

ليلة القدر

WHY IS IT CALLED
LAYLATUL QADR?



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Why is it called Laylatul Qadr?¹

Shaykh Sulaymān Ar-Ruhaylī (Allāh preserve him)

The scholars and the Mufasssirūn (Qur'ānic Exegetes) have mentioned different reasons as to why this blessed night is called the Night of Al-Qadr (Laylatul Qadr). All the following explanations were mentioned by Shaykh Sulaymān Ar-Ruhaylī during his Tafsīr class in the Prophet's Mosque (ﷺ).

1. It is called the Night of **Al-Qadr** due to its great and lofty **Qadr (status)** and its great virtue in the sight of Allāh the Most High. [Imām As-Sa'dī in his Tafsīr: *Taysīr Al-Karīm Ar-Rahmān fī Tafsīr Kalām Al-Mannān*].

¹ Taken from the Shaykh's explanation of *Surat Al-Qadr* (Al-Masjid An-Nabawī).

N.B. The title is mine.

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2. It is also called the Night of **Al-Qadr** because it is the night in which are **decreed (Taqdīr)** all matters pertaining to the entire coming year such as life-spans and provisions. [Imām As-Sa‘dī in his Tafsīr: *Taysīr Al-Karīm Ar-Rahmān fī Tafsīr Kalām Al-Mannān*].
3. Some scholars said it is called the Night of **Al-Qadr** because the acts of obedience performed in this night are of tremendous **value (Qadr)** and they have huge rewards.
4. Some of the Mufasssirūn mentioned that it is called the Night of **Al-Qadr** because it is the night in which the Qur’ān was revealed, so due to that it became a night of **(Qadr) honour and prestige**.
5. Some of the Mufasssirūn said that it is called the Night of **Al-Qadr** derived from **Qadr²** meaning **(Tadyīk)** which means to **restrict** or to **limit** or to

² [TN] - As in the saying of Allāh, the Most High, “*and the man whose resources are restricted, let him spend according to what Allah has given him*” (At-Talāq 65: 7).

make **narrow**. This is because it is a night that has a **limited time**; it is only one night from the whole year, it starts at sunset and continues up until the appearance of dawn, and its hours pass by very quickly for the believers.

6. Other Mufasssirūn have mentioned that it is called the Night of **Al-Qadr** derived from **Qadr** meaning (**Taḍyīk**) which means to **restrict** or to **limit** or to make **narrow**. And the reason for this is that the earth on this night becomes **restricted** and **narrow** for its inhabitants due to the descent of the angels upon the earth so much so that the entire earth becomes filled with the noble angels.

There is nothing to prevent us from combining between all the aforementioned meanings. Since all the above meanings are possible and they do not contradict each other, then the saying of Allāh, the Most High, *“Verily! We have sent it (this Qur’ān)*

down in the night of Al-Qadr” can encompass all these tremendous meanings.

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26 Ramaḍān 1441 / 19 May 2020