

# Tafseer Surah al-Qadr (القدر)

Notes on Nouman Ali Khan's Concise Commentary of the Quran

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## Introduction

- I. This surah is about the night of decree in Ramadan (*Laylah al-Qadr*)
  - A. There is a difference of opinion as to exactly which night it is, but it seems it could be any of the last 10 nights of Ramadan. It might even shift every year between the last 10 nights
- II. This night is so important that Allah dedicated a whole surah to it
- III. Ibn Abbas said that Allah sent the whole Quran down from the seventh heaven to the first one, and then it trickled down to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) from the first heaven over a period of 23 years through the angel Jibraeel

## Tafseer of the Verses

### 1. Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree

- a. Even though it was the angel Jibraeel that brought it down, Allah did not mention him because it is His words that he brought down
- b. The Arabic word *Qadr* (decree)
  - i. One of the meanings is calculation of something
    1. The word is used here because during this night Allah makes decisions for the rest of the year. Allah already knew these beforehand but the angels are given these decisions to execute them that year
  - ii. Another meaning for the word is nobility or honor
    1. In this context, it could mean that a noble book was given to a noble angel (Jibraeel) on a noble night
  - iii. Another meaning for the word is power
    1. In this context, it means we should have complete faith in the power of Allah to change our fate, behaviors, problems, etc. This should encourage us to do more supplications (*du'a*) in this blessed night because Allah has power to change anything
  - iv. The word could also mean congestion or constraint
    1. In this context, it means there are so many angels that descend down to earth on this night that there is no room for any evil
  - v. The word can also mean value
    1. In this context, it means this night carries lots of value due to reasons that will be highlighted later in this surah
  - vi. The word could also mean to limit
    1. In this context, it is in reference to the time limit for this blessed night which is until the emergence of dawn
- c. Some said that this night is an Eid of the Quran because it is its anniversary

### 2. And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree?

- a. Meaning what do you know about the core concepts of this amazing night and how wonderful it is?

- i. In the next few verses, Allah speaks about what makes this night so special

### **3. The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months**

- a. Meaning this one night is better than a whole lifetime because of its power and blessing
- b. It is not just a thousand months but more than that as the verse states

- i. Allah used the number thousand to just give us an idea

### **4. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter**

- a. The “Spirit” here is in reference to the angel Jibraeel
- b. Meaning on the anniversary of this Quran, the Night of Decree, the angels as well as Jibraeel come down to earth on this blessed night
- c. The angels have different tasks and duties to do but on this night they are freed from their duties, by the permission of Allah, and come down to earth
- d. The words “for every matter” means that they come with every kind of command that Allah has decreed for that year

- i. The command could be related to any type of issue (war, peace, health, spiritual, physical, emotional, financial, etc.)

- ii. Some interpret the words to mean that they secure the commands of Allah. Meaning, they make sure that His Decree is executed

- e. The present tense is used to highlight that this is not a one time thing but keeps happening over and over again every year

### **5. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn**

- a. Here we are being told about this powerful night’s time limit
- b. There is no peace like the type of peace that occurs on this night
- c. Some interpreted it to mean that Allah is commanding us here to be at peace on this night until the emergence of dawn due to its immense blessings

- i. Meaning do not get into any conflicts but just be at peace with Allah and those around you

- d. Some said you know it is the Night of Decree because you will feel a type of peace and calm that night that you do not usually feel

- i. Any type of worship you do, you will feel it more that night