



NEW MUSLIM  
ACADEMY

# A GUIDE TO MY LAST **TEN NIGHTS**



The guidance of the Messenger Muhammad shows us that the last ten nights of Ramadan have a special place in our faith, Islam. The month of Ramadan in general is a virtuous month with great potential for many rewards. The last ten nights increase these opportunities manifold. The last ten nights are primarily virtuous due to one of them being the Night of Special Status and Virtue. God says in the Quran, "We sent it down on the Night of Special Virtue. What will explain to you what that Night of Special Virtue is? The Night of Special Virtue is better than a thousand months; on that night the angels and the Spirit (the Angel Gabriel) descend again and again with their Lord's permission on every task; protection throughout that night until the break of dawn."



**What further shows how much emphasis the Messenger Muhammad and his disciples placed on these ten nights is the narration that describes the Messenger Muhammad's routine during these nights. He is described as "tightening his belt" (an expression meaning being very keen for devotion), spending the night in vigil and worship and encouraging his family to do the same. "Tightening the belt" symbolizes the extra effort and seriousness with which the Messenger Muhammad approached these ten nights. He would also awake his family for these nights, something which he would not ordinarily do.**

**The Messenger Muhammad would seclude himself in the mosque as a retreat for these ten nights to ensure that he spent all his time in devotion and worship. His disciples did likewise, and after his death, his wives would continue this practice. Until this day, you will find Muslims throughout the world spending these ten nights of Ramadan in seclusion in mosques.**

**A night better than a thousand months is more than 83 years of worship and reward in a single night. God revealed a whole chapter in the Quran to show the significance of this Special Night. The best acts of worship to be performed on these nights are those that directly revolve around the Quran and remembrance of God. Salah is one of the best deeds to perform during these nights. The Messenger Muhammad informed us that whoever stands the nights in extra Salah during Ramadan with conviction and seeking the reward from Allah, will be forgiven for their sins.**



The Messenger Muhammad would spend much of his nights in Salah. You can pray as many units of two as you wish. There is no limit to the units one can perform. Salah is an act of worship that includes within it many other virtuous deeds. It is recommended because it also consists of Quran reading, remembrances, and supplications. You can prolong your bowing and praise and thank God therein. You can invoke God and supplicate to Him in these positions, asking for all your needs, both worldly and for the Hereafter.



Reading the Quran is also extremely rewarding. The Quran was revealed on the Night of Special Status and Virtue and so reading as much as you can is highly recommended. The early Muslims would focus on the Quran in Ramadan and try to complete its reading as many times as possible. Each word is worth ten good deeds. You can mix up your Quran reading with other forms of Quran study. For example, you can listen to the recitation, you can read the translation, listen to lectures on the Quran and its study, and read the explanation of certain passages and chapters.



It is important to try to understand the Quran as well as reading it in Arabic. In particular, the passages and chapters that you read most often, such as the opening chapter and the smaller chapters towards the end of the Quran, are good to study. To read the translation, study the explanation of these chapters, listen to lectures on them and read books on them will be greatly helpful to you, both during Salah and outside of them. You can also listen to Quran recitation on YouTube or by streaming the audio. You can follow along with your own copy of the Quran, or simply listen to it while resting.



In between night Salah and Quran reading, remember God with general expressions of glorification. For example, praise God by saying, 'Alhamdulillah' [All praise, glory and thanks are for God], 'Subhan Allah' [God is perfect and free from flaws and deficiencies], 'Allahu Akbar' [God is greater than everything and everyone], 'La ilaha illa Allah' [God alone is worthy of worship and all other gods are false] and 'La hawla wa la quwwata illa billah' [There is no might or power except that given by God ]. These and other statements of glorification of God are easy to read while sitting and resting in between Salah and Quran reading. You can also use some of your time in making supplications and praying. This can be done in any language at any time.





You can rest as you need, and break up your worship with eating and drinking. You can read other Islamic books if you wish. The point is to engage in worship throughout the night as much as you can and to the best of your ability. Remember that the Messenger Muhammad said that whoever spends the Night of Special Status and Virtue in prayer, having true faith and hoping for God's reward, will have all of their sins forgiven.

