

LAYLATUL QADR - A step by step Guide

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Please remember us in your duas!

LAYLATUL QADR - A step by step Guide - things to think/reflect about while doing the recommended acts on this night...

Don't allocate timings when you must finish each act.
Plan your evening evening but do each act slowly with focus to gain full benefit.
Doing little with a full heart and with sincerity is more likely to be accepted than lots done rushed through for the sake of finishing.

GHUSUL

It is recommended this is taken before sunset.
You do ghusul before the night starts - as you want to start the night already physically clean and purified.
Allah is pure, and you want to get close to Him on this night, so we must get pure.

You are doing ghusul just as it's done for us when we die.
This ghusul when we die is done for us as we're meeting our Lord, and in the same way this night we are doing ghusul in the hope of meeting/getting close to our Lord.

Thank Allah for the chance to do this ghusul and experience is blessed night.

The water is pure and will inshallah make us pure. Physically the water is making us clean.
The water is clear/transparent -just as we want to be with Allah - we don't want those veils between us and Allah.

Emotionally, we are cleaning our thoughts, and do not want to think about worldly things, so as to focus only on Allah on this night.

While doing ghusul we can also think about Imam Hussain and his sacrifice, as we have all this water pouring over us to wash ourselves, and they didn't even have a sip on Ashura.

Spiritually the water is washing away our dirt from this world - our sins/vices/bad



thoughts.

As the water is cleaning us, let the water pouring over us be like the blessings/mercy/forgiveness Allah will pour over us tonight inshallah.

After our ghusul we are nice and clean, and we want to start with a clean slate with no burdens, so we should start the night forgiving everyone so inshallah they will do the same, and most importantly Allah will do the same for us.

Try and wear white, as this will remind you of your kaftan and death. This is the Night of the Future and death is our future.

IFTAR

At this time send Salaams to Imam Mahdi. Tonight the 23rd our destiny is signed and sealed and will be authenticated by Imam before it goes back up to Allah.

Don't talk about worldly things on this night - you have the rest of the year to chat. Eat lightly and dedicate yourself to reciting surah Qadr rather than talking and laughing.

RECITATION OF SURAH QADR 1000 TIMES

Don't rush this recitation just to get it done. Recite it slowly and calmly.

Read the meaning and as you recite it reflect on it's meaning.

The surah mentions the angels and Gibreel descending tonight - send salaams to them.

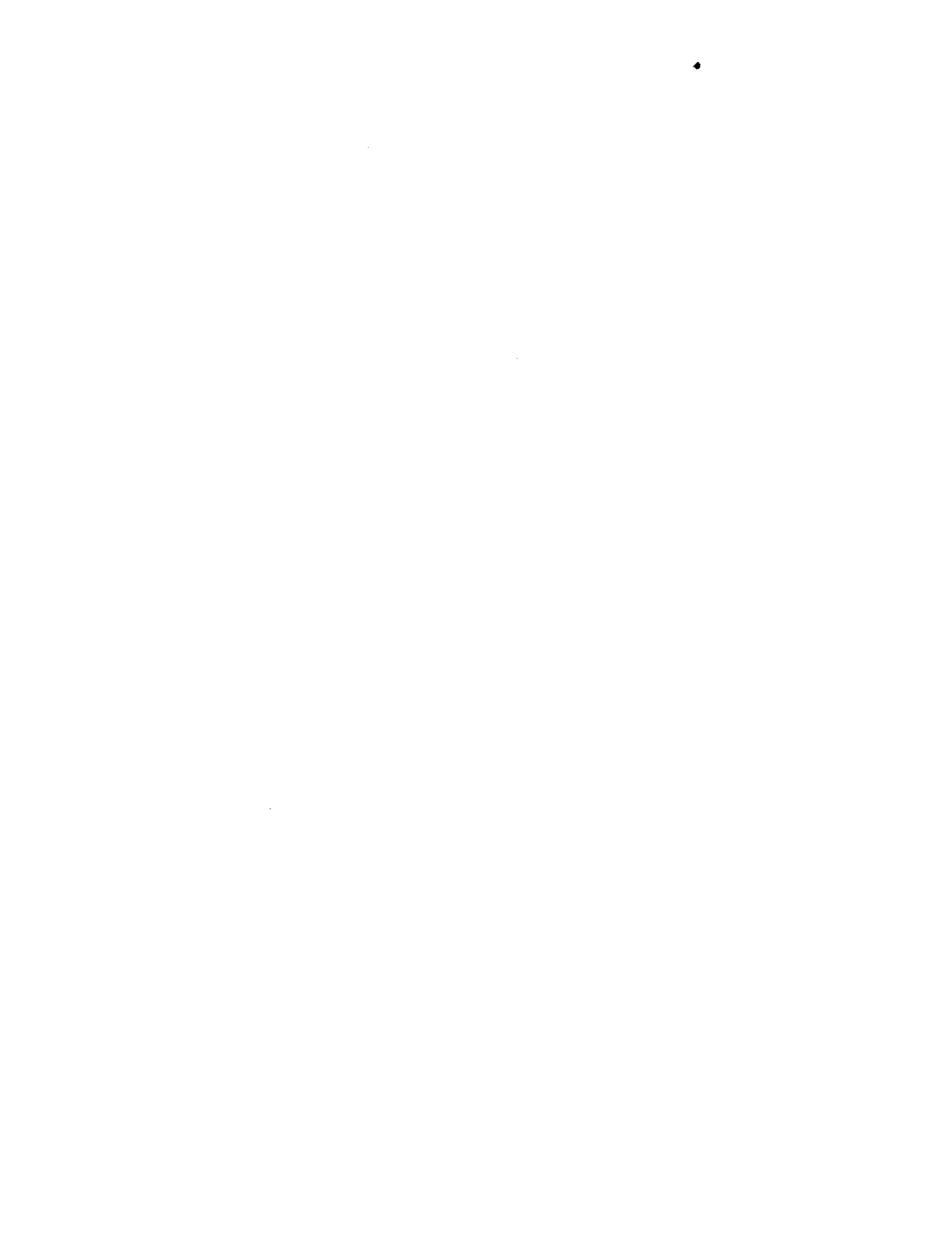
Allah asks us, what will make you comprehend what Laylatul Qadr is. Ask Allah to help you comprehend it. It must be important for us to understand/comprehend what it is for Allah to ask. Allah wants us to think so reflect on this.

The surah goes on to say that this night is better than 1000 months. How generous is Allah. How lucky we are - thank Allah for allowing us to be alive on such a blessed night.

At the end of the surah it says, 'Peace till dawn'. Allah tells us elsewhere in the Quran that to get peace in our hearts is through remembrance of Allah - this gives us a clue that this night is to remember Allah all night.

What an important night to dedicate a whole surah to it.

There is a Hadith from Imam Ali, that everything has an ease and the ease of those in difficulty is al-Qadr - so if you have problems speak to Allah on this night and



Allah can ease them.

TWO RAKATS SALAT

It recommended to recite 2 rakat salat and in each rakat to recite Surah Al-hamd and Surah Iklas 7 times.

Why are these surahs chosen? Why recite Surah Iklas 7 times?

Read the meanings before starting your salat.

In Surah Al-hamd, you are reminding yourself Allah is Rahman and Rahim, and pray that inshallah he will be those names towards you this night.

Surah Al-hamd reminds you Allah is the master of the Day of Judgement. Reflect on this.

How do we want our Day of Judgement to be?

Quick, Easy, Raised with the Ahlul Bayt, Book in right hand, Allah being pleased with you, salaah accepted, not scared or thirsty.

Pray for the Day of Judgement instead of concentrating all your hajaat to this worldly life.

Pray for the Day of Judgement as it's a reality.

The average life is 80-100 years long. Yet the Day of Judgement is 50,000 years long- so focus the majority of your hajaat on what's going to be a longer time.

Pray for after the Day of Judgement which is eternal. How often do we actually pray for our eternity, instead concentrating on worldly duas, pray for those too, but focus more on your eternity - near Allah a house in heaven, neighbours with the Ahlul Bayt, that Allah is pleased with you.

Even pray for Barzak and death - for peace, happiness, thorough cleansing and lots of good deeds as only those will help you in Barzak.

We are reminding ourselves in this surah that we serve Allah and beseech him for help.

Acknowledge only Allah can help us.

Humble ourselves as we are His servants. Beg Him to help us. Without His help we are doomed. Beg Him to keep us on the straight path as only he can, and bestow favours upon us. And not for us to go astray or feel His wrath.

In Surah Iklas we are emphasising Allah is 1.

He is on whom we depend - reminding us He is the only one we can depend on - not our spouses or our friends or Family - depend only on Allah and you won't be disappointed.

We say Surah Iklas 7 times in each rakat, so 14 times in total. There may be some wisdom in reciting it 14 times.

Why do we need to recite this surah more than once? Could it be to emphasis in ourselves that we can/should only depend on Allah.

Why is it only 2 rakats especially as this night is so special?
Maybe it's because Allah wants us to recite those 2 rakats with full heart and understanding rather than rush through a lot of rakats. So take your time.
Maybe it's because Allah wants us to concentrate on the other things on this night.

Put everything into this 2 rakats. Give it your all. Pray like you have never prayed before.

Have in mind Allah is watching you.

70 times - ASTAFRULLAHA WA ATOOBU ILAY

After salat its recommended to recite the above 70 times.
It means 'I seek forgiveness of Allah and I turn repentant to him'.
When reciting each 1 reflect on something you want forgiveness for, and while repenting resolve never to repeat it.
Do this 70 times, there is no rush to finish this quickly - even if it takes an hour, reflect on your sins.

70 is just a guide, if you have more sins, ask more times.

Try to be sincere in asking, beg for forgiveness as this is your chance.
You don't want these sins to be outstanding on the day of judgement - repent now while you have a chance.

If you recite this slowly thinking of past mistakes you will cry. As you cry your heart will inshallah soften. If you can't cry it's because you have a hard heart so keep reciting it till you cry.

QURAN AMAAL

When you pick up the Quran for this, remember it was brought down on this night.
Its Allah's words, it's a guidance.
Everything is in this book you are holding - how much do you know about it.
Make a covenant to study/read/understand it.

If you don't understand Arabic, read the dua in English.
You are speaking to Allah so you need to understand what you are saying.
If you were speaking to a loved one would you speak to them in a language you didn't understand?

QURAN ON HEAD

When you recite each name don't just rush through it.
Think about the personality whose name you are saying - think of their lives, shrines, death and your longing to be with them.

Why do we have the Quran on our head when we say the names of the 14 infallibles.
The Prophet said he was leaving the Quran and his Ahlul Bayt - they go together.

Why do we say each name 10 times? Maybe it is to give us time as we are saying their names to think of each one, and how their remembrance on this night is so important you have to say each name at least 10 times.

Allah is first then his 14 infallibles follow in importance.

When you said each name how well did you know each one? Were there some in the middle you didn't know much about? Make a promise you will learn about each one So next year inshallah when you come to their names you will feel more for them.

ZIYARAT OF IMAM HUSSAIN

Recite this ziyarat as though Imam Hussain is in front of you.
Understand the words you are saying to him.
You are 'visiting' him so speak directly to him, and tell him you wish you were with him that day, but as you weren't tell him instead to pray that your children can be in Imam Mahdi's army and be loyal companions as his were.

You are bearing witness in this ziyarat that Imam Hussain established prayers, gave zakat, enjoined good and forbade evil, recited Quran as it should be recited and was patient.

Pray to Allah to enable you to achieve all this.

Cry for Him and think of Ashura, do latmiyah/matam if that helps you get that feeling.

Remember this night the angels have descended and they love Imam Hussain, Imam Mahdi is here too, and they will all share in your grief.

DUAS TO READ

As you read each line of the recommended duas think about the words you are saying - remember this is a conversation between you and Allah.
Say these words from the heart as if you are 'seeing' Allah. Add your own words, speak from the heart.
See these words in the book as a base for you to elaborate and personalise. Make

this dua personal to you.

Take your time Reading and reflecting on each line.

Remember Allah knows what is in your heart so if you just rush through it without feeling the words you are saying - Allah knows - you have got to mean what you are saying or what is the point?

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