'immediate revelation' happening on the Laylat al-Qadr and
- 'gradual revelation' across 23 years.

The Quran uses the word *anzal* (انزل) which justifies 'the immediate revelation', according to [Allamah Tabatabai](#). However some others believe that the revelation of Quran occurred in two phases, with the first phase being the revelation in its entirety on Laylat al-Qadr to the angel Gabriel ([Jibril](#) in Arabic) in the lowest heaven, and then the subsequent verse-by-verse revelation to Muhammad by Gabriel. The revelation started in 610 CE at the [Hira cave](#) on Mount Jabal al-Nour in Mecca. The first Surah that was revealed was [Sūrat al-'Alaq](#) (in Arabic العلق). During Muhammad's first revelation, the first five verses of this Surah, or chapter, were revealed.

Once Imam Ali was reciting Surat al-Qadr and his sons, [Imam Hasan](#) (a) and [Imam Husayn](#) (a) were near him. Imam Husayn (a) asked his father: "Father, how come we feel a different sensation when you recite this surah?" Imam Ali(a) replied, "O son of the Prophet and my son! I know things from this chapter that you are not aware of now. When this surah was sent down to the Prophet he asked me to go to him. When I went to him he recited this surah, then he put his hand on my right shoulder and said: O my brother and my successor! O the leader of my nation after me! O tireless fighter with my enemies! This surah is yours after me, and is for your two sons after you. Gabriel who is my brother among the angels informs me of the events of one year of my nation at the night of Qadr. And after me he will give this information to you. This surah will always have a shining light in your heart and in the heart of your successors until the rising of the dawn of the day of reappearance of [Qa'im](#).

Religious Importance

The night is not comparable to any others in view of Muslims and according to a tradition, the blessings due to the acts of worship during this night cannot be equaled even by worshipping throughout an entire lifetime. The reward of acts of worship done in this one single night is more than the reward of a thousand months of worship. Laylat al-Qadr is referenced in the Quran:

1. We have indeed revealed this (Message) in the Night of Decree:
2. And what will explain to thee what the Night of Decree is?
3. The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months.
4. Therein come down the angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand:
5. Peace!... This until the rise of dawn

Things to do on Laylatul Qadr

If you wish to seek the favour of the merciful Allah, here is what to do on Laylatul Qadr. Notably, these are an extension of Ramadan dos and don'ts.

1. Offer duas or supplications



During the holy night of Laylatul Qadr, Allah is merciful, and all the sincere supplications are accepted by him. On this night, one must ask Allah for mercy and the well-being of the world.

According to Hadith on Laylatul Qadr, when Aisha asked Prophet Mohammad how she should pray to Allah on Laylatul Qadr, she was told to recite this Dua for Laylatul Qadr with a sincere heart:

“O Allah, indeed you are pardoning and generous; you love to pardon, so pardon us.”

2. Recite the Holy Quran



Another thing to do on Laylatul Qadr is to recite chapters from the holy book of Quran. Muslims believe that reciting longer Surahs with the translations and contemplating their explanation cleanse your previous sins. If you remember any passages or Surahs you have heard during the month of Ramadan, then you should reflect on their meaning.

3 Perform Sadaqah or Charity



According to Islamic sources, the reward of giving Sadaqah during the month of Ramadan gets multiplied by 70 times. It is also said that the reward of a good deed during this special night is the same as performing it continuously over 83 years. So, if you want to please Allah and have your past sins forgiven, then help the needy and offer Sadaqah to someone who will genuinely benefit from it. Even offering a glass of water to someone who needs it earns immense blessings.

4 Have Iftar with your family



During the month of Ramadan, it is considered a good practice to have Iftar with your family and close friends. This also aids you in spending some quality time with your loved ones. Having iftar on the blessed night carries great virtues for the family. It brings about brotherhood and companionship among the family by means of sharing meals on the table

5 Perform Itikaf



On this holy night, performing Itikaf (solitude) will to earn you great rewards. Many Muslims spend the last 10 days of Ramadan in Itikaf and pray to Allah. It is believed that going into solitude gives you time to reflect on your actions and offers you an opportunity to reconnect with Allah. During Itikaf, one should disconnect from the material world and focus on good deeds. It is also an ideal time for starting new religious practices that you will continue for the year.

Laylatul Qadr Benefits

Muslims believe that the night of Laylatul Qadr is unlike any other night. The rewards that one can earn on this night cannot be equated with the ones you will get throughout your life. The Holy Qur'an (97:5) mentions,

“Surely, we have revealed to you the Grand Night, and what will make you comprehend what the Grand Night is? The Grand Night is better than a thousand months. The Angels and the Spirit descend in it by the permission of their Lord for every affair. Peace! It is till the break of the morning.”

In Quran, it is also mentioned that the holy night of Laylatul Qadr is better than a thousand months, which means that worshipping Allah on this night earns you the rewards of a lifetime. In order to please God, one must immerse in prayers and recite duas to earn the favour of God.

According to Hadith on Laylatul Qadr, anyone who sincerely prays to Allah during the night of Laylatul Qadr is forgiven by God for his/her past sins. There are step-by-step guides on how to pray on Laylatul Qadr that devotees can adopt. A prayer guide, also called a worship plan, specifies Surahs from the Quran pertaining to the last 10 days of Ramadan. It will elaborate on which Surah to recite how many times on a particular day, along with a few prayers to say before and after the recitation.

Laylatul Qadr Hadith And Quran Mentions

The Prophet (PBUH) said, *“I came out to inform you about (the date of) the night of Al-Qadr, but as so and so and so and so quarrelled, its knowledge was taken away*

(I forgot it) and maybe it was better for you. Now look for it in the 7th, the 9th and the 5th (of the last 10 nights of the month of Ramadan)." Hadith No: 236, Sahih Bukhari

"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 it is until the emergence of dawn." [Qur'an: 97:3-5]

Abu Hurayrah raḍyAllahu 'anhu (may Allāh be pleased with him) relates that the Prophet ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) said, *"Whoever stands (in the voluntary night prayer of) Ramadan out of faith and in the hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven. And whoever spends the night of Lailat Al-Qadr in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven."* [Sunan an-Nasa'i]

Ibn Abbas reported that The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said regarding the Night of Decree, *"It is a calm night, neither hot nor cold, and the sun arises on it red and feeble."* [Ṣaḥīih Ibn Khuzaymah 2049]

Narrated by Abu Huraira, Allah's Apostle said, *"Whoever establishes the prayers on the night of Qadr out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not to show off) then all his past sins will be forgiven."* [Sahih Bukhari. Chapter 2, Belief]

Laylatul Qadr is a special night when Muslims immerse themselves in prayers and engage in holy deeds to earn blessings from the reverent Allah. Do the good deeds and celebrate Laylatul Qadr 2023 with complete devotion. The "Night of Revelation" is significant for Muslims as on this day the religion of Islam got documented with the revealing of the holy book of Quran. Hence, reciting the Quran is among the many good deeds that one can perform on the "Night of Decree"