

# The Ultimate Pleasure of a Believer on this Earth (Qiyaam Al-Layl)

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# THE ULTIMATE PLEASURE OF A BELIEVER ON THIS EARTH (QIYAAM AL-LAYL)

Our topic today is about continuing in good after Ramadhaan, matters that make us better and continue to be righteous after Ramadhaan. And this particular matter that I am going to talk about tonight is an issue that most of the Ummah think is only a specialty of Ramadhaan, yet it is such an important issue of Ibadaah that it will tell you if you love Allah and if Allah loves you. It is the matter of Qiyaam and Tahajjud (in Ramadhaan called Taraweeh). It is the school of the righteous people. Night prayer, Qiyaam and Tahajjud is the tranquility of the believers. Night prayer and Qiyaam is the solution to your problems when you have a problem.

Many times you see those who claim to love Allah, the Prophet Muhammad sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam and Islam. They will put it on their websites, they will click a like on Facebook, they will probably have a bumper sticker, but this will determine if they truly love Allah because Allah says in the Qur’an:

أَمَّنْ هُوَ قَانِتٌ آنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُو رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ ۗ  
قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۗ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو  
الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿الزمر: ٩﴾

Is one who is obedient to Allah, prostrating himself or standing (in prayer) during the hours of the night, fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the Mercy of his Lord (like one who disbelieves)? Say: “Are those who know equal to those who know not?” It is only men of understanding who will remember (i.e. get a lesson from Allah's Signs and Verses). (Surat az-Zumar: 9)

Is one who is obedient to Allah, prostrating himself during the night time, fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of His Lord, is he like those who do not do that (disbelievers or whoever does not do that)? Is he who knows like he who does not know? Basically, Allah is saying do not ever compare one who makes Tahajjud and Qiyaam with one who does not.

Night prayer and Qiyaam is the best prayer after the five prayers. Night prayer and Qiyaam is the honour of the believer (Sharaf al-Mu’min (شرف المؤمن)). Night prayer and Qiyaam is brightness on the Judgment Day. Night prayer and Qiyaam is the characteristic of a believer, like Allah says in Surat al-Furqaan:

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ

قَالُوا سَلَامًا ﴿٦٣﴾ وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَامًا ﴿٦٤﴾

﴿الفرقان﴾

And the slaves of the Most Beneficent (Allah) are those who walk on the earth in humility and sedateness, and when the foolish address them (with bad words) they reply back with mild words of gentleness. And those who spend the night before their Lord, prostrate and standing. (Surat al-Furqaan: 63-64)

Night prayer is the golden moments of the night time for those who long to be close to Allah, to spend that time in privacy with Allah the Almighty.

Look at their families back then and compare them to us today. Abu Hurayrah radhiallahu 'anhu used to divide his night into three categories. One third of the night was for him, one third for his servant and one third for his wife, because of the Hadith:

عَنْ جَابِرٍ ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ : إِنَّ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ سَاعَةً لَا يُوَافِقُهَا عَبْدٌ مُسْلِمٌ يَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ خَيْرًا إِلَّا أَعْطَاهُ إِيَّاهُ

In Sahih Muslim, Jaabir Ibn Abdilllah said the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam said there is at night time an hour (not the precise hour that we know), no Muslim asks Allah anything of this life or the life after if he is in that moment, except Allah will give him what he wants.

Blessed is the family of Abu Hurayrah. For example, if they needed anything and he, his servant and his wife all ask Allah, then throughout the night there is not a moment where there is no supplication, invocation and prayer. Is it not going to be answered?

In Musnad Ahmad and Abu Dawood, Abu Hurayrah radhiallahu 'anhu said that the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam said:

رَحِمَ اللَّهُ رَجُلًا قَامَ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَصَلَّى وَأَيْقَظَ امْرَأَتَهُ فَصَلَّتْ فَإِنْ أَبَتْ نَضَحَ فِي وَجْهِهَا الْمَاءَ

May Allah be pleased with a man who gets up at night and prays and then wakes up his wife, but if she refuses to wake up, he sprinkles water in her face.

And look at the other one:

وَرَحِمَ اللَّهُ امْرَأَةً قَامَتْ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَصَلَّتْ وَأَيْقَظَتْ زَوْجَهَا فَإِنْ أَبِي نَضَحَتْ  
فِي وَجْهِهِ الْمَاءَ

And may Allah bless a woman who gets up at night and prays and then wakes up her husband, and if he refuses, she sprinkles water in his face.

Amazing Hadith. Such a unique Hadith that encourages a family to worship Allah together and encourage each other. A romantic family, she is not waking him up by forcing him and nor is he, their consensus is that we both want to wake up. Basically they are saying honey if I do not wake up, make sure you sprinkle water in my face so I will surely wake up so I can pray to Allah. I dare a husband and a wife who do this consistently and faithfully for the sake of Allah and not have the happiest marriage ever, prove me wrong and I am going to say Wallahi to it.

If you are having marital problems, night prayer is your solution. Get up, you and your wife. He wants her to wake him up with water to make sure he prays, and she wants him to wake her up with water so she can pray. What disputes can a family like that have? Can a family like that raise children to be other than the kinds and likes of Salah ad-Deen and Umar Ibn al-Khattaab?

What affect will it have on children in the future? Many times, children go astray even if you raise them well.

إِنَّكَ لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ... ﴿القصص﴾

﴿٥٦﴾

Verily! You (O Muhammad sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) guide not whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills. (Surat al-Qasas: 56)

However, one of the most memorable things a child takes with him (even years later) and I can tell you this from my experience in Da'wah, he will say ah Wallahi you are right, I used to always see my mother and dad get up at the end of the night and pray. It is something that sticks to their mind, that usually gets them back on the right track if they go astray.

Umar Ibn al-Khattaab used to wake up his entire family before Fajr, reciting to them the verse in the Qur'an:

وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا... ﴿طه: ١٣٢﴾

And enjoin As-Salat (the prayer) on your family, and be patient in offering them [i.e. the Salat (prayers)]. (Surat Taha: 132)

In an Hadith considered authentic by al-Albaani and its men are like the chain of Sahih al-Bukhari and Muslim, Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri radhiallahu 'anhu said that the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam said:

إِذَا أَيْقَظَ الرَّجُلُ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ ، فَصَلَّيَا أَوْ صَلَّى رَكْعَتَيْنِ جَمِيعًا ، كُتِبَا فِي  
الذَّاكِرِينَ وَالذَّاكِرَاتِ

If a man gets up at night and prays even just two Rak'ahs, they are considered among the Dhaakireen (those who remember Allah).

Just two Rak'ahs at night and they are considered among the Dhaakireen. Who are the Dhaakireen? Flip the pages of the Qur'an to Surat al-Ahzaab and you are going to see.

...وَالذَّاكِرِينَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا وَالذَّاكِرَاتِ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

﴿الأحزاب: ٣٥﴾

And the men who remember Allah often and the women who do so - for them Allah has prepared forgiveness and a great reward (i.e. Paradise). (Surat al-Ahzaab: 35)

How beautiful is it to spend the night with Allah. There are those who love to spend the nights flipping through the channels on their TVs. There are others who love to spend their nights browsing through the Internet and hours and hours go by while they are doing it. Some with girls and others with alcohol, and some with vain matters that are probably not Haraam or Halaal. There are many who enjoy the Shaytaan urinating in their ears, as the authentic Hadith said for one who does not get up for the night prayer. Then there are those few of the few of very few who truly love Allah and choose to spend the nights with Allah the Almighty.

Let me tell you this, rest assured that the biggest indicator and hint to see if Allah loves you and if He is pleased with you, is see if you consistently pray the night prayer. If you consistently wake up for the night prayers, know you are in good status with Allah. Let me repeat because this is important. The biggest indicator of how pleased Allah is with you, is if you consistently pray the night prayers. It is only the special people who are allowed by

Allah to spend those precious moments during the dark nights with Him. Allah gives the honour only to those who are worthy of that honour. Does Allah choose to let you spend those moments based on how you look? No, not based on how you look. Based on whether you have a suit and a tie, or if she has good makeup on? No, based on your sins and your deeds and how close you are to Allah. I say and pay attention, if you have reverence, if you have humility, if you have humbleness, if you have awe, if you have sublimity, if you have all that in reciting the beautiful wording of the Qur'an during the night time, then you are among those who are chosen by Allah. If you have joy speaking to Allah with His own words, illuminating your dark room with those guided words of Allah subhaanahu wa ta'aala, know that Allah loves you and that you are envied for that which you did.

I did not bring it from me. A man told Ibraheem Ibn al-Adham I cannot get up at night to pray, why? I want to do Qiyaam. And this same story is also by al-Fudhayl Ibn 'Iyyadh, someone asked al-Fudhayl Ibn 'Iyyadh too. He said you commit the sins during the day, you will never be able to get up at night and pray. Standing before Allah during the night time is an honour sinners are unworthy of. That is by two of the biggest Tabi'een. Sufyaan ath-Thawri said for five months I could not get up for night Qiyaam because of a sin I committed. And if you look at the life of Sufyaan ath-Thawri, what could Sufyaan ath-Thawri have possibly done? A man who is amazing in his character, in his Ibadaah and in his knowledge.

A man came to al-Hasan al-Basri and he said Abu Sa'eed (the Kunyah of al-Hasan al-Basri is Abu Sa'eed), I sleep well, I rest well, I have no illness, I prepare the water by my mattress so I can get up for prayer and Qiyaam but I never get up for prayer and Qiyaam. Al-Hasan al-Basri said your sins shackled you, your sins during the day restrained you during the night time. The rule is the sins of the day restrain a Muslim from the honour of praying during the night time.

Abu Ja'far said I went to visit Ahmad Ibn Yahya. Abu Ja'far and Ahmad Ibn Yahya were famous scholars and 'Ubbaad who were also friends. He said I went and I saw Ahmad crying, so I said Ahmad why are you crying? Abu Ja'far told Ahmad why are you crying. Ahmad said I missed night prayer. He said that is okay, Allah wanted you to rest. Abu Ja'far said the more I told him and comforted him, the more he cried. He said no it is because of a sin I committed.

Qiyaam is responding to the call of Allah. How can you not respond to the call of Allah when Allah calls you? If a man's wife, his child or his loved one wakes up in the middle of the night and asks him are you okay? Do you need anything? He would wake up and go out of his way to say I am alright, everything is fine. I am okay sweetheart, I am okay honey, I am okay my friend, I am okay my brother. If a co-worker, a boss or anyone texted you or called you, you would answer the phone and take it to heart that he asked about you, and you would make sure you answer. Yet how can you not respond to Allah the Almighty who is calling you and asking you if you need anything? And of course Allah has the supreme examples.

Abu Hurayrah radhiyallahu 'anhu, may Allah be pleased with Abu Hurayrah, he said the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam said:

إِذَا كَانَ شَطْرُ اللَّيْلِ نَزَلَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا...

The Lord descends every night to the lowest point of Heaven, when the one third end of the night remains.

...فَيَقُولُ : هَلْ مِنْ دَاعٍ فَأَسْتَجِيبَ لَهُ...

Allah is asking you, is there anyone who calls upon Me so I can answer? Allah is calling us and you are the one who needs Allah.

...هَلْ مِنْ سَائِلٍ فَأُعْطِيَهُ...

Is there anyone who will ask Me that I may give him? People snore away as Allah is asking them if they need anything.

...هَلْ مِنْ مُسْتَغْفِرٍ فَأَغْفِرَ لَهُ ، حَتَّى يَطْلُعَ الْفَجْرُ...

Who will seek My forgiveness so that I may forgive him?

Qiyaam must be an essential part of your life my brothers and sisters. It must be essential. Al-Hasan Ibn Saalih in the old days had a servant, and he sold her to a family. So she went to that family and before Fajr she got up, because al-Hasan Ibn Saalih used to tell her to wake him up in the one third end of the night. Before Fajr she got up and she said as-Salah, as-Salah. The new family she is at said it is too early for Fajr here, do not wake us up until Fajr time. She said you only pray Fajr? You do not pray at night? They said no. She said I came from people who pray and pray and pray before Fajr. She began to give them a hard time until they returned her to al-Hasan Ibn Saalih. She went to al-Hasan Ibn Saalih and she said please take me back. I beg of you to take me back, you sell me to evil people who only pray the obligatory?

Ibn Umar said the first matter of Ibadaah to be taken is prayer of the night time and reciting out loud. When Ataa' al-Khurasani used to pray at night and see the happiness and tranquility in his heart, he said when I do not pray it is the worst day I have ever had in my entire life (the day he does not pray the Qiyaam before it). Night prayer is what they lived for, it was their life. When a man of the Salaf could not pray the night prayer for some time,

he said O Allah I ask of You to guide me to pray the night prayer and if You wrote in Your Book that You will not guide me then I ask of You to take me off the face of the Earth.

Ali Ibn Bakkaar and Abdul-Azeez Ibn Rawwaad both used to do the same thing at different times. They used to touch their mattresses and feel them and they said Wallahi you feel so comfortable and warm but Wallahi I will not use you tonight, I will pray until Fajr. You are nice and soft, but the mattresses of Heaven are much nicer and softer.

تَتَجَافَى جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ

يُنْفِقُونَ ﴿السجدة: ١٦﴾

Their sides forsake their beds, to invoke their Lord in fear and hope, and they spend (charity in Allah's Cause) out of what We have bestowed on them. (Surat as-Sajdah: 16)

Their sides are eager to lay and rest? No, Laa Wallah, not eager to rest. Their sides cannot take the comfort of the mattress. They cannot stand it because standing before Allah is much more comfortable to them. Are they not human beings that get tired? Yes, they are flesh and blood like us but they have hope in the life after. It is time to meet Allah, how can your side rest when it is a meeting with Allah? Whenever you get lazy, read this verse that I just read to you in Surat as-Sajdah.

When Ibn Daqeeq al-'Eed used to read it, he said how can whoever reads this verse not pray at night time because the verse after it is what tells you the reward for one who does the night prayer. What is the verse after it? Read the next verse after it.

فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَّا أُخْفِيَ لَهُم مِّن قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

﴿السجدة: ١٧﴾

No person knows what is kept hidden for them of joy as a reward for what they used to do. (Surat as-Sajdah: 17)

Allah tells them just like you hid your deeds for Me, I have something hidden for you. Allah said no person knows that which is kept hidden from them of joy and reward, for that which they used to do. What did they used to do? Qiyaam and Tahajjud.

They used to keep it hidden, even from their own wives. The wife of Hassaan Ibn Sinaan said my husband used to trick me. He used to come and play as though he is sleeping with me, he tricked me like we trick kids. She said he would sleep next to me and then when I would fall asleep, he gets up. Until one day I caught him and I said Hassaan, Abu Sinaan (his

Kunyah), why do you not get rest? He said you want me to get rest? She said yes. He said I am preparing this for the ultimate rest, the ultimate rest in the grave where you will get all the rest you need. When Fajr used to come, Sufyaan ath-Thawri used to prop his legs up on a wall like this so that the blood will go down into the rest of his body, because his legs and feet would swell from standing up all night.

﴿الذاريات: ١٧﴾ كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ

They used to sleep but little by night [invoking their Lord (Allah) and praying, with fear and hope]. (Surat ath-Thaariyaat: 17)

The wife of Masrooq Ibn al-Ajda' used to say he used to pray all night long until Fajr comes, he prays Fajr and then he drags himself and crawls to the bed because he cannot walk from standing all night.

﴿الذاريات: ١٧﴾ كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ

When Allah was preparing the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam for the ultimate task ever (the guidance of humanity), what did He prep him with? He prepped him with the task of making Tahajjud Fardh upon him. In the early stages, this was Fardh on the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam. In order to be successful at any job, any task and any situation, you need to succeed during the night with your spiritual communication with Allah. That is why Allah ordered him to do that.

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُزَّمِّلُ ﴿١﴾ قُمْ اللَّيْلَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ﴿٢﴾ نَّصْفَهُ أَوْ انْقُصْ مِنْهُ قَلِيلًا  
﴿المزمل﴾ ﴿٣﴾

O you wrapped in garments (i.e. Prophet Muhammad sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam)! Stand (to pray) all night, except a little. Half of it, or a little less than that. (Surat al-Muzzammil: 1-3)

And then later on in the verses, Allah says:

﴿المزمل: ٦﴾ إِنَّ نَاشِئَةَ اللَّيْلِ هِيَ أَشَدُّ وَطْئًا وَأَقْوَمُ قِيَلًا

Verily, the rising by night (for Tahajjud prayer) is very hard and most potent and good for governing (the soul), and most suitable for (understanding) the Word (of Allah). (Surat al-Muzzammil: 6)

Mu'ammara said I prayed next to Sulaymaan at-Tamimi because I needed something from him. After Isha' he got up and prayed Sunnah, and I thought it is going to be a few moments so I sat next to him. He said he prayed and recited Surat Tabaarak until he got to the verse:

فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ زُلْفَةً سِيئَتْ وُجُوهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَقِيلَ هَذَا الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَدْعُونَ

﴿الملك: ٢٧﴾

But when they will see it (the torment on the Day of Resurrection) approaching, the faces of those who disbelieve will be different (black, sad, and in grieve), and it will be said (to them): "This is (the promise) which you were calling for!" (Surat al-Mulk: 27)

He said when he got to it, he kept repeating it so I said let me go wait for him outside the Masjid because I am going to speak to him outside. He said I waited as I heard him inside the Masjid repeating it over and over. He said okay I will return before Fajr so I can talk to him. He said I came back moments before Fajr and by Allah the Almighty, he was in the same stand and repeating the same verse over and over again. You see how they contemplated the verses of Allah?

Al-Hasan al-Basri said why is it that the people who pray the nights (and you are going to notice this), are blessed with a bliss and a glow on their faces. He said:

خَلَوْا بِالرَّحْمَنِ ، فَأَلْبَسَهُمْ مِنْ نُورِهِ

They went in seclusion with Allah the Almighty in the night time (in the dark nights), so Allah casts some of His brightness on them. Noor on their faces. Noor from Qiyaam on the Siraat, when you want to cross into Heaven. Special rooms and palaces in Heaven like the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam said, for those who pray the Qiyaam. If it was for nothing other than the precious moments that you spend in seclusion and privacy with Allah, then that in itself is enough reward for you to get up and pray Qiyaam.

When they used to close the doors and the darkness came, and everyone is alone with his family, al-Fudhayl Ibn 'Iyyaadh said this is the time for the loved ones to be alone with each other and I am alone with my most beloved Allah. Few are the ones who spend their nights with Allah in worship. When the night comes, the mattresses are spread out, the beds are prepared and the lovers are in seclusion, the righteous stand, bowing and prostrating to their most beloved, Allah subhaanahu wa ta'aala. If it was a president, if it was a king, if it was a boss, you would be prepared and precise in meeting him. You have a special one on one appointment with Allah the Almighty every single night and you sleep. How shameful it is upon you, you sleep while Allah calls you.

Look at this. Ad-Daynoori in his book Al-Majaalasaah (المجالسة), Ibn Qutaybah in 'Uyoon Al-Akhbaar (عيون الأخبار) and Abdul-Haqq al-Ashbeeli in his famous book At-Tahajjud (التهجد) said this statement. Al-Fudhayl Ibn 'Iyyadh took al-Husayn Ibn Ziyaad Rahimahumullah and walked with him. He said come on, let us take a walk, and then he mentioned something astonishing and amazing to him. He said Allah descends every night to the sky closest to the earth and says he is a liar who claims to love Me yet when night time comes, he sleeps away from Me. Imagine that. Does one who loves the other not long to spend the private moments alone with him? And let me comment on this before I go any further. The statement in Arabic is:

كَذَبَ مَنْ ادَّعَىٰ مَحَبَّتِي فَإِذَا جَنَّةُ اللَّيْلِ نَامَ عَنِّي ، أَلَيْسَ كُلُّ مُحِبِّ  
يَخْلُو بِحَبِيبِهِ

This is not a Hadith as many scholars say in their Khutab and I have seen it in some booklets. It is not a Hadith Qudsi. It is worded as though Allah said it but it is not, this is the statement of al-Fudhayl Ibn 'Iyyaadh. I checked on it and there is absolutely no mention of it in any Hadith book, it has no background in any. This is a wording of al-Fudhayl Ibn 'Iyyaadh, he wanted to put it in a way where we understand it.

When Ibn al-Jawzi read this, he said when those who pray the nights heard this reprimand that Fudhayl Ibn 'Iyyaadh said, their eyelids gave an oath of an estrangement to sleep.

قال ابن الجوزي : لما امتلأت أسماع المتهجدين بمعاتبة ، حلفت  
أجفانهم على جفاء النوم

Their eyes gave an oath never to sleep again.

Men quarrel with their wives to spend more time with her, and she wants to spend more time with him. Friends always quarrel with each other saying why do you not come visit me, why do you not come and spend time with me? Why? How come? Yet no one longs to spend time with the Almighty, Allah. Do we not have shame when that happens?

A woman once visited the wife of the great Imaam al-Awzaa'ee. When she sat down, she saw the kids playing and she saw the prayer area of al-Awzaa'ee. The visitor told the wife al-Awzaa'ee, clean this urine your children did over here where Awzaa'ee prays so his prayer

will not be invalid. She said Wallahi that is no urine, Wallahi that is tears he sheds every single night like a puddle. Every single night.

A man's register of deeds stops when he dies. We all know that, yet in Hadith al-Israa' wal-Mi'raaj when the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam ascended to the sky, he saw Musa Ibn Imraan praying. Praying, because it is joyous. When one is in his grave and the angels (Munkar and Nakeer) wake him up to ask him, as they are waking him up to ask him who is your Lord, in one of the narrations of the Hadith he says to them let me pray. They tell him okay you can go ahead and pray, just let us ask you these three questions. He wants to pray because it is so joyous to him. He no longer gets the deeds but it is so pleasant to contact your mighty Lord Allah, they truly love Allah. The angels want to ask him first so they say okay you will pray later on.

Lack of success during the nights (Tahajjud and Qiyaam), results in lack of success in worldly matters during the day. Take that as a fact, take it as a given fact. If your Imaan is at a standstill, then boost it with the Qiyaam and the Tahajjud. If you are combatting desires, get up for Qiyaam. If your sins overwhelmed you, then Qiyaam is your resort. If you are facing trials and tribulations in this life (and we all are), Qiyaam is your resort. If you are seeking knowledge, then Qiyaam is your resort as well.

Ibraheem Ibn Shammaas said Wallahi I used to see Imaam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal from when he was a kid until he was an old man, never missing Qiyaam. Those are the men, those are the legends. The night you pray will give you a prosperous day. Qiyaam at night makes your face radiant and glowing. Prayer at night makes your life blessed for you, your wife, and your children. You want the special ranking on the Judgment Day? Pray Qiyaam. You want Firdaws? Get up for Qiyaam. You want matters of this life to be easy? Then get up to pray Qiyaam. Wallah we should be ashamed to even talk about this matter and encourage people to do this matter because it is all in your benefit.

If you truly love Allah, then get up for Qiyaam. If you want to thank Allah so He can give you more, get up for Qiyaam. Give parts of your life to Allah. You give part of your life to yourself, to your family, and to your work. We all give parts of our lives to school, to social events, to leisure events, and we give part of our lives to rest and comfort. Does Allah the Almighty not deserve to be given a part of our lives, and should He not be given precedence and priority over everything? Make the decision now, I say make the decision now. Make the oath now. Make the pledge now, from now on I am going to pray Qiyaam to Allah the Almighty. Do it now.

We spoke last week of how something little that lasts for your lifetime is better than something big that does not. Just two Rak'aat brothers, start off with two Rak'aat. Two or maybe less or maybe more, but at least two Rak'aat at night time. If anyone had an important meeting for a job interview or something important, he would sleep early and make sure he gets his rest so he can go there. But you tell someone to sleep early so he can

get up for Qiyaam? No, they do not want to do that and they neglect that. And how do you tell me that is just a Sunnah, but for a job interview it is a Fardh. Every day you have an interview and a test with Allah the Almighty, so get up. Do not let the Shaytaan slaughter you with I will, I will, I will. Make the determination now and today, right now. The prayer of the night was an essential matter to our Salaf, that they made it up if they missed it. They made up the night prayer (Qiyaam) if they missed it. There is nothing more heart softening and more contemplating to understanding the verses of the Qur'an than to stand before Allah at night time and read and recite, think about the verses and Allah, His power, His qualities and His attributes.

I dare you to bring me any Shaheed Inshaa Allah, any of the righteous knowledgeable people or the Shaheed who did not get up or have a history of praying the night Qiyaam. I dare you that. Why do you think the so called scholars today, the ignorant heads of today who are called scholars have led people astray? Because the forehead of theirs does not bow at night time and ask Allah for guidance, like Ibn Taymiyyah and Imaam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal did. A forehead that bows in prostration to Allah at night time could not get up during the day time and lead the masses (the Ummah) astray in matters of 'Aqeedah that were never disputed, or please the Kuffaar.

Allah praised the Sahaabah for their Qiyaam at night many times.

... تَرَاهُمْ رُكَّعًا سُجَّدًا ... ﴿الفتح: ٢٩﴾

You see them bowing and falling down prostrate (in prayer). (Surat al-Fath: 29)

It is the school that the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam taught the Sahaabah in.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ تَقُومُ أَدْنَىٰ مِنْ ثُلُثِي اللَّيْلِ وَنِصْفَهُ وَثُلُثَهُ وَطَائِفَةٌ مِّنَ الَّذِينَ مَعَكَ ... ﴿المزمل: ٢٠﴾

Verily, your Lord knows that you do stand (to pray at night) a little less than two-thirds of the night, or half the night, or a third of the night, and so do a party of those with you. (Surat al-Muzzammil: 20)

A praise for the Sahaabah many times in the Qur'an, for praying Qiyaam. Even their kids, Ibn Abbaas as a kid used to pray Qiyaam next to the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam. It is the honour of a believer. Tell an old school Arabic guy you have no honour, and there is going to be bloodshed. I say if you do not pray the Qiyaam, you have no honour. What are you saying Ahmad? Are you in your mind? These are big words. I say if you do not pray the Qiyaam, you have no honour because the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam said the

honour of the believer is the night prayer. Jaabir Ibn Abdillah radhiallahu 'anhuma, Sahl ibn Sa'd and Abu Hurayrah said that the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam said:

## شَرَفُ الْمُؤْمِنِ قِيَامُ اللَّيْلِ

Al-Albaani authenticated it in Sahih At-Targheeb Wat-Tarheeb (صحيح الترغيب والترهيب).

Who does not want to have a private meeting with Allah after knowing all this? Who does not want to communicate with Allah after knowing all this? Who does not want to complain to Allah the Almighty? You spend moments in your Sujood alone with Allah, no one seeing you but Him. That moment right there is an indication that you are not a hypocrite.

Qataadah said one who makes night Qiyaam can never be a hypocrite. Prayer of the night gets you to your destiny, more than your actions during the daytime. Prayer of the night gives you success and achievements during the day, you could never have done it without Qiyaam. Even materialistic gains, I am talking about materialistic gains.

You want your stand on the Judgment Day to be shortened? Fifty thousand years long, you want to shorten it? Stand up right now in your night time, Allah will shorten that stand for you. Qiyaam is any time from Isha' until Fajr. You find someone will go home and he will spend hours or probably the whole night on TV or browsing through the Internet, and he will find a million excuses not to pray the night Qiyaam. When you ask him why are you doing this? He says I enjoy it. Being alone with your wife brings you happiness. Being with a friend, chilling and relaxing brings you happiness and peace. You are enjoying his company. If you are asked why you are with him, it is because you are enjoying his company. He wants to leave but you say stay, I am enjoying your company and I want you to stay. Do you really love Allah if you do not enjoy some quality private time in seclusion with Him at night time?

One will complain to people about matters he is going through and sometimes it just so happens that he is complaining to people about matters he is going through and Allah the Almighty is asking him do you need anything (in the one third end of the night). He puts his hope in people, he says well I need assurances. Allah cannot give you those assurances when you ask Him? Then the Ummah says they love Allah and they know how to depend on Allah. They will click a like or put I love Allah on their pages, on their Facebook or on a bumper sticker on their bumper. From now on, make an oath that you will never stop night prayer. The Internet is paused for a temporary period of time, the TV is gone and the gossiping is over. Start with two Rak'aat any time between Isha' and Fajr. After months, maybe weeks or maybe days, you are going to say you know what, I want to move them closer to Fajr. I like this, I want to move them closer to Fajr. Then as time goes by, you are going to feel you know what, two is not even enough anymore. I want to add two more to this, I want to add four more to this. You are going to tell yourself I want to add more to it. Then you are going to tell yourself, those two I was reading Surat al-Ikhlaas and Surat an-

Naas, they are no longer enough I want to make them longer. I am really enjoying this, Yaa Allah I am enjoying this. You are doing a business transaction with Allah, you are doing a bargain with Allah the Almighty.

The father of the famous Mukhtaar ash-Shanqeeti, you know the Mukhtaar ash-Shanqeeti that is in Madinah (the Shaykh), he was my teacher and he was a classmate of my father in Madinah. Many do not know that his father was a big 'Aalim in Madinah, he died in the mid eighties. His father was the teacher of my father and his son (Mukhtaar ash-Shanqeeti) was a classmate of my father in Madinah, in the same classrooms in the university. It so happened that after someone dragged it out of him in a class, the father said that sometimes he prays the Isha' and begins to recite and recite from the beginning of the Qur'an. Before they call the Athaan for Fajr from Madinah where he hears it in his house, he will be at Surat al-Ikhlaas and Surat an-Naas. He finishes the whole Qur'an in one night. Wallahi, it is not impossible.

I say my brothers, surprise Allah with your night prayer. Astonish Allah with your night prayer, with two Rak'aat during the night. In a Hadith in Mishkaat al-Masaabeeh (مشكاة) authenticated by al-Albaani, the Prophet sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam said:

عَجِبَ رَبُّنَا مِنْ رَجُلَيْنِ...

Allah is surprised from two kinds of people. One of them is:

...رَجُلٌ ثَارَ عَنْ وَطَائِهِ وَلِحَافِهِ مِنْ بَيْنِ حَبِّهِ وَأَهْلِهِ...

A man who revolts, he erupts from the comfort of his mattress, his love and his family, and jumps up for what?

...إِلَى صَلَاتِهِ...

To his prayer, to make his nightly prayer. He erupts, jumps up, oh I am going to miss it.

...فَيَقُولُ اللَّهُ لِمَلَائِكَتِهِ : انظُرُوا إِلَيَّ عَبْدِي...

Allah tells the angels about him (brags to the angels about him), look at my servant.

...ثَارَ عَنِ فِرَاشِهِ وَوِطَائِهِ مِنْ بَيْنِ حَبِّهِ وَأَهْلِهِ إِلَى صَلَاتِهِ ، رَغْبَةً فِيمَا

عِنْدِي ، وَشَفَقًا مِمَّا عِنْدِي...

He erupted, he jumped from the comfort of his mattress from amongst his loved ones (from his wife) to pray, seeking what I have and fear from what I have.

Allah says:

عَجِبَ رَبُّنَا

Allah is surprised, a quality that goes to Allah in a manner that best suits Allah the Almighty. It is a form of encouragement to you. Of course Allah know if you are going to get up or not but He wants you to be encouraged to get up and He bolsters to the angels about you.

Abu Haazim Rahimahullah said:

لَقَدْ أَدْرَكْنَا أَقْوَامًا كَانُوا فِي الْعِبَادَةِ عَلَى حَدِّ لَا يَقْبَلُ الزِّيَادَةَ

Meaning if you tell the Sahaabah (our forefathers) or the followers of them that there is more you can do, they cannot fit it in their schedule. Ibaadah is full, their night time is prayer.

Victory came to them from the night prayer. Ja'far Ibn Zayd said I went to Kabul in an army and amongst the army was a soldier called silah Ibn Aysham al-'Adawi, the worshipper. He said when we camped that night, he left and went to a nearby forest and I followed him slowly while everyone was sleeping. He said he made Wudhu and got up to make Salah. And as he began his Salah, a lion approached him. I was right behind him and I got so scared from the roaring of the lion that I jumped on a tree and climbed up. He said Wallahi silah did not look nor did he move, he continued in his Salah. He said when he made Sujood, I said now the lion is going to get him. He said the lion roamed around him and when silah was done with his Salah, he looked the lion in the eye and he said go seek your provision, go seek your food elsewhere. He said the lion left roaring with a loud roar, so loud that it would irritate a huge mountain. He said he scared me. When Fajr was about to come up, silah went to the camp and went to sleep as though he was sleeping and moments later they called for Fajr. He did not want anyone to think that he was awake in prayer. Everyone thought he was asleep all night.

Look at this in Seerah Alaam An-Nubalaa' (سيرة اعلام النبلاء) and other books, read these stories. 'Amr Ibn 'Utbah Ibn Farqad, nearly the same exact thing happened to him with a lion. They used to love him because he was security, because he used to pray all night long. A lion came by and he refused to break his Salah, they told him did you not fear the lion? He said I was standing in humility before Allah, I was so ashamed of Allah to be afraid of anything else. Read the life of Sa'eed Ibn al-Musayyib, the one who in his biography you are going to read that for fifty years, he prayed the Isha' and the Fajr with the same Wudhu. Fifty years. Do you understand what that means when you read that in his biography? When he prayed the Isha' and the Fajr with the same Wudhu, it means he was praying all night long, in Ibadaah and worship.

Thaabit al-Banaani said you can never call a worshipper a worshipper unless he does the night prayer and extra fasting. If he does not do that, you cannot call him a worshipper. He has to have those characteristics because they prove who is devoted and who is willing to give and sacrifice from within himself. We ask Allah to allow us to be amongst those who pray the night prayer sincerely and faithfully for His sake Inshaa Allah Ta'aala.