



# ALI 314: An Insight into the Night of Power

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ALI Course – Ramadhan 1436

# Pre-requisites of this discussion

- Achievement will be dependent upon our prior investment
- Realities: manifest and hidden
- Metaphysics and our five senses

# Structure

- Core principles
- Part one: What is the Night of Power?
- Part two: How can we interact / benefit from the Night of Power?

# Core principle: three realms of reality

- Different Realms, where there are corresponding realities: dunya, barzakh, akhirah
- Our senses and veils shield us from these realities

يَعْلَمُونَ ظَاهِرًا مِّنَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُمْ عَنِ الْآخِرَةِ هُمْ غَافِلُونَ

(Q 30:7)

# Core principle: guarded tablet

*Nay, this is a Glorious Quran; in a Guarded  
Tablet*

*(Q 85:21-22)*

- *Allāmah: In short, the Manifest Book is the foundation of this Qur`an and this Qur`an is like a clothing to that reality.*
- *Āyatullāh Ma`rifat: Eternal Divine Knowledge / Source of all Learning.*

# Conclusion

- Qur'an was revealed from the Source: known as Guarded Tablet
- Guarded Tablet exists in its truest form in the higher realms
- The Qur'an had to be revealed (sent down) in a form that was befitting this world
- Intensity of revelation; sublime composition; miraculous nature; withstood the test of time;

# What is the Night of Power?

- A. Meaning of 'revelation'
- B. When is it?
- C. The notion of 'qadr'
- D. Better than 1000 months
- E. Role of angels
- F. Orders of the Lord
- G. Peace

# What is the Night of Power?

A. Revelation:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ

وَالْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ

By the book that makes things clear. Surely We revealed it on a blessed night ... (Q 44:2-3)



# What is the Night of Power?

وَقُرْآنًا فَرَقْنَاهُ لِتَقْرَأَهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلَى مُكْثٍ وَنَزَّلْنَاهُ  
تَنْزِيلًا

A discourse which We have gradually unfolded,  
so that thou might read it out to mankind by  
stages (Q 17:106)

# What is the Night of Power?

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْآنُ جُمْلَةً وَّاحِدَةً كَذَلِكَ  
لِنُثَبِّتَ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ وَرَتَّلْنَاهُ تَرْتِيلًا

And those who disbelieve say: ‘Why has the Quran not been revealed to him in one single revelation? ‘ Thus (it is revealed) so that We may strengthen your heart thereby and we have rehearsed it (to you) in slow, well-arranged gradual stages (Q 25:32)

# What is the Night of Power?

- A. Revelation

Two types: Inzal and Tanzil

The Night of Power: Inzal

Question: Where does this 'revelation' take place?

Answer: Heart of the Prophet or the 'sky' of the world (pay close attention in part 2)

# What is the Night of Power?

- B. When is / was the Night of Power?

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ

The month of Ramadhan in which was revealed  
the Qur'an ... (Q 2:185)

# What is the Night of Power?

Question: If the Night of Power has already taken place, then why do we mark its significance every year?

Answer: The Night of Power takes place every year. Revelation is an event which took place on that night, not that the revelation caused that night to become the Night of Power.

The Night of Power is an event that  
takes place every year

فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ

Present tense verb – denotes continuity

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ

Verb sentence structure – denotes continuity

تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَائِكَةِ

Present tense verb – denotes continuity

# What is the Night of Power?

- C. What does 'Qadr' mean?
  1. Determination of quantities and amounts:

فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ

In that [night] is made clear every affair of wisdom (Q 44:4)

# What does 'qadr' mean?

- 2. Majesty: based on the majesty of the worship taking place and the position of the worshippers
- 3. Restriction of space: the sheer number of angels descending upon the earth creates a restriction of space (metaphysically)



# An ideological challenge

Of the three explanations of Qadr, scholars have generally preferred the first explanation (quantities and amounts).

Question: Does this not suggest predestination?

# An ideological challenge

Answers:

1. Allah can choose to change it:

يَمْحُو اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيُثَبِّتُ وَعِنْدَهُ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ

Allah blots out or confirms whatever He pleases;  
and with Him is the mother of the book (Q  
13:39)

This theory would suggest that the  
'determination' is one issue, and for Allah to  
change it is another issue altogether

# An ideological challenge

Answers:

2. A part only is determined and the rest is left undetermined
3. Only the main details are determined, not smaller details
4. The disclaimer theory – as long as it is good for you!

# A spark of eloquence

- Inna
- Anzalna
- Hu (fi laylatil qadr)
- (wa ma adraka) Ma laylatul qadr
- Laylatul Qadri Khayrun min alfi shahr

All of these points suggest an event of immense importance and majesty

# What is the Night of Power?

- D. Better than 1000 months due to its spiritual magnificence and the worship which is prescribed; and this is in line with the verse that mentions the night as 'laylah mubarakah'

# What is the Night of Power?

- E. Presence of angels

The world of angels is intriguing!

Ruh: Jibra'il, wahy, or something else)

# What is the Night of Power?

- F. Orders of the Lord

The verse mentions the angels and Ruh begin their descent in order to administer the orders of Allah and this fits well with the mention of 'Rabb'.

# What is the Night of Power?

- G. Peace ...

Freedom from all internal and external defects

A distinct mercy and kindness of Allah to those who turn to Him.

Or angels pass their prayers of 'salaam' to the believers who are engaged in worship.



# A mystical firebrand

- 2 incidents from the life of Prophet Ibrahim worthy of reflection
- Hadith of Prophet about Sura Qadr

# Part two: How can we interact / benefit from the Night of Power?

- There are different approaches to spirituality
- Philosophical approach: concept of justice
  - 3 faculties
    - Intellectual: Stupidity – Wisdom – Scepticism
    - Anger: Cowardice – Bravery – Aggression
    - Desires: Sick – Chaste – Animalistic

Such a person is truly balanced and 'adil.

# Ahl al-Bayt (as)

- What is the role of Ahl al-Bayt on the Night of Power?

# Role of Ahl al-Bayt (as)

- There is constant 'traffic' between the heavens and earth:

وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ ... مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعِزَّةَ فَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ جَمِيعًا إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ  
يَرْفَعُهُ

Whoever seeks power [should know] - to Allah belong all glory and power. Unto Him ascend good words and it is He Who exalts each righteous deed ... (Q 35:10)

# Nature of cosmic 'traffic'

- Two ways of looking at it:
  - Maddi / Tajafi (displacement)
  - Ma'nawi / Tajalli (manifestation)

The cosmic traffic is continuous!

Question: where does this cosmic traffic go?

Answer: Mukhtalaf al-Malaikah

# Nature of cosmic 'traffic'

- Correct beliefs: iman and 'aqaid
- Honourable ethics
- Good deeds

*These three elements gain a 'form' and are then able to be presented to the owner in the form of heaven and heavenly bounties*

# Ahl al-Bayt (as) & wajhullah

كُلُّ شَيْءٍ هَالِكٌ إِلَّا وَجْهَهُ

... Everything is bound to perish, save His face ...

(Q 28:88)

- To obtain the quality of acceptance and continuity our deeds must contain a divine nature – wajhullahi
- This is achieved through sincerity and accuracy of action

# Ahl al-Bayt (as): everything commences at the Holy Threshold

- Angels come and go administering affairs of the Lord

فَالْمُدَبِّرَاتِ أَمْرًا

- Where do they ascend? On land? On water? In deserts? No: the heart of the wali of Allah
- On the Night of Power it is intense: all the angels at least of the worldly order: 'al'-Malaikah makes it all encompassing



# Ahl al-Bayt (as): everything commences at the Holy Threshold

- Hadith from al-Kafi
- Dua-e Nudba
- Ziyarat-e Ale Yaseen

# Ahl al-Bayt (as): everything commences at the Holy Threshold

- The angels are under the command of the Imam:

إِذْ تَقُولُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَلَنْ يَكْفِيَكُمْ أَنْ يُدْعِيَكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ بِثَلَاثَةِ آلَافٍ مِّنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُنزَلِينَ

And when thou didst say unto the believers: Is it not sufficient for you that your Lord should support you with three thousand angels sent down (to your help)?  
(Q 3:124)

# Ahl al-Bayt (as): everything commences at the Holy Threshold

- Hazrat Zahra was 'Muhaddatha'
- Jibra'il and the Holy Prophet
- Imam Baqir and angels of the Night of Power
- A note on the Ruh

# Ahl al-Bayt (as): our relationship with the Holy Threshold

وَقُلِ اعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ

*And say: "Perform actions: soon will Allah observe your work, and His Messenger, and the Believers ..."*

(Q 9:105)

- Hadith from Imam Sadiq (as)

# Summary

- The cosmological realities include:
  - Revelation
  - Determination
  - Wisdom
  - Majestic
  - Angels
  - Worship
  - Spirituality

# Summary

- The cosmological realities include:
  - Immense importance
  - Orders of The Lord
  - Peace

# Our role to ensure success on the Night of Power

- Achieve justice
- Strive for perfection
- Wajhullah comes through sincerity
- Wajhullah comes from accuracy and this can only be through teachings of Ahl al-Bayt

# The Ahl al-Bayt (as)

- The spiritual masters of this night are the Ahl al-Bayt and for our era it is the blessed personality of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam (aj)
- Everything starts with them
- They are the masters of the affairs of the Lord
- They are the link between the earth and the heavens, physical and metaphysical



# Conclusion

- The a'maal of the night compliment all the external cosmological realities:
  - Ghusl: purity, cleanliness, angelic, soft
  - Prayers: devotion, spirituality, obedience
  - Qur'an: the utmost source of knowledge
  - Forgiveness: to be forgiven you must forgive
  - Cursing the killers of Imam Ali (as): linking with true example of perfection and distancing from his enemies
  - Invoking the intercession of the Ahl al-Bayt

# Iltimas-e Dua

