

Blessings of Salaat-ul-Tahajjud (Night Prayers)

What the Qur'an and the Hadith say about them

Salaat-ul-Tahajjud is a Mustahab (highly recommended) prayer offered after midnight and before onset of Fajr. The benefits are many, both in this world and in the hereafter. Establishing this prayer is regarded as one of the signs of a Mu'min/ Mu'mina. It was the practice of the Prophet & Imams (p).

Method: It consists of 11 Rakaat, composed of eight (8) Rakaat (four prayers of two Rakaat each) with intention of Salaat-ul-Layl, two Rakaat with intention of Salaat-ul-Shafa', and one Rakaat of Salaat-ul-Witr.

(For details please refer to your prayer book or visit www.islamquery.com)

The Qur'an:

"And during a part of the night, pray an additional prayer beyond what is incumbent on you; maybe your Lord will raise you to a position of great glory [Maqam-e-Mahmud]." (Surah 17, Verse 79)

In Surah Al-Muzzammil, Allah (swt) addresses the Prophet (p) and enjoins upon him nightly prayers as follows:

"Rise to pray in the night, except a little; half of it or lessen it a little; or add to it; and, recite the Qur'an as it ought to be recited." (Surah 73, Verses 2-4)

"Surely rising by night is the firmest way to tread and the best corrective of speech." (Surah 73, Verse 6)

"Surely your Lord knows that you pass in prayer nearly two thirds of the night, and (sometimes) half of it, and (sometimes) a third of it, and (also) a party of those with you..." (Surah 73, Verse 20)

Hadiths from the Prophet (P) and the Imams (AS):

- It is attributed to the Prophet (p) that he said: "The best of you is the one who speaks respectfully and with good words, and feeds the hungry, and when people are sleeping at night, he wakes up to pray."
- The Prophet (p) advised Imam Ali (as) in his Will to safeguard certain things ... then he stated "Salaat-ul-Shab is essential for you..." He repeated this three times.
- Imam Jafar as-Sadiq (as) is quoted to have said: "Three things are cause for honor and pride for a Mu'min, and an adornment in this world and the hereafter. They are listed below:
 - To establish Salaat-ul-Shab (Tahajjud).
 - To not think much of other people's possessions (wealth).
 - To acknowledge the rule and guardianship (Wilayah) of the rightly guided Imam (of the time) from the progeny of Prophet Muhammad (p).

Quran translation by M.H. Shakir

Hadiths adapted from Tafseer-e-Namuna of Ayatullah Makaram Shirazi (Vol. 12, pp. 211-213)

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