

NEWSLETTER



IANA

Islamic Association of North America
الجمعية الإسلامية في شمال أمريكا

RAMADAN
03/25



On behalf of IANA, we wish you and your family a blessed Ramadan.

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VIRTUES OF THE LAST TEN NIGHTS OF RAMADAN

**Assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu
Ramadan Mubarak!!**

As we continue fasting, standing in prayer throughout the nights, and giving charity, we find ourselves immersed in the mercy and blessings of Allah. All praise is due to the Almighty, the Lord of the Universes, whose mercy encompasses all things. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad, the beacon of guidance and mercy to humanity.

It is with immense joy and gratitude that we extend warm greetings to all of you during this sacred journey of Ramadan. We are truly blessed to witness this month of forgiveness, mercy, and spiritual elevation. We pray that Allah, the All-Knowing, rewards each and every one of us for our deeds, strengthens our faith, and keeps us in the best of health and iman. May He grant us the ability to serve humanity for His sake and bless us with His infinite mercy.

The last 10 days of Ramadan are the days to maximize our time in worship rather than slow down. The Messenger of Allah (SAW) used to increase his worship during the last 10 days more than any time in Ramadan. The significance is that these are the last few days to make the most of Ramadan and because it contains the most virtuous nights in the whole year - Laylatul Qadr (The Night of Power).

Laylatul Qadr is mentioned in the Quran by Allah (swt): "The Night of Power is better than a thousand months." (Surah Al-Qadr)

A thousand months are equivalent to over 83 years - an age many will be lucky to live until. Being able to worship on this night could mean that we can increase our reward of a lifetime. Imagine maximizing this night and adding a lifetime's worth of worship every year! Potentially, we are gaining several lifetimes' worth of good deeds just this one night alone each year!

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Maximizing Worship In The Last Ten Nights of Ramadan:

The last ten days of Ramadan are a time to intensify our worship and make the most of the remaining days of this blessed month. The Messenger of Allah (SAW) used to increase his worship during these final days, striving for excellence and seeking the mercy of Allah more than at any other time. This period is significant because it includes Laylatul Qadr (The Night of Power), which is better than a thousand months, as Allah says in the Qur'an:

"The Night of Power is better than a thousand months." (Surah Al-Qadr)

A thousand months is equivalent to over 83 years, a lifetime for many of us. Worship on Laylatul Qadr can mean accumulating rewards equivalent to a lifetime of good deeds. Imagine earning the reward of multiple lifetimes each year through the blessings of this night alone!

The Importance of I'tikaaf:

The last ten nights are also an opportunity for I'tikaaf, secluding oneself from worldly distractions and focusing solely on worship. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) practiced I'tikaaf during the last ten nights of Ramadan, encouraging us to seek Laylatul Qadr by engaging in worship during these nights, especially on the odd-numbered nights (21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, and 29th). Though it is commonly thought that Laylatul Qadr falls on the 27th night, the exact night remains unknown to encourage us to worship more and seek this blessed night in all the final ten days.

Protection from the Hellfire:

The theme of the last ten days is seeking protection from the Hellfire. As we reflect on the reality of the Hereafter, we pray to Allah to keep us away from the torment of Jahannam and grant us a place in Jannah (Paradise). One of the most powerful supplications to recite during these nights is:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ تُجِيبُ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

"O Allah, You are Forgiving and love forgiveness, so forgive me." (Saheeh Muslim)
We should also focus our duas on asking Allah for protection from Hellfire, as we strive to ensure our place in Paradise.

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Giving Charity in The Last Ten Nights of Ramadan:

Knowing something can significantly change our perceptions and actions. We are bombarded with many different charities, all wanting us to give our Zakat and Sadaqah to them. Our intentions are sometimes focused on the needs of others when we are giving charity, but this potentially means that we are not focusing on the real reason why we need to give charity.

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said: “Guard yourself against the Hellfire, even with half of a date in charity. If one cannot find it, then with a kind word.” (Saheeh Al-Bukhari)

Giving such a small amount, or even saying something nice to someone, is a form of charity! More importantly, linking this Hadeeth to understand that charity protects us from Hellfire should change our understanding of why we give charity in the first place. Is it a means of just fulfilling the needs of a poor person, or is it that we are saving ourselves from Hellfire? No doubt the key thing is that giving charity can become a major benefit for us rather than the recipient. Armed with such knowledge, the next time you give charity, think about how it will affect you in the afterlife.

We pray that Allah (SWT) accepts all our good deeds, forgives us for our bad deeds, and saves us from the Hellfire. Ameen

Charity in Ramadan:

«عن أنس رضي الله عنه، أن النبي ﷺ قال: «أفضل الصدقة صدقة في رمضان عن ابن عباس رضي الله عنهما قال: «كان رسول الله ﷺ أجود الناس، وكان أجود ما يكون في رمضان حين يلقاه جبريل، وكان يلقاه في كل ليلة من رمضان فيدارسه القرآن، فالرسول الله ﷺ أجود بالخير من الرياح المرسلة».

Ibn ‘Abbas said that God’s messenger was the most generous of men, and he was as generous as possible in Ramadan. Gabriel used to meet him every night in Ramadan and the Prophet would go over the Qur’an to him. When Gabriel met him he was more generous than the wind which blows freely. (Bukhari and Muslim.)

Supplications:

The most beautiful verse in the Quran about supplication was placed amid the verses that talk about Ramadan. Allah the Exalted says:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

When My slaves ask you concerning Me, I am indeed near[83]. I respond to the call of the supplicant when he calls upon Me; so they should respond to Me and believe in Me, so that they may be guided.

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - " ثَلَاثَةٌ لَا تَرُدُّ دَعْوَتُهُمُ الْإِمَامُ الْعَادِلُ وَالصَّائِمُ حَتَّى يُفِطَرَ وَدَعْوَةُ الْمَظْلُومِ يَرْفَعُهَا اللَّهُ دُونَ الْعَمَامِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَتُفْتَحُ لَهَا أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ وَيَقُولُ بِعِزَّتِي لَأَنْصُرَنَّكَ وَلَوْ بَعْدَ حِينٍ " . رواه ابن ماجه

It was narrated from Abu Hurairah that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

There are three whose supplications are not turned back: A just ruler, and a fasting person until he breaks his fast. And, the supplication of one who has been wronged is raised by Allah up to the clouds on the Day of Resurrection. The gates of heaven are opened for it. Allah says, ‘By My Might, I will help you (against the wrongdoer) even if it is after a while.’” So we need to ask Allah continuously and consistently, especially in this month of Ramadan.

The last 10 nights of Ramadan:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ سَنَةٍ نَنْزِلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ {أَمْرٍ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّى مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ}

Indeed, We sent it [i.e., the Qur’ān] 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 [i.e., Gabriel] descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn.

عن عائشة رضي الله عنها: (كان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يجتهد في العشر الأواخر ما لا يجتهد في غيره) رواه مسلم.

'Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) 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].

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا - قَالَتْ كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِذَا دَخَلَ الْعَشْرُ شَدَّ مِنْزَرَهُ، وَأَحْيَا لَيْلَهُ، وَأَيَّقَطَ أَهْلَهُ.
Narrated by Aisha The prophet

With the start of the last ten days of Ramadan, the Prophet (ﷺ) used to tighten his waist belt (i.e. work hard) and used to pray all the night, and used to keep his family awake for the prayers : Bukhari

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We are immensely grateful for your continued support and participation in our community events. May Allah bless you and your loved ones abundantly during this blessed month of Ramadan.

Best regards,
IANA TEAM