

FRIDAY SERMON

12 Rabiul Akhir 1437H / 22 January 2016

QIYAMULAIL (NIGHT PRAYERS)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ، نَافِلَةً لَكَ عَسَى أَنْ يَبْعَثَكَ

رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَحْمُودًا ﴿٧٩﴾ (الإسراء: 79)

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ

وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ

أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِنِّي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدٍ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ

- My respected brothers,
- I call upon myself and the congregation, let us strive to increase our taqwa towards Allah swt. Hopefully, by being faithful we may obtain the blessing and mercy of Allah.

- Allah says in Surah al-Nisaa verse 59:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن
نَنزَعْنَاهُ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ
الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا ﴿٥٩﴾

- Which means:
- **“O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best [way] and best in result.”**

- Dear brothers,
- Qiyamullail is a sunnah practice, that is waking up in one third of the night with the intention to worship Allah swt.

- Qiyamullail is not something new, it has become the practices of the messengers, prophets, righteous and scholars for a long time.

- Referring to verse 79 from surah al-Isra' which was read at the beginning of the sermon that means:

- **And from [part of] the night, pray with it as additional [worship] for you; it is expected that your Lord will resurrect you to a praised station.**

- In the verse, Allah has ordered His servants to wake up and pray to him in the middle of the night, which is qiyamullail, as an additional form of worship.

- Through this command, Rasulullah s.a.w would always perform qiyamullail wholeheartedly as illustrated in a hadith from Saidatina Aisyah r.a which means:

- Rasulullah s.a.w. kept standing in Qiyamullail so long, that the skin of his feet would crack. I asked him:
“Why do you do this, while you have been forgiven of your former and latter sins?” He said, *“Should I not be a grateful slave of Allah?”*
(Mutafaqq ‘Alaih)

- Dear brothers,
- Among the advantages of qiyamullail are:

- First: The doa is granted by Allah. This is based on a hadith narrated by Saidina Jabir that means:

- *"At night there is such a moment in which a Muslim supplicates Allah Ta'ala for the good of this world or the Hereafter, Allah Ta'ala will grant him his request, and this moment occurs every night." (Muslim)*

- Second: An easy path to Jannah. This is referring to a hadith by Saidina Abdullah bin Salam r.a while listening to Rasulullah s.a.w said:

- *“O You People! By giving a lot of Salam, by eating and praying at night while others are asleep, you will be given an easier path to Jannah.” (Narrated by Tirmizi)*

- One has to know the goodness in Qiamulail until he could feel the longing and has high hopes in achieving the rewards for Qiamulail as stated in the Quran and said by Rasulullah s.a.w.

- Hence, that is why a person is willing to wake up at night to grab the opportunity that Allah swt offers.

- The sayings only added more enthusiasm and longing to gain Jannah and to gain the highest respect in Jannah.

- Dear Brothers,
- The hypocrites are not willing to wake up at night to perform Qiamulail.

- While the characteristic of a believer is that he only sleep for a short period and spent the rest of the night asking Allah for forgiveness through words or prayers.

- Allah swt does not only praise those who wake up at night to perform Tahajud and asking for forgiveness, he also praises those who are kind in giving charity to the poor and those who are in need.

- How do we find the strength to wake up at night for Qiamulail?
- Here are a few tips:

- First: Make a resolution and an intention to wake up around one third of the night.

- Second: Pray Isya' in Jamaah.

- Third: Take wudhu' before you sleep and sleep early.

- Forth: Do not eat till you are full before you sleep.

- Among the reasons why one finds it hard to wake up at night is because they eat and drink a lot and it results in excessive sleep.

- There is an argument that they need to eat a lot to create a balance between their diet and hard work.

- Hence, it is hard for them to eat in a smaller portion at night.

- However the sole reason on how to find the strength in waking up for Qiamulail and the noblest reason is “Al-Hubbu lillah” that is the love for Allah swt with a deep faith and belief in His revelations.

- That is why, when a person is in love with Allah swt, he will come to love this situation, “Khalwah” (being alone) with Allah swt.

- The feelings of enjoyment and pleasure by praying to Allah swt needs a longer time in a well-focus Qiamulail.

- This is one of the characteristics which will gain Allah's protection in the Judgement Day later.

- Dear Brothers,
- Let us take a few minutes to sleep ‘Qailullah’ during the day that is before Zuhur prayer with the intention to rest our body and gain the energy to wake up at night.

- This will help us in performing Qiamulail.

- Dear Jamaah,
- As a conclusion, I would like to call upon all of you, let us make an effort to find the Blessings of Allah swt in this world by racing against one another to do good.

- Because our purpose in life is nothing more than to gain Allah swt's blessings and forgiveness. Allah said in Surah Az-Zariyat verse 17 until 19:

كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ ﴿١٧﴾

وَبِالْأَسْحَارِ هُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

وَفِي أَمْوَالِهِمْ حَقٌّ لِّلسَّائِلِ وَالْمَحْرُومِ ﴿١٩﴾

Which means:

They used to sleep but little of the night,

And in the hours before dawn they would ask forgiveness,

And from their properties was

[given] the right

of the [needy] petitioner and the deprived.