

Tafsīr of Sūrah al-Qadr by Shaykh ‘Abdur-Raḥmān ibn Nāṣir as-Si’dī

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) said:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾
لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾ تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلِكِ وَالرُّوحُ
فِيهَا يَأْذِنُ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ
الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾

Verily, We sent it (the Qur’ān) down during Laylat-ul-Qadr (Night of Decree). And what will inform you what is Laylat-ul-Qadr? Laylat-ul-Qadr is better than a thousand months. The Angels and the Spirit—(Jibrīl)—descend therein by the permission of their Lord with (decrees) for every affair. Peace it is [all night] until the emergence of dawn.

Shaykh ‘Abdur-Raḥmān ibn Nāṣir as-Si’dī (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ):

Here Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) says, highlighting the virtue and high status of the Qur’ān:

**Verily, We sent it (the Qur’ān) down during
Laylat-ul-Qadr (Night of Decree).**

This is like the verse in which Allāh says:

**Verily, We sent it down during a blessed night,
for We were to give warning.¹**

That is because Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) began to send down the Qur’ān during Ramaḍān on Laylat-ul-Qadr, and by means of it Allāh bestowed comprehensive mercy upon His slaves for which they cannot give sufficient thanks.

Laylat-ul-Qadr is called that because of its great status and virtue before Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى), and because on this night He decrees what will happen during the coming year of deaths, provision and other divine decrees.

He further highlights its great significance by saying:

¹ Sūrah ad-Dukhān, verse 3.

And what will inform you what is Laylat-ul-Qadr?

For it is of great significance and immense importance.

Laylat-ul-Qadr is better than a thousand months

Meaning: in its virtue it is equivalent to a thousand months, and deeds that are done on this night are better than deeds in a thousand months that do not contain it.

This is something that is utterly astounding and amazing; Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) has bestowed upon this weak Ummah (Muslim nation) a night on which good deeds are equivalent to and surpass a thousand months which is the age of a man who lives for a very long time – 80-odd years.

The Angels and the Spirit—(Jibril)—descend therein

Meaning: they descend frequently during it with (decrees) for every affair.

Peace it is all night

Meaning: it is free of all ills and evils, because of its great good.

Until the emergence of dawn

Meaning: it begins at sunset and ends with the emergence of dawn (Fajr).

Many *mutawātir*² aḥādīth (pl. of ḥadīth) speak of its virtue and state that it is in the last ten nights of Ramaḍān, especially the odd-numbered nights, and that it will continue to occur every year until the onset of the Hour.

Due to this, the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) would observe *I'tikaf*³ and do a great deal of acts of worship during the last ten days and nights of Ramaḍān, hoping that they would coincide with Laylat-ul-Qadr.

And Allāh knows best.

² Narrated by a large number of narrators.

³ Seclusion in the mosque.