



Lailatul Qadr: When to Seek It ﴿ Odd vs. Even Nights Explained

Description

Bismillahi wal Hamdullillah Was Salātu Was Salāmu âlā Rasoolillahi Ammā baâd d:

Now that the last ten days of Ramadhān are upon us there is an issue that often time comes up during ramadhān related to the affair of lailatul qadr. What is commonly known is that one should look for it during the last ten nights on the odd nights, since many texts indicate that.

There is a group of scholars though, who hold that it is possible to occur on an even night and they site texts that indicate that. From those scholars we have the statement of Shaikhul Islām Ibn Taimiyah âlā Rahimahullahu taâla.

Shaikhul Islām states (after being asked about Lailatul Qadr):

âlā *Alhamdullillah lailatul Qadr is in the last ten nights of the month of ramadhān, this is how it has authentically occurred from the messenger ﷺ (i.e.) that he said:*

âlā ***It is in the last ten days of Ramadhān nā***

and it is in the odd nights.

The odd nights though, are viewed in respect to that which has passed (from the month), thus one seeks out the 21st and the 23rd and the 25th and the 27th and the 29th.

It is also sought from a point of view of what remains (from the month). Just as the Prophet ﷺ Sallallahu alaihi Was salam said (In the Hadith of Abu Bakarah ﷺ Radhiyallahu anhu):

âم (seek it) on the ninth of the nights remaining of ramadhân, the seventh of the nights remaining of Ramadhân, the fifth of the nights remaining of ramadhân, the third of the nights remaining of ramadhânâم

(Collected by Imaam Abu Dawood At Tayâlisi (922 âم Turki print) and tirmidhi and declared âم Sahâh bu Shaikh Nâsir in Sahâh Sunan At Tirmidhi (636))

Based upon this, if it is a 30 day month, then that will occur on even nights, and the 22nd night will be the 9th of the nights remaining from ramadhân, the 24th will be the 7th of the nights remaining from ramadhân (and so on). This is how Abu Saâd Al Khudhri explained it in an authentic hadith. And thus the Prophet (ﷺ) established the month in this way.

If (however) the month is of 29 days, (as lunar months often are) then the remaining days (as it relates to them falling on odd or even nights) will be the same as the past days (meaning whichever way one looks at it on a 29 day month, the odd nights in respect to looking at the month from the beginning will start from the 21st and considering the second hadith, counting down, the ninth night will also fall on the 21st and eight will be on the 22nd and so on)

Therefore if this is the case it is befitting that the believer seeks it out in all of the (nights of the) last ten..âم

(Majmooâul Fatâwâ wâ 25/284-285)

Thus according to this last hadith and explanation of Shaikhul Islâm, it is as though one is counting the last nine nights down from the 22nd in a 30 day month or the 21st in a 29 day month.

Therefore reflecting upon this statement of Shaikhul Islâm we see that whether the month has 29 or 30 days, the month always has ten complete last days. If the month is of 30 days, then the last ten begins on the 21st night, but if the month is of 29 days then the last ten begins on the 20th night. This is in respect to what has passed of the month. Then if one looks at the month from a point of view of âم that which remainsâم (as occurs in the second hadith) then the ninth of the nights remaining from ramadhân in a 30 day month falls on the 22nd night, while the ninth of the nights remaining from ramadhân

n in a 29 day month falls on the 21st night.

If this is understood then it becomes clear that lailatul qadr may possibly fall on an even night just as it may possibly fall on an odd night though it is most likely to fall on an odd night as occurs in the popular hadÄ«th.

Thus it is possible that lailatul qadr could fall on an even night.

Perhaps this may shine some light upon the following hadeeth that discusses the qurâ' aan being revealed from the lawh al Mahfooh to the lowest heavens on laylatul Qadr.

Upon the authority of wÄ thilah Ibnil Asqaâ' from the Prophet (i·o) who said:

â The scrolls of IbrÄhÄ«m were revealed on the first night of the month of ramadhÄn, and the taurÄt was revealed on the 6th day of RamadhÄn. The InjÄ«l was revealed on the 13th day of RamadhÄn and the zabor on the 18th day of RamadhÄn and the Qurâ'Än was revealed on the 24th of RamadhÄn nâ

(Collected by TabarÄni and Baihaqi and declared â Hasanâ by Shaikh Al AlbÄni in SahÄ«hul JÄmi (1497))

and since Allah the most high says:

â Indeed we have sent it (this Qurâ'Än) down in the night of Qadrâ

(Suratul Qadr Vs 1)

Wallahu Aâlam

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