

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

## Friday Sermon

HADHRAT MUHYI-UD-DIN AL-KHALIFATULLAH

*Munir Ahmad Azim*

**RAMADAN MUBARAK!**

08 June 2018  
(23 Ramadan 1439 AH)

*After greeting all his disciples (and all Muslims) worldwide with the greeting of peace Hadhrat Khalifatullah (atba) read the Tashahhud, Ta'uz, Surah Al Fatiha, and then he delivered his sermon on: "The Lailatul Qadr & The Importance of Zakaat".*

Allah (swt) says in the Holy Quran:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝ إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ۝ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ۝ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ۝ تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَايِكَةِ وَالرُّوحِ فِيهَا يَأْذِنُ رَبُّهُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ۝ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ۝

Bismillaahir-Rahmaanir-Rahiim; 'Innaaa 'anzalnaahu fii lay-latil-Qadr: Wa maaa 'adraakamaa Laylatul-Qadr? Laylatul-Qadri khayrum-min 'alfi shahr. Tanazzalul-malaaa 'ikatu war-Ruuhu fiihaa bi-'izni-Rabbihihim-min kulli 'amr: Salaamun Hiya hattaa matla-'il-Fajr.

*"In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree. And what can make you know what the Night of Decree is? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn."* (Al-Qadr 97: 1-6).

When the month of Ramadan begins, Muslims perform *Ibadat* (acts of worship) with great enthusiasm to please Allah. The *Ibadat* made during this month include obligatory acts (*Fardh*) as well as many voluntary/ additional (*Nafil*) acts of worship, and the mosques are filled with worshipers, *Alhamdulillah*. But *Insha-Allah*, it is essential also that this state of things remain the same even after the month of Ramadan. In this blessed month, the tendency to help the poor and the needy is also great and very important.

### THE LAILATUL-QADR

During this month, we get the night of *Lailatul Qadr* also called, *Shabe Qadr* (The Night of Power). According to the Hadiths of our beloved prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), the rewards for the *Ibadat* performed during this night are equal to the *Ibadat* performed for more than a thousand months and if we calculate all this well and do not make any mistake in our way of counting (our math), so it is equal to 83 years and 4 months. Taking into consideration the length of human life today, it would be impossible for a person to do this great amount of *Ibadat* during his whole life, even if he does it day and night.

There is a story behind that Night. A person named Samsun (ra) belonging to the Tribe of Israel was a person who made a lot of *Ibadat*. He used to fight against the infidels and the latter feared him a lot. Allah (swt) had given him such strength that even the army of the infidels had no hold over him to defeat him, or even to wound him. So, in the life of Samsun (ra) there is a very interesting story, concerning his faith (*Imaan*) in Allah, his courage and the strength he possessed. He was always ready to do *Jihad* for a thousand months. When the Messenger of Allah, Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) heard the story about this extraordinary person who belonged to the Children of Israel from the Archangel Gabriel (as), his thought was for his *Ummah* (his community). He thought that life was short and that we would not have the opportunity to receive the same intensity of blessings bestowed upon Samsun (ra) for his devotions and loyalty for a thousand months.

Allah (swt) therefore accepted the desire of His Messenger and granted to Him and His *Ummah* (community) a great favour; such favour that the other *Ummat* (communities) did not receive; such a favour with an extraordinary prescription, that is, the *Lailatul Qadr*, the Night of Power. It was during this very night that the Holy Quran was revealed, that is to say, the pure revelations of Allah on His beloved prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh).

According to the traditions (*Sunnan*) we have to look for that night during the odd nights during the last ten days of Ramadan. That is, the 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> nights. The signs of this night is that it is neither too cold nor too hot. During that night the believers (*Mumineen*) perceive an intense feeling of satisfaction.

I made a calculation, but bear in mind, this is not a revelation and it may not be accurate. When we read Surah Al-Qadr, the term *Lailatul Qadr* is mentioned three times: in the first, second, and third verses after the *Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim*. In the Arabic language, the term *Lailatul Qadr*, or *Lailatul Qadri* is composed of nine letters. These nine letters are mentioned three times and thus 9 multiplied by 3 (9x3), this gives us a total of 27.

Several companions of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) such as Hazrat Ibn Abbas and Ubayy bin Ka'b (ra) reported that the *Lailatul Qadr* is indeed the 27<sup>th</sup> night (of Ramadan) and its sign is that when the sun rises in the morning, there are no beams/ rays around it. (Muslim, Ahmad, Tirmidhi).

Hazrat Aisha (ra) reported that she had asked the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) if he knew which night was the *Lailatul Qadr* and what should she recite if she encountered such a Night. The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) recommended her to recite the following prayer abundantly: '*Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun tuhibbul 'afwa fa'fu 'anni*.'" (O Allah, You are forgiving and You love to forgive, so forgive me)." (Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah, Mishkat).

So, concerning the *Lailatul Qadr* (Night of Destiny) in the month of Ramadan I have spoken several times on this subject and since time is limited, I would also like to say a few words about *Zakaat* which is also very important.

## ZAKAAT IN ISLAM

*Zakaat* is a pillar of Islam and an obligatory act of charity ordained to every eligible Muslim. It is an act of devotion and an effective form to achieve social justice. It is also one of the five pillars of Islam and prescribed in the Holy Quran and in the Hadiths. The root of the word *Zakaat* in Arabic means blessing, growth, purity or improvement. The word *Zakaat* refers to the part of the wealth prescribed by Allah to be distributed among the categories of people described by Allah in Surah At-Taubah (Chapter 9, verse 60) and the Hadiths. *Zakaat* is an act of worship that purifies the wealth and soul of Muslims.

The purification of wealth means the mobilization of goods for financial growth and justified distribution (equal repartition of wealth). Purification of the soul means liberation of the Muslim's heart from hatred, jealousy, selfishness, and greed.

Technically speaking, *Zakaat* is a fixed proportion that is withdrawn on an annual basis from the wealth and distributable profits and given to beneficiaries of this fund (as indicated by the Quran and *Sunnah*) for the well-being of Muslim society. *Zakaat* is calculated on the net balance after the Muslim has deducted his expenses for personal, family and other purposes (necessities). At the end of the year if the Muslim is in possession of 35 grams of gold or 595 grams of silver or the cash equivalence or article of commerce he must pay *Zakaat* on it at 2.5% tax, also applicable to agricultural products and livestock.

*Zakaat* is mentioned about thirty times in the Holy Quran and it is mentioned most in association with *Salat* (prayer) as this verse indicates: **"Those who establish Salah (prayer) and give Zakah (Obligatory Charity/ Tax)."** (Al-Baqara 2: 278).

Narrated from Anas (ra) that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: *"Whoever departs this world with sincerity towards Allah, worshipping Him alone with no partner, establishing regular prayer and paying Zakat, he dies while Allah is pleased with him."* (Ibn Majah).

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: *"Whoever Allah makes wealthy and he does not pay the Zakah due on his wealth, then on the Day of Resurrection his wealth will be made in the likeness of a bald-headed poisonous male snake with two black spots"*

*over the eyes. The snake will encircle his neck and bite his cheeks and proclaim, 'I am your wealth, I am your treasure.'*" (Bukhari).

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) also said, *"There is no people, who do not pay Zakah, left without being made to suffer by God through disasters, or famine or drought."* (Tabarani, Hakeem, Baihaqi).

*Zakaat* is so important in the Islamic system that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) said: *"I will fight whoever separates Salah and Zakah, for Zakah is the compulsory right to be taken from wealth. By Allah, if they withhold from me a young goat that they used to give to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh), I will fight them for withholding it."* (Nasai).

Therefore, those who refuse to pay *Zakaat* are like the unfaithful and the deniers of the Islamic faith. A Muslim must pay *Zakaat* if he possesses property and has the ability to dispose of property. Thus a lost or stolen good does not require the deduction of *Zakaat* because this property is no longer legally in the possession of the Muslim.

Growth has a direct relationship with the expansion of wealth. *Zakaat* is obligatory on goods that have growth potential. This includes: money in the bank, livestock, plantations, goods, etc. However, there is no *Zakaat* to pay for property reserved for personal use such as inhabited residences, furniture, vehicles etc.

It is very important that we be very careful when we pay *Zakaat* so that we do not forget any items. It is better to have a surplus of *Zakaat* than to pay less than the sum/ quantity required! *Insha-Allah*, the payment of *Zakaat* that you will fulfill will become a source of new income for you in your homes and it will help you to purify you and your families and all the goods you have, *Ameen, Summa Ameen*.

I hope and pray that Allah will bestow the blessings of *Lailatul Qadr* on all my sincere, faithful followers who have the fear of Allah in their hearts and who love Allah and whom Allah loves in return, and I pray also for all those who have failings in their faith, may Allah also pour upon you the blessings of *Lailatul Qadr* so that it becomes a source of light for you and bring you out of the state of uncertainty and laziness in religion to become enlightened souls that will be so strong tomorrow that they will be able to stand up and lead the world to Allah. *Insha-Allah, Ameen*.