

FRIDAY SERMON

21st March 2025

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Alhamdulillah we will be reaching the end of the Sacred Month of Ramadan by the end of next week. Yesterday, we have started the last ten days of the holy month. Some young fasters feel quite tired by this time, after fasting for about twenty days. It is understandable. However, we should always bear in mind that Ramadan is a month of spiritual cleansing and purification for Muslims in which we try to increase our worship, good deeds and acts of charity. The last ten days and nights hold even more significance as Allah shows great mercy to His creation. These days are a chance to benefit from the immense blessings of Ramadan and seek salvation before the month comes to an end. Besides our best exemplar is the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) and Allah commanded him to say to all those who accept him, who accept Islam as their faith as follows:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Say, ‘If you love Allah, follow me: *then* will Allah love you and forgive you your faults. And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.’ (3:31)

In all aspects of our life, we should try to imitate the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) by following his Sunnah as much as we know it.. Most probably we will not be able to imitate him thoroughly. But we should try; we should strive to do our best. Consequently, we will *incha Allah* get the love of Allah.

So, here are some hadiths about the last ten days of the Holy Month of Ramadhan which give us an idea how he busied himself during these days and how we should try to imitate him:

1. Hazrat Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported:

“When the last ten nights (of Ramadan) would begin, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) would keep awake at night (for prayer and devotion), awaken his family and prepare himself to be more diligent in worship. (Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

From this, we understand that now is the time to be more diligent in worship and not let our determination fail us. It means we should try to do more than we have done up till now in this Holy Month. May Allah help us to do so.

2. Hazrat Aishah(ra) also 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 strove in earlier part of the month. (Muslim).

The message of this hadith is quite clear about the practice of the Holy Prophet(saw). As the holy month nears its end, we should devote more time to worship than we have done up till now in the month.

3. Hazrat Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that one year, when the month of Ramadan started, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“This month (of Ramadan) has begun and there is a night in it better than one thousand months. (So,) any one deprived of its (blessings) is actually deprived of all goodness. Indeed, He is truly deprived who is kept away from its good.” (Ibn Majah)

So, we should do our best to pray more than we usually do at night and seek the *laylatul Qadr* because there is much blessing in it.

4. Hazrat A'ishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported:

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Seek *Lailat Al-Qadr* (Night of Decree) in the odd nights out of the last ten nights of Ramadan.” (Al-Bukhari).

It means it should be sought on 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th. Allah knows best when it occurs. So we should do our best to seek it by praying to Allah to get it *incha Allah*.

5. Hazrat Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Whosoever performs *Qiyam* (night vigil prayer) during *Lailat Al-Qadr* (Night of Decree), with faith and being hopeful of Allah’s reward, will have his former sins forgiven.” (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

6. Hazrat A’ishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported:

I asked: “O Messenger of Allah! If I realize *Lailat Al-Qadr* (The Night of Decree), what should I supplicate in it?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) replied, “You should supplicate: *Allahumma innaka `afuwun, tuhibbul-`afwa, fa`fu `anni* (O Allah, you are Most Forgiving, and You love forgiveness; so, forgive me).” (At-Tirmidhi)

By now, each one among us should have memorized this prayer, understand each one of its words and with full pathos and anguish in the heart supplicate with them. Usually, we supplicate in *Qiyam* but we can do it also in *sujood*. May Allah accept from us all.

7. Hazrat Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported:

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) kept standing (in prayer) so long that the skin of his feet would crack. I asked him: “Why do you do this, while you have been forgiven of your former and latter sins?” He said, “**Should I not be a grateful servant of Allah?**” (Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

This is one of the Hadiths where we can have an idea of the gratefulness of the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) to His Lord Allah for all His Favours upon him. At times his night’s prayers were very long and yet he was told to recite just as much as he could of the Holy Quran. But he recited out of love and sometimes it went on for hours. We can only marvel at such determination and such love for Allah. As followers we should do our utmost to try to be like him in all matters.

You might recall that if we have the opportunity to fast as Allah has taught us, we should be grateful to Allah. At the end of verse 2:186, we read:

يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

Translation

"Allah desires *to give* you facility and He desires not hardship for you, and that you may complete the number, and that you may exalt Allah for His having guided you **and that you may be grateful.**"

Hence, when we reflect upon the hadith under discussion, we understand how the Prophet Muhammad (saw) expressed his thanks to Allah for all the favours that Allah had poured over him as a human being. Despite our best efforts, we might never reach the level of his awareness of the debt of gratitude that he owed to Allah, at least we should learn to be grateful for everything that Allah has given us. These days specially we should be grateful that He has helped to worship Him more than we usually do. May Allah help us to understand how much we are indebted to Him for our existence and for doing good deeds in our lifetime even if, at times, we experience difficult moments. *Ameen.*

9. Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"May Allah show mercy to a man who gets up during the night and performs Salat, awakens his wife to pray and if she refuses, he sprinkles water on her face (to make her get up). May Allah show mercy to a woman who gets up during the night and performs Salat, awakens her husband for the same purpose; and if he refuses, she sprinkles water on his face." (Abu Dawud). To the best of my knowledge, this hadith deals with waking up for prayer during the last part of the night not necessarily within Ramadan.

10. Abu Sa'id and Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with them) reported:

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "When a man awakens his wife during the night and they both perform two-Rak'ah prayer together, they are recorded among the men and women who celebrate remembrance of Allah." (Abu Dawud)

11. Jabir (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: "I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) saying, 'Every night there is a special time during which whatever a Muslim asks Allah of any good relating to this life or the Hereafter, it will be granted to him; and this moment comes every night.'" (Muslim).

Another hadith on this matter of waking up for prayer is as follows:

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever gets up at night and says: -- '*La ilaha il-lallah Wahdahu la Sharika lahu Lahu-lmulk, waLahu-l-hamd wahuwa 'ala kullishai'in*

Qadir. Al hamdu lil-lahi wa subhanal-lahi wa la-ilaha il-lal-lah wa-l-lahu akbar wa la hawla Wala Quwata il-la-bil-lah. ' (None has the right to be worshipped but Allah. He is the Only One and has no partners. For Him is the Kingdom and all the praises are due for Him. He is Omnipotent. All the praises are for Allah. All the glories are for 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: -- *Allahumma, Ighfir li* (O Allah! Forgive me). Or invokes (Allah), he will be responded to and if he performs ablution (and prays), his prayer will be accepted."

These are some of the hadiths that we usually keep in mind during the last days of the holy month of Ramadan. May Allah open the doors of His Mercy, His Forgiveness and His Pleasure for each one among us as a favour upon us, poor sinning people. *Ameen.*

In the end, I would like to share with you an experience that Allah showed us on Sunday 16th March 2025. During the whole day, from time to time, I was preparing the coming Eid Sermon. After finishing it, I started preparing today's sermon. It was around 5:30 to 5:45 pm. It was very hot in my room despite the fan. I decided to go for a stroll outside in the yard. I was sweating mildly which was something quite unusual. I stepped outside the garage and stopped after ten steps. I looked at the sky. The sky was clear. I saw a big cloud that had already passed our region. In my heart of heart, I addressed Allah saying "Many times you have sent rain when one of your servants prayed for rain why can't you do this for me because I was very uncomfortable. I wanted to lift my two hands to the sky to supplicate but I did not, fearing that if someone were to see me, they might think ill of me. Anyhow, I continued reciting *La hawla wa laa quwwata illa billa hil aliyil Azim* which we translate as "***there is no force nor power except in Allah the High and the Almighty***". I recited this for about 15 minutes and then I went back inside the house. I took my bath and had some rest and after some time, I heard the Maghrib Azan and I went to the mosque. I opened the windows because it was so hot and I gave the call to prayer (Azan). All of a sudden, I started hearing the pouring of rain. As soon as I finished the Azan, I went to the windows and lifted my hands thanking Allah for sending this rain and I started weeping and I went into sajdah weeping and thanking Allah for showing me such a sign. All the members of Ibne's family and mine have witnessed this blessed rain. In fact, someone told me later on that when she heard the rain she wondered where that rain came from. All praise is due to Allah who is most Powerful and can create something to manifest His Power to His Servants. The rain fell for about half an hour. Umbrellas had to be brought in for members to go back

home. After Maghrib, while it was still raining, I continued praying because I felt it was an exceptional time for the acceptance of prayer and I prayed for you all. *Allaho Akbar*. Let us hope Allah accept our prayers and that we stay always submissive to Him. *Ameen*.