**Following the footsteps of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) while observing the last ten days of Ramadan**

**Schedule your last ten days of Ramadan in a way to maximize the blessings and rewards they have to offer.**

*Knowledge*

*Amna Anwaar*

*Monday June 04, 2018*

As the last ten days of Ramadan approach us, we must come up with an action plan of maximizing the month’s blessings and rewards. And what better way to do that than to follow the practices of our Holy Prophet (PBUH) and how he used to observe the last ten blessed days of Ramadan. His footsteps lead to the path of righteousness and ultimate blessings. So what did our Prophet (PBUH) do in the last quarter of Ramadan? Here are a few practices that he used to carry out:

**1. According to Aisha (RA)**

*“The Prophet (PBUH) used to strive hard (in worship) in the last ten nights of Ramadan as he never did at any other time.” (Sahih Muslim, 7:1767)*

He used to prepare himself to spend the last nights in constant worship, prayer, and supplication, seeking Allah’s (SWT) endless mercy, forgiveness, and blessings. The Prophet (PBUH) used to push himself extra hard and dedicate himself- mind, body, and soul- to Allah (SWT) during the last days. His worship’s intensity and frequency was not like other days of the year- it was much more.

**2. In another narration, Aisha (RA) said:**

*“With the start of the last ten days of Ramadan, the Prophet (PBUH) 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” (Sahih Muslim 2024)*

He encouraged his family to follow suit- to sacrifice their sleep and spend those blessed nights in prostrating to the Almighty and seeking His good favor and refuge. He told them to engage in zikr (praise and remembrance of Allah (SWT) and prayer during the late hours, for the late hours of the night are most blessed.

**3. Abu Hurairah reported:**

*"The Prophet would perform I'tikaf during the last ten (days) of Ramadan until Allah took him." (Al-Tirmidhi 790)*

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) isolated himself from the world and observed [Itikaf](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/all-you-need-to-know-about-itikaf/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) in the mosque during the period of the last ten days of Ramadan. Itikaf essentially entails separating yourself from all sorts of worldly distractions and re-orienting yourself towards the sole purpose of worshipping Allah (SWT) and praising Him in various forms and capacities. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) practiced this spiritual seclusion every year during the last days of Ramadan and he encouraged his followers to leave the world behind and devote their entire being to Allah (SWT).

**4. According to another hadith:**

*“Allah's Messenger (PBUH) was the most generous of all the people, and he used to be more generous in the month of Ramadan when Gabriel used to meet him. Gabriel used to meet him every night in Ramadan to study the Holy Qur'an carefully together. Allah's Messenger (PBUH) used to become more generous than the fast wind when he met Gabriel” (Sahih Bukhari 3220).*

The Prophet (PBUH) devoted his time in Ramadan in reciting the [Holy Quran](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/) as much as could, especially in the last few days of Ramadan, to gain Allah’s (SWT) infinite favor.

**5. Aisha (RA) is reported to have said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:**

*"Seek Lailat-ul-Qadr (Night of Decree) in the odd nights out of the last ten nights of Ramadan." (Sahih Bukhari, 9:202)*

The messenger of Allah (SWT) used to seek [Layla tul-Qadr](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/is-it-possible-to-determine-the-date-of-layla-tul-qadar/), the night of decree, in the last ten nights of Ramadan. Lailat-ul-Qadr is more likely to fall on the odd nights of the last quarter of Ramadan and it is on this blessed night of decree where rewards of worship and Ibadaah are multiplied many times over by the Almighty. Allah (SWT) acclaims this night to be better than a thousand months ([Surah Qadr: 3](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/surah-al-qadr/3/)). It is a night where sins are forgiven and mercy is showered by our Lord.

So schedule your last ten days of [Ramadan](https://www.islamicfinder.org/ramadan/) in a way to maximize the blessings and rewards they have to offer- your Lord wants you to turn to Him, don’t keep Him waiting!

Laylatul Qadr - Night of Power

Estimated: Monday, June 04, 2018

**About this day**

'Lailat ul-Qadr' or 'Night of Power' is a very important occasion in the history of Islam and in our personnel lives. Allah says in the [Surah Al-Qadr of Quran](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/surah-al-qadr/):

"We have indeed revealed this (message) in the Night of Power. And what will explain to thee what the Night of Power is? The Night of Power is better than a thousand months. Therein come down the angels and the spirit by God's permission, on every errand: Peace! This until the rise of Morn." ([Surah Qadr:1-5](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/surah-al-qadr/1/))

Allah also says about this powerful night in [Surah Dukhan: 1-6](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/surah-ad-dukhaan/):

"Ha. Mim. By the book that makes things clear. We sent it down during a blessed night. For We (ever) wish to warn (against evil). In that (night) is made distinct every affair of wisdom, by command, from Our Presence. For We (ever) send (revelations), as a mercy from Thy Lord: for He hears and knows (all things)."(44:1-6)

Allah said in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Baqarah (the Cow):

"Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an, as a guide to mankind, also clear (signs) for guidance and judgment (between right and wrong)."([Surah Baqarah:185](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/surah-al-baqara/185/))

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said about Lailatul-Qadr: It as narrated by Abu Hurayra that Prophet said, "Anyone who stays awake for the Night Of Power with belief and for the pleasure of Allah, all his previous sins will be forgiven."(Bukhari and Muslim)It has also been reported by Aisha, the wife of the Prophet (pbuh) who said:

"I asked the Messenger Of Allah if I knew which night was the Night of Power and what Prayer I should say during that night? He said to me: Say: "O Allah! You are forgiving and you love forgiveness, so you too forgive me.

From the foregoing verses of the Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) I would like to mention to you the following:

The Night Of Power is better for you to live, to experience and to enjoy than one thousand months of your personal life. Even if you were to live one thousand months (83.3 years) with sincerity, dedication, and sacrifices and with good intentions and deeds, the Night Of Power is still far better for you to live and to enjoy. The Revelation of the Qur'an started in the month of [Ramadan](https://www.islamicfinder.org/ramadan/) and specifically on the Night Of Power. The Revelation of the Qur'an; a sign of Mercy, a guide and a blessing of Allah to mankind.Anyone who is interested in finding the best guide, he/she should look into the teachings of the Qur'an. The Night of Power is a night of blessings Allah has blessed this Night. Therefore whosoever is interested in receiving the blessings of Allah may look forward to the Night of Power. Anyone who seeks the Night of Power and lives it, all his/her sin will be erased. This is, as if, he/she is, born again now free of all sin and mistakes.I am sure every one of us would like to live a life free of sins an free of mistakes. Everyone would like to meet Allah on the Day of Judgment without sins. Every one of us would like to feel that he/she is reborn today. All of us wish to rejuvenate ourselves, and to start a new year with a fresh outlook and a fresh life. Every one of us wants to live a pure life and everyone wants to purify himself/herself without anguish or torment. The Night of Power is one of the best ways in which a person is to achieve all these ideals. For this reason may I suggest that you start looking for it, so you will be able to observe it and enjoy it.As far as determining the Night of Power (Lailatul Qadr) is concerned, it has been reported to be during one of the odd numbered nights of the last ten days of Ramadan, i.e. 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th or 29th. It has been emphasized that it is most likely to be the 27th night. As far as the signs of Lailatul-Qadr are concerned:

 1. The sun rises early in the morning without rays.

 2. Rain may fall either during the night or during the day of that night.

 3. During night the sky will be lightly foggy.

 4. The sky will be slightly lighted without reflections and without rays.

 5. The angels and Gabriel all descend down onto earth for many purposes.

If you are interested in living the Night of Power, let us remind you of some of the things that you might have to do.

 1. Try to observe it during the last ten days of Ramadan, at the time of sunrise, during the days and the nights.

 2. On the nights one may spend the time collectively and/or individually observing the following activities:a) Recitation of the Our'an.
b) Prayers-Nafl after Taraweeh.
c) Remembrance of Allah or zikr.
d)[Supplication or Dua](https://www.islamicfinder.org/duas/) for you and for others.
e) Pondering and contemplating into the universe, the creation of the Heavens and the Earth:

"...and they contemplate the (wonders of) creation in the heaven and the earth?."([Al Imran: 191](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/surah-aal-i-imraan/191/))

f) Reading books of Hadeeth so as to enjoy the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
g) Reading Tafseer of Qur'an.
h) Giving charity to others if you can afford it.
i) Trying to explain Islam, if you know something about it, to those next to you so they will benefit from you.

To summarize, We would like to mention the following: The Night of Power is a very important occasion in Islam. Everyone is asked to live it and to enjoy it. This Night is a night of Mercy, a night of Blessing, a night of Peace and a night of Guidance. It is a night of Unification between the finite world of ours and the Infinite Universe of the Unseen. Anyone who is interested in attaining the Mercy of Allah will strive very hard to look for the Night of Power. Anyone who is interested in receiving the blessings of Allah on the Blessed Night will work very hard to enjoy the Night of Power. Anyone who is interested in attaining peace of mind, peace of body and peace in society, he has to look for this Night and to live it. May Allah give us the strength, the power, the courage and the effort to do our best to obey Allah and to follow His teachings. May Allah guide us and may Allah strengthen our Iman May Allah help us to live another year with sincerity and devotion. May Allah make us realize that one year of our life is over and that we are one year closer to our graves.Let us wake up and do our best to please Allah in our daily life. Let us ask Almighty Allah forgiveness.
Ameen

**Duas to read on the Night of Power**

**Make sure you read these duas and Surahs on Laylat ul Qadr.**

*Lifestyle*

*Mohammad Ahmed Shiwani*

*Tuesday June 05, 2018*

The [Night of Power](https://www.islamicfinder.org/special-islamic-days/laylat-al-qadr/) is perhaps the most auspicious night amongst all important nights in Islam. It is regarded as the night on which almost all the sins of Muslims around the world are wiped off the slate, providing every single Muslim the ability to pursue appeasing Allah (SWT) afresh, rid from all the negative forces pursuant from the sins that they have engaged in throughout the year. While the specific date of the Night of Power is not explicitly stated anywhere in [al Quran](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/) or Ahadith, it is often true that one becomes cognizant of the Night of Power because it often has a different aura to it. It is, however, known that the Night of Power occurs on one of the odd days of the last 10 days of Ramadan, so conjecture may not be as hard as it seems. Here are some duas you can read on the Night of Power to benefit as much as possible from the revered night:

**Surah Al-Qadr**

[Surah Al Qadr](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/surah-al-qadr/) is the dua that embodies the Night of Power, since it is, as the name suggests, regarding the Night of Power. Reciting the [dua](https://www.islamicfinder.org/duas/) will not only allow you to be more aware of the benefits and beauty of the night, but may also be a way through which you can show Allah (SWT) that you intend to derive full benefit from the night that He has prepared for you.

**Dua for Forgiveness**

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

*‘O Allah, You are pardoning and You love to pardon, so pardon me’*

The prayer above is the prayer the Holy Prophet (PBUH) suggested we recite on the Night of Power. It signals of an attempt to ask Allah (SWT) for forgiveness on the day when His forgiving nature is at its apex, prompting the natural conclusion that this night should be used to ask for Allah (SWT)’s Mercy in pardoning the innumerable sins that we commit throughout the year.

The Night of Power is all about asking Allah (SWT) for forgiveness and preparing a new slate on which to pursue efforts to appease Him. This, however, means that we must forego of and get pardon from the sins we have committed throughout our lives. With the Night of Power being the premier mechanism through which Muslims are forgiven, it naturally makes sense for them to ask Allah (SWT) for forgiveness during that day.

Would the Almighty, in all His Benevolence and Love, ever decline to forgive His creations, especially if we use the prayer used by His beloved Prophet (PBUH), on the night of Qadr when He has self-declared His Mercifulness?

**Surah Ar-Rahman**

[Surah Ar-Rahman](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/surah-ar-rahmaan/) is the embodiment of Allah (SWT)’s Benevolence and Mercifulness towards His creations. The Surah outlines the various, often innumerable blessings that Allah (SWT) has bestowed upon His creations, prompting the conclusion that we, as humans, are often incognizant of the immense care and compassion with which this world was created for us. It also, however, signifies the benevolent nature of Allah (SWT). Given that the Night of Power is all about capturing as many blessings and pardonings as possible, it may be a good idea to recite the ayat that aptly embodies the very foundations of Allah (SWT)’s compassion towards His creations.

**Recite as much of the Holy Quran as possible!**

**Recite the first Kalima as much as possible.**

**Make Lots of Dua Especially for Forgiveness**

**اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي,*‘O Allah, You are pardoning and You love to pardon, so pardon me’***

**Pray in Jamat the five daily prayers and Perform Tahajud –Salatullayl**

**Give Sadaqat**

There is much to be optimistic about in [Ramadan Kareem](https://www.islamicfinder.org/ramadan/); after all, we are blessed with various nights on which we can seek repentance and turn a new slate. As Muslims, we often feel downtrodden and disappointed at our inability to accurately pursue the commandments of Allah (SWT), but the Night of Power is just one of several examples of how Allah (SWT) continuously seeks for reasons to forgive His beloved creations. Let’s make the most of the opportunity this time!

**6 ways to make the most of the Night of Qadr**

**Get the best out of Layla tul Qadr this Ramadan.**

*Lifestyle*

*Mohammad Ahmed Shiwani*

*Monday June 04, 2018*

Laylatul Qadr, or the Night of Power, is predicted to be on one of the odd nights of the last Ashra (10 days) of Ramadan. It is called the Night of Power because it is an apt representation of the Power of Allah (SWT) in displaying His mercy and forgiving His creations. The Dhikr of Allah (SWT) is one of the best, if not the best way to invoke his mercifulness and ensure forgiveness, something all of us desperately require. Here are 6 ways you can avail the wonderful offers of the auspicious day:

**1. Recite the Holy Quran**

Reciting the Holy Quran is one of the best ways to engage in the remembrance of Allah (SWT). Scholars and Fuqaha across the board recommend Muslims to recite [al Quran](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/) as much as possible, since it is seen as the ideal way to dispel the wrath of Allah (SWT) and invoke His Kind and Forgiving nature.

**2. Offer Salah**

Salah is also a way of remembering Allah (SWT); it is perhaps the strongest connection that one establishes with Allah (SWT) since it is a fully conscious acknowledgement of standing in front of Him. With the auspicious nature of the night and Allah (SWT)’s desire to express His Love for His creations, [Salat](https://www.islamicfinder.org/prayer-times/) is most definitely the way to success.

**3. Make dua**

Making [dua](https://www.islamicfinder.org/duas/) is essentially a customized means of communication with Allah (SWT). It is a way through which one can duly express his or her deepest emotions and insecurities with Allah (SWT). The goal here is to show Allah (SWT) that one is fully powerless in front of Him and is wholly dependent on Him. On such a night, He is surely going to answer our prayers.

**4. Ask for forgiveness**

What better way to be forgiven than to ask for forgiveness? One must show humility and guilt and the Almighty, Who has promised to forgive, will do so. Allah (SWT) deeply loves when His creations [ask Him for forgiveness](https://www.islamicfinder.org/duas/masnoon/for-forgiveness/) and display regret over their sins. On a day when He wishes to exhibit His merciful nature, there is perhaps no better avail to the deal than to ask Him.

**5. Engage in as many good deeds as possible**

Allah (SWT) has promised that the rewards for all our good deeds will be multiplied on the Night of Power, which means that every good deed we do will also have the potential to please Allah (SWT) manifold. Would you think twice before buying a chocolate bar if there was a buy one, get hundred free deal?

**6. Avoid sinning as much as possible**

It would be very saddening to disappoint Allah (SWT) on the day He has openly announced His desire to forgive His creations. For one day at least, try to stay away from sinning as much as possible. A good way to do so is to avoid interactions with people or in places that invite you towards wrongdoing- on a day like the Night of Power, spend your time wisely and try to please the Creator of Both Worlds.

[Laylatul Qadr](https://www.islamicfinder.org/special-islamic-days/laylat-al-qadr/) is a day of great benefits that we must avail as Muslims. If we can line up for hours outside our favorite store on the day of a mega-sale, why can’t we spend a little more time trying to avail the infinitely better offer in store for us that day?

**Is it possible to determine the date of Layla tul Qadar?**

**The night varies every single year according to Allah’s will.**

*Knowledge*

*Amna Anwaar*

*Monday June 04, 2018*

In the book of Allah (SWT), the “***Night of Decree***”, or better known as “***Layla tul Qadar***”, is described as being “*better than a thousand months”* ([Al Qadr: 3](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/surah-al-qadr/3/)). The majestic nature of this night is contained in these very words- worshipping Allah (SWT), remembering Him or carrying out any good acts on this night is better than the worship of Allah over one thousand months, which essentially boil down to eighty-three years and four months. Knowing these facts, will you not make the best of this opportunity to gain Allah’s (SWT) favor?

Layla tul Qadar is believed to fall somewhere in the last ten days of the precious month of [Ramadan](https://www.islamicfinder.org/ramadan/), hence the Prophet (PBUH) made full spiritual use of these days. Towards the end of Ramadan, specifically on the last ten days, our Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is known to have dedicated all his time to worship, prayers and making Dua, more than he did at any other day or time. He would stay up all night and encourage his family to stay awake and engage in worship with him during these last few days. He also practiced ‘Itikaf’ (in the mosque) during this period, enjoining others to follow suit.

*Narrated by Aisha (RA): The Messenger of Allah (SWT) used to practice Itikaf in the last ten nights of Ramadan and used to say, “Look for the Night of Qadr in the last ten nights of the month of Ramadan” (Sahih Bukhari 3:32:237)*

The Holy Prophet further specified that the majestic night of Decree will most likely fall on the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. As narrated by Aisha (RA), the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

*"Search for the Night of Qadr in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan" (Sahih Bukhari 3:234).*

He even went into greater detail as to when we should seek it:

*As narrated by Abu Bakar, he heard Allah's Messenger (PBUH) say, "Seek it (Laylat al-Qadr), on the twenty-first, twenty-third, twenty-fifth, twenty-seventh, or on the last night" (Al-Tirmidhi 2092).*

Layla tul Qadar is a blessed gift for every believer because those who spend this night in worship, prayer, and repentance, all their sins are wiped out and they gain endless rewards from the Almighty. The rewards of worship and prayers are multiplied several times over on this blessed night, as it is deemed to be better than a thousand months of worship. According to our beloved Prophet (PBUH):

*"Whoever fasted the month of Ramadan out of sincere Faith (i.e. belief) and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his past sins will be forgiven, and whoever stood for the prayers in the Night of Qadr out of sincere Faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his previous sins will be forgiven" (Sahih Bukhari 3:231).*

The night varies every single year according to Allah’s (SWT) Will. There is no set date for it. So can we ever know for sure which night Allah (SWT) chooses to be [Layla tul Qadar](https://www.islamicfinder.org/special-islamic-days/laylat-al-qadr/)? Are there any signs? It seems there are. The companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) used to recognize certain signs indicating the Night of Decree. Some scholars believe that one of the signs of Layla tul Qadar is the rising of the sun the next day without any visible rays. Others believe that the following morning of Layla tul Qadar has a special sense of deep peace and quiet which is uncommon on other days. However, the general and more accurate consensus remains that it falls somewhere in the last ten odd nights of Ramadan.

The important point to be made here is to not get lost in just identifying the signs of Layla tul Qadar, instead, it is to dedicate ourselves to Allah (SWT) in Ramadan and continue our worship and prayers throughout the month. The believers of faith who take advantage of these days, and dedicate their time in the remembrance and worship of Allah (SWT), who [recite the book of Allah](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/) (SWT) and those who carry out good deeds will not miss the opportunity to gain the promised rewards by Allah (SWT) and enjoy the benefits of Layla tul Qadar, Insha Allah.

**Here’s how students can make the most of Ramadan**

**Fasting and studying simultaneously may be hard but it is possible.**

*Lifestyle*

*Mohammad Ahmed Shiwani*

*Tuesday June 05, 2018*

With the pressure of performing at school, and almost always the pressure of doing well in exams, it is often asking a lot of a student if they are asked to dedicate time and effort in availing the blessings available to Muslims during Ramadan. Let’s face it: students have it hard, and so they should not judge their actions in [Ramadan](https://www.islamicfinder.org/ramadan/) with the same yardstick that others use. There are many difficulties that one faces in maintaining a study-life balance, let alone maintaining a study-ibadat balance in the holy month.

It is important to understand that Islam is a deen, that is, a way of life not restricted only to the actions we undertake in the mosque. Islam teaches Muslims to be active, in that, to be active members of society who develop and thrive within society, and show through their active development the beauty, love, and compassion that the religion encapsulates.

Students should therefore realize that they are not obliged to spend hours and hours in ibadat if they are burdened with their education, since education is an important part of developing ourselves as active and responsible members of society. Beyond the basic tenets of what Islam requires us to do, that is, at least fast and pray 5 times a day, students can re-alter their approach and use Ramadan instead to display how Muslims should behave in society; this means any notions of anger, hatred, or similar vices should be discarded during the month and everyone around us should be shown that Muslims do not deviate from the teachings of the [Holy Quran](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/) and the Holy Prophet (PBUH) even if they are tired, hungry, and thirsty.

As for studying within Ramadan, students can study rigorously in the hours in between [iftar and sehr](https://www.islamicfinder.org/ramadan-calendar/) so that they are able to conserve energy during the rest of the day, when they're fasting. When fasting, students can opt for only studying the revision notes so that they are not too burdened.

As active Muslims, we must, on the other hand, also ensure that we thrive to engage in optional good deeds and ibadah as much as we can, as long as it does not have a detrimental effect on other important considerations, such as studying for students. In that capacity, it is pertinent to think of ways through which you can develop little pockets of time wherein you can benefit from the immense blessings available to you during Ramadan. Taking a 10-minute break? Why not read half a page of the Quran and shorten your break to 5-minutes. Super bloated after Iftaari? Why not pick up prayer beads and recite Astagfirullah 100 times? On your way back home from Taraavi? Why not use the same prayer beads to recite SubhanAllah till you reach home?

More importantly, know that your education is also very important; yes, it is essential that you fulfill your religious obligations (Farz) and yes, it is important to ensure that you strive to [engage in as much ibadah as possible](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/the-best-azkaar-for-ramadan/), but don’t take it too hard on yourself and know that Allah cares about intentions more than the actual deeds. The very first Hadith of Sahih Bukhari is as follows:

**Umar bin Al-Khattab (RA) narrated: “I heard Allah’s Apostle (PBUH) saying, “The reward of the deed depends upon the intentions and every person will get the reward according to what he has intended…”” (Bukhari 1:1)**

So intend to try your best during Ramadan, and inshaa’Allah, Allah will reward you accordingly!

Alina • 8 days ago

This is just the encouragement I needed. I'm currently studying and working full time along with keeping my fasts. I often feel bad for not always being able to participate in extra ibadaat like others. Your article helped me realize that I don't have to. Thanks again, and I hope that you have a blessed Ramadan!

P.S. As a side note to other students: Many Profs are well aware it is Ramadan and are sensitive to students needs. One thing I would suggest is that students speak with their Profs if they need some special considerations. For example, if you have a class where you're required to speak or present a lot, perhaps you can ask if you can hand in reports instead.

•Taha Silat • 8 days ago, It's spelled Taraweeh, not Taraavi

**5 Tips for a working Muslim in Ramadan**

**If you are a working Muslim, it can be difficult to engage in Dhikr so IslamicFinder brings to you some useful tips to make time for Dhikr in your busy schedule.**

*Lifestyle*

*Amna Anwaar*

*Wednesday June 06, 2018*

[Ramadan](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/ramadan-kareem-the-month-of-blessings-and-its-three-ashra/), one of the most beloved months in the eyes of Allah (SWT), is almost upon us. Ramadan not only opens doors for countless blessings and rewards, but gives each and every believer a chance to establish a deep connection with Allah (SWT) and gain high levels of spirituality. Hence, it is one of the most anticipated months for all Muslims across the globe.

However, in this day and age and with the ragingly busy work schedules, it becomes difficult to take full advantage of the Holy month of Ramadan. Despite many efforts, one ends up contributing more time to work hours or household chores than attending to his/her spiritual needs – turning to Allah (SWT), the Fulfiller of all souls. In order to make the most of your [Ramadan this year](https://www.islamicfinder.org/ramadan/), despite busy schedules, you will need to gain a certain level of discipline and dedication to your mission of achieving your spiritual goals on top of your day-to-day living tasks. According to the following hadith, every good deed in the month of Ramadan is multiplied:

*Narrated by Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him): The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: “Every deed of the son of Adam will be given a ten-fold reward, up to seven hundred. Allah says: ‘Except fasting, for it is for Me, and I shall reward for it, for he gives up his desire and his food for My sake…’ and the fasting person has two joys, one joy when he breaks his fast and another when he meets his Lord. And the smell from his mouth is better before Allah than the fragrance of musk.” (Bukhari, 5927)*

Here are a few tips to make this year’s Ramadan the best one you have had so far and reap the maximum benefits of the Holy month:

**1• Plan ahead and set goals**

Before Ramadan starts, set personal goals for yourself and figure out how you would like to tackle your spiritual duties. For example, set a goal for how many chapters of [al Quran](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/) you would like to finish during the month or how many times you would like to recite the whole Quran – once you do that, split the task and divide so you have a set number of pages you would have to read on a daily basis to achieve your set goal. You can set goals for dhikr, dua’s, extra prayers etc. Be sure to set realistic goals and to not be overly ambitious.

**2• Disable distractions**

If you are one of those folks who spend a good chunk of their day browsing and surfing on social media forums, it might be a good idea to temporarily deactivate your accounts or perhaps, disable the applications from your phone so you are not tempted in the first place. This way, you will be able to dedicate that browsing time to something more spiritually productive like dhikr, dua, Quranic recitation etc.

**3• Make sure you offer your prayers on time**

No matter how busy your schedules are, make sure that you take out 5-10 minutes for each obligatory prayer and offer it on time. Do not delay them. One of the most beloved deeds in the eyes of Allah (SWT) is offering your Salah on time.

**4• Engage in Istighfar**

Allah (SWT) loves those who engage in constant ‘istighfar’ – constant repentance. So one of the best things you can do this Ramadan is seek Allah’s (SWT) Mercy and repent for your sins for Ramadan is a blessed month whereby gates of communication and mercy from Allah (SWT) are widened.

*Narrated by Ibn’ Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him), The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "If anyone constantly seeks pardon (from Allah), Allah will appoint for him a way out of every distress and a relief from every anxiety, and will provide sustenance for him from where he expects not."(Abu Dawud, 20:5)*

While you are working at your office or doing your house chores, say “Astaghfirullah” as many times as you can.

[**5• Engage in Dhikr in between tasks**](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/5-ways-to-make-time-for-dhikr-this-ramadan/)

Dhikr is one of Allah’s (SWT) most favorite forms of worship and it is really easy to incorporate in your busy schedules. Just note down or memorize certain verses of the [Quran or other azkaar](https://www.islamicfinder.org/iqra/the-best-azkaar-for-ramadan/) and perform dhikr in any free time slots you get in between your daily tasks of the day. For example, if you are driving to work or if you are going to the market and you have a 15-20 minute journey in between, use that time to engage in dhikr. You can even utilize your breaks in between work meetings or allocate a few minutes after offering your prayers. In this way, you will be able to maximize all your free slots throughout the day, which would eventually amount to a lot of time being dedicated to dhikr.

Make an extra effort this Ramadan and make the most of this Holy month – it will go a long way!

**Ramadan Kareem: The month of blessings and it’s three Ashra**

**From Allah's blessings to forgiveness to a refuge from Hell-fire, Ramadan is a blissful month!**

*Knowledge*

*Omam Khalid*

*Thursday May 24, 2018*

 *“Ramadan is the (month) in which the Quran was sent down, as a guide to mankind and a clear guidance and judgment (so that mankind will distinguish from right and wrong)..” (Q 2:183)*

The month of Ramadan is one of the most beloved and blessed months in the Islamic calendar. The rewards that a Muslim can reap are manifold and the chance to commit a sin decreased – because no barriers can exist between man and his Lord. The blessings of this month are countless and it is divided into three parts i.e. Ashra (of ten days each).

The three ashra of [Ramadan](https://www.islamicfinder.org/ramadan-2017/) each comes with its own sanctions and recompense: the first ashra is Rehmat which entails “Mercy of Allah”, the second is Maghfirah which involves the “Forgiveness of Allah“ and the third one is that of Najat meaning “Salvation”.

**Rehmat**

The month of Ramadan begins with the ashra that reflects abundance and blessings. It is indeed a beautiful start to this holy month.

For this ashra a prayer that one must always say abundantly is:

In this ashra, one must seek mercy from the Lord, Who wants nothing more than to bless His Ummah with the glories of life and the Hereafter. A great way to enter the spirit of Ramadan is to extend the same kindness to other fellow Muslim brothers and sisters that Allah extends to us all.

**Maghfirah**

The second phase of Ramadan is all about asking for forgiveness and peace from the Almighty Allah. Apologize to Him for the past mistakes, alter your deeds and forgive anyone who has wronged you. If Allah can forgive us for our sins and wrongdoings, then we too can extend this courtesy to our brethren who may have wronged us knowingly or unknowingly.

A Muslim should invoke God’s mercy and forgiveness throughout the second ashra via this dua:

*ASTAGHFIRULLAHA RAB-BI MIN KULLI ZAMBIYON WA-ATOOBUILAIYH*

*“I ask forgiveness of my sins from Allah who is my Lord and I turn towards Him.”*

**Nijaat**

Regarding the last ashra of the holy month, Hell fireUthman bin Abi Al’As has narrated that the Messenger (PBUH) of Allah said in a hadith:

*“Fasting is a shield against the Hell Fire, same like the shield of any one of you in battle”. (Sunan Nasai 311:1)*

When God has presented us Muslims with the opportunity to seek refuge Hellfire and wrath that we will have to face in the Hereafter, then it should be a privilege for us to accept this opportunity and do justice with it.

A prayer that should be said incessantly during this third and final ashra is:

In addition to this, one of the most significant nights of the Islamic year is also hidden in the last ten days of the month of Ramadan. It is the “Night of Power”, known as Laila tul Qadr, the night on which the [Quran](https://www.islamicfinder.org/quran/) was revealed and which marked the beginning of the journey of the Prophet (PBUH) as a guide to the Muslim ummah.

*“We sent it (Quran) down on a blessed Night. Verily, We are ever warning. Therein (in that Night) is decreed every matter of ordainment. Amran (i.e. a command or this Quran or His Decree of every matter) from Us. Verily, We are ever sending (the Messenger) (As) a Mercy from your Lord.” (Quran 44: 3-6)*

Not only does the last ashra protect us from the fires of hell, but it also offers an opportunity to start over.

Another act to be done in this ashra is sitting on Itikaf and observe Nafl and pray to the Lord while distancing yourself from the worldly affairs and seek sanctuary from all that is evil, waiting for us in the Hereafter.

So utilize the opportunity this month brings with itself and create a stronger bond with Allah Almighty who is All-Merciful, All-Forgiving and Majestic.