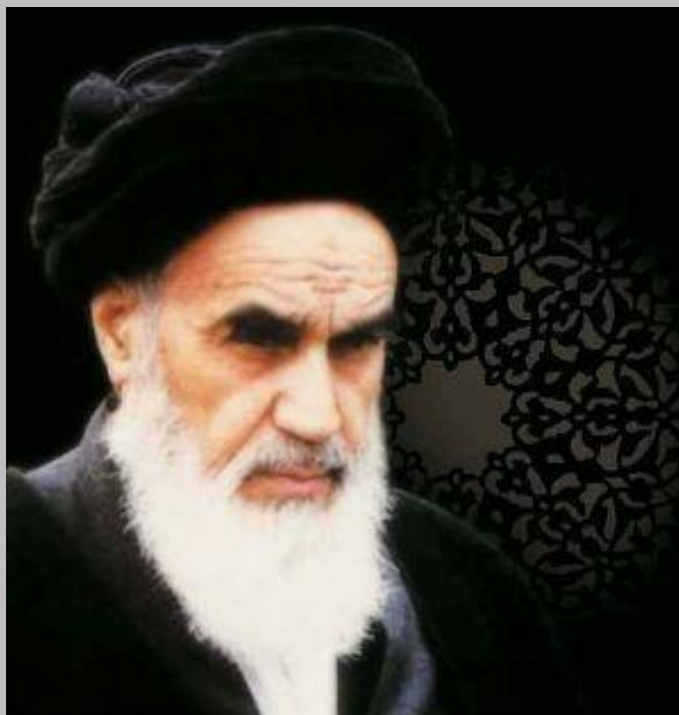


## Spiritual Statues of the Night of Majesty in Imam Khomeini's Words



International Affairs Department

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Imam Khomeini, the world religious and spiritual leader used to advise believers to make spiritual advantages of Laillat ul-Qadr (night of destiny) when in all divine blessings from heaven is sent down to the earth and the world.



According to some Islamic traditions, the al-Qadr occurs in the last ten nights of the holy month of Ramadan during an odd night. The individual and collective destinies are decreed during this holy period.

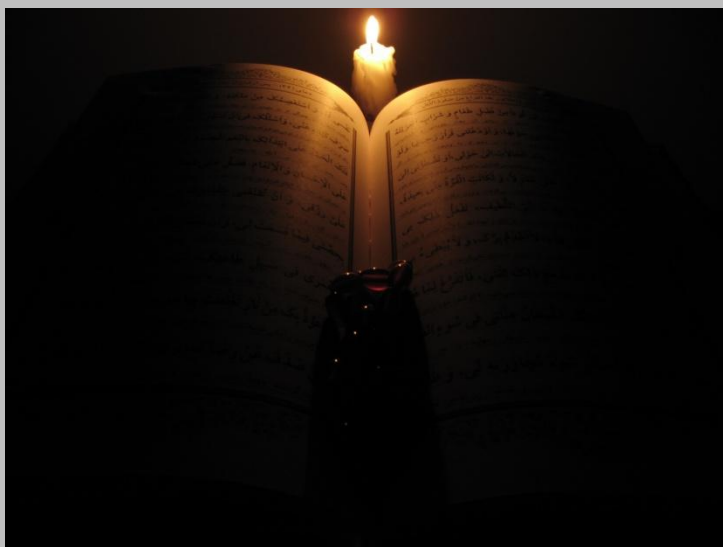
It is recommended to stay awake to perform worship, reciting Quran and supplications narrated by the holy prophet of Islam and his infallible successors, and seeking forgiveness from God the Almighty.

It is worth mentioning that Imam Khomeini used to recite the divine scripture too much during the holy month of Ramadan and considered these sacred times as spring of the holy Quran.

The relatives and friends say that Imam used to cancel his official meetings to concentrate on spiritual activities of observing fast and reciting the holy Quran during the days and nights of this holy month.

Some sources say Imam used to recite ten chapters of holy Quran daily in Ramadan during his stay in holy city of Najaf. He also continued his association with the holy book and devoted most of his time to the holy book while acting as supreme leader of the Islamic revolution and the Muslim world.

The great Imam used to recite verses whenever he found a leisure time between meals or any other parts of the day.



It is evident and clear from holy verses of Quran that observing fast is of great significance because it is a prologue to piety and piousness. The observing fast has been an obligation for all divine religions including Islam.

The great Imam used to stay awake during nights of Qadr to say prayers, recite supplications and recommended the youth to undertake serious efforts for purification of their hearts and souls during these sacred days and nights.

Imam would make use of every small window in his daily schedule to open and study the holy Quran.

Imam always paid special attention to the holy Quran in the extent that he would recite Quran seven times a day. In fact Imam would make use of every small window in his daily schedule to open and study the holy Quran. In so many occasions his family and friends witnessed that even in the short period while he was waiting for the food to be brought forward he would even use that time to study Quran. He would also recite the holy Quran after he was done with his night prayer and before the time of prayer at dawn. One of his household describes that once in Najaf, Imam had a problem with his eyes and he was visited by a doctor.



After the eye examination the doctor advised to Imam that “you should not read the Quran for a while and let your eyes rest for some days”. Imam smiled and replied “Doctor! I need my eyes to be able to read the holy Quran; there is no benefit for me to have eyes but not read the Quran. Please do something that I would be able to read the Quran”. One other member of his circle in Najaf described that in the blessed month of Ramadan Imam would recite ten parts or “Juz” of Quran in a daily basis, meaning that imam would read the whole Quran every other three days. In addition to that few days before the start of Ramadan, every year he would order for the holy Quran to be totally read or “Khatm of Quran” for the benefit of those people he had in his mind. In the month of Ramadan he would advise people to repent of their wrong deeds and behavior. He insisted that people should repent of their sins had there been any, before the start of the blessed month of Ramadan. He would advise that all should make themselves familiar with the prayers dedicated to this month and avoid any minor sins so that all enter the God’s reception clean and free of sins.

### **Some of Imam Khomeini’s advises for the blessed month of Ramadan:**

The blessed month of Ramadan is a month for prayer.

The blessed month of Ramadan is a month of unity and gathering, it is a month of God.

In this honored month you people are invited to the reception of the Holy God, then you should prepare yourself for this very glorious month



In this very blessed month that all are invited to the reception of God if you did not get to know God or did not improve your understanding of Him, then you should know that you have not entered the party in its proper manner and have wasted the chance of being hosted by God.

Be attentive that you should be able to do according to the proper manners particular for this month. Of its spiritual manners be careful not to be satisfied just with prayer but try to pray in its deep and actual sense. When you call for God, try to do it in its true meaning in a fashion that your hearts feel the assurance deep inside.

In this blessed month be careful to make use of the advantages of "Laillat ul-Qadr" (The Night of Qadr). We all should be different in this month and be in search of taking advantage of "Laillat ul-Qadr" (The Night of Qadr). That night is the best night of all in which all the blessings in the world are being sent down.

If we cannot be aware of all our behavior at all times, at least we should take advantage of this blessed month in which the situation is ready for such watchfulness.

Ramadan is the month in which you should strengthen yourself morally, Imam Khomeini made the remarks on the advent of the blessed month of Ramadan.



The sacred night is also known as night of decree or majesty' and it commemorates the period when God the Almighty revealed the sacred scripture of holy Quran to honorable prophet of Islam.

God the merciful mentions virtues of this night and the Holy Scripture in some of the Quranic verses as following:

"In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious Most Merciful Verily, We have sent it (this Quran) down in the night of Al-Qadr"

"And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree)"

The sacred night is described in the Quran as, "better than a thousand months"

"Peace it is until the appearance of dawn."

"The night of Qadr is better than a thousand months." (The holy Quran, 97:3) This night is of great significance to such an extent in which the destiny of humanity or humans is determined at least for one year.

The nights of power or decrees (Qadr) is of great significance and hold a great status in the month of Ramadan. We shed a light from viewpoint of Imam Khomeini on existence philosophy of such nights and enlighten us about the close association of these nights with the martyrdom of Imam Ali (PBUH).

The night of power (Qadr) had existed since very beginning of this world. "The angels and the Spirit descend therein, by the permission of their Lord, with all decrees." (The holy Quran 97:4) The angels inform and submit the event of a year to the Guardian. Once the guardians were Adam, Abraham, Noah, Moses or the holy prophet of Islam, the commander of faithful Imam Ali, Imam Hassan or Imam Hossein ....but now this Guardian is Imam Mahdi, may God the Almighty hasten his appearance and emergence.

They (angels or the Holy Spirit) inform or submit events of one year to the Guardian, the devotee of God.

"The night of Qadr is better than a thousand months." (The holy Quran, 97:3) This night is of great significance to such an extent in which the destiny of humanity or humans is determined at least for one year.

So the existence of night of Qadr is an authentic fact and a reality. If we glance back on human history, we will come to these conclusions that the night of Qadr had existed since very beginning of this world and cosmos.

How much the human beings are effective in determining the fate of destiny of their own future?

If humans pray God Almighty, express their regret and repentance, show their extreme dislike toward bad deeds, and really turn to God, ask for forgiveness and seek for God's mercy; this all will be effective in determination of their fate and destiny.



Of course, according to great Imam's view, the decrees and destinies of one year which are submitted to the Guardian and devotee of God (Waliullah A'azam) are still not final and the possibility of change does exist.

This has also been illustrated in the holy Quran as under:

"Allah eliminates what He wills or confirms, and with Him is the source of ordinance."

(The holy Quran, 13:39)

The possibility does exist that some happenings were designed and destined for someone during the night of power (Qadr); however, the bad happenings or destiny can be changed or altered by giving charity, extending help to poor people, showing affections to parents, doing good deeds and performing worships.

This is called the state of alterations and changes. The Guardian may not be informed about some of these changes and decisions on final alteration remains with God the Almighty.

It is quite right that the events of the whole year are submitted to the Guardian or devotee of Aallah. However, these decrees and destinies are not final and are subject to a change or alteration by saying prayers, reciting supplications, turning towards God, doing charities and extending hands to poor and needy persons.

