



1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SEEKING THE MOST INCREDIBLE NIGHT OF ALL</b>  <b>IN CONJUNCTION WITH LAILATUL-QADR</b>  24 June 2016AD / 19 Ramadhan 1437H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">الحمد لله الذي علم وأنعم، وهدانا بالقرآن للتي هي أقوم،</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ مُبَرَّكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ ﴿٢﴾ فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ  وَرَسُولُهُ،</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ  الدِّينِ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَأَيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ  الْمُتَّقُونَ، وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى، وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ، لَعَلَّكُمْ  تَفْلِحُونَ.</p>
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Let us strive to raise the level of our faith and conviction in Allah SWT, especially more so during this blessed month, by increasing our good deeds and by staying away from all that have been forbidden. Hopefully, while residing for a month in this garden of Ramadhan, we are able to achieve true success in this world and in the hereafter.</p>



8	The title of today's sermon is: " <b>Seeking the Most Incredible Night of All</b> ".
9	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Time passes us by so quickly. Without realizing it, tonight, we will enter the final phase of Ramadan Al-Mubarak for the Hijri year 1437. The last ten nights of Ramadan is a period of time so precious and must be seized by all Muslims in their quest to multiply good deeds, so that they may be closer to Allah SWT. At this moment, we have the opportunity to seek and gain one night with rewards that exceed a thousand months of worship.</p>
10	<p>This incredible night is called <i>Lailatul-Qadr</i> or the Night of Power. Allah says in Surah al-Qadr verse 1 to 5:</p> <p>إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾ نَزَّلَ الْمَلَكُوتُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾</p>
11	<p><b>Which means:</b> "We have indeed revealed this (Message) in the Night of Power: And what will explain to you what the night of power is? The Night of Power is better than a thousand months. Therein come down the angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand: Peace! This until the rise of dawn!"</p>
12	<p>Imam Ibn Kathir recorded in his book of interpretations, the story of Ali ibn 'Urwah who narrated that one day, Rasulullah SAW told the story of four children of Israel named Ayub, Zakaria, Hazqil bin `Ajuz and Yusya` bin Nun, who had served and obeyed Allah SWT for 80 years. They never once disobeyed Allah SWT.</p>
13	<p>The companions of Rasulullah SAW were so impressed. Then came the Archangel Jibril who said: "O, Muhammad, your people were so amazed by those who served and obeyed for eighty (80) years without ever once committing any evil. Therefore, Allah SWT will deliver something better than that. It would be much better than what you and your people were impressed of."</p>



14	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>To successfully acquire <i>Lailatul al-Qadr</i>, we would need to make all the efforts to plan properly. For instance, if a trader knows that his goods would be purchased by a customer at a price one hundred times more than usual, he would surely be well prepared and would not want to miss the opportunity. That is how our reaction should be as we enter the last ten days of Ramadan. The offer of blessings and rewards by Allah SWT is enormous and it is limited only during the holy month of Ramadan.</p>
15	<p>Imam al-Razi, one of the leading interpreters of the Al-Quran, once stated that the wisdom of concealing the exact night of <i>Lailatul al-Qadr</i> is so that Muslims may enhance their acts or worship during the nights for the whole month of Ramadan, rather than choosing certain nights only. In a way, Muslims would earnestly seek <i>Lailatul al-Qadr</i> during every night of Ramadan until eventually he multiplies his worship, and he will receive the rewards of his diligence.</p> <p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Let us start to have the intention and determination to jointly pursue and seek the holiest of nights, by improving ourselves and by consistently practicing the following:</p>
16	<p><b><i>First: Enliven the nights of Ramadan</i></b></p> <p>Sayyidatina Aisyah once told of how Rasulullah SAW, upon entering the last ten days of Ramadan, will enliven and multiply his nightly acts of worship.</p>
17	<p>Imam al-Bukhari recorded what was narrated by Sayyidatina Aisyah R.A, that Rasulullah SAW had said:</p> <p>كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِذَا دَخَلَ الْعَشْرَ أَحْيَا اللَّيْلَ وَأَيْقَظَ أَهْلَهُ وَجَدَّ وَشَدَّ الْمُتَزَّرَةَ. (رواه البخاري)</p>
18	<p><b>Which means:</b> "When it came to the last ten nights of Ramadan, the Prophet SAW rejuvenated the night, woke his wife up and tightened his</p>



	<i>fabric (refrained from intimacy with his wife because of the additional worship and devotion)."</i>
19	Praise be to Allah SWT! Should we not feel embarrassed as normal human beings when we hear that the faultless and impeccable Rasulullah SAW still sought blessings and rewards from Allah SWT at the end of Ramadan? And here we are, making many excuses for not seeking the blessings and rewards of Allah SWT due to our pursuit of various worldly affairs and illusions!
20	<b>Second: Multiply the good deeds.</b> Let us fulfil the final phase of this Ramadan with many more good deeds, such as reading, reciting and appreciating the Al-Quran. Look for opportunities to retreat and take solace in mosques while devoting ourselves to acts of worship and prayers. Spend the last few nights of Ramadan with the obligatory and optional rituals, such as <i>Ishyak</i> prayers, <i>Tarawih</i> and <i>Witr</i> prayers as well as <i>Qiamullail</i> .
21	Provide <i>zakat</i> and contribute generously to the needy. Continue to be repentant and seek forgiveness from Allah SWT for all the sins and evil we have committed, so that we are safe in this world and in the hereafter. Remember, Ramadan is here with countless opportunities for us to collect and increase as much of the blessings and graces of Allah SWT as possible, through wholehearted and unconditional worship.
22	<b>Third: Stay away from vice and meaningless matters.</b> It would be such a waste if the last ten nights of Ramadan this year is spent neglecting the commands of Allah SWT and wallowing in sin. How could a person be rewarded with <i>Lailatul Qadr</i> if he still enjoys the vices of mind and body? Reflect and look at our attitude towards our prayers, our modesty, our social relations, our gadgets, our trust and responsibilities, our hearts and our limbs. Have we been protecting them effectively from vices and evil?
23	Seek <i>Lailatul al-Qadr</i> with utmost sincerity rather than through singing, entertainment, slander and insult. This is not the time for us to jest or to fool



	around, but it is time for us to seek and obtain a victory so priceless.
24	<p>We need to grab this opportunity as advised by Rasulullah SAW, which was narrated by Sayyidatina Aisyah R.A and recorded by Imam al-Bukhari:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">تَحَرَّوْا لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فِي الْوَتْرِ مِنَ الْعَشْرِ الْأَوَّخِرِ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ. (رواه البخاري)</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> "Seek al-Qadr out of the odd-numbered nights in the last ten days of Ramadan."</p>
25	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>In order to obtain <i>Lailatul al-Qadr</i>, we must always be steadfast in obeying the commands of Allah SWT and His Messenger in every step, in order for us not to fall into ruin and loss. Be patient with any kind of test, because Allah SWT would give wisdom, blessings and rewards. Let us remember the challenges at the end of Ramadan, by persistently performing good deeds.</p>
26	<p>Do not do otherwise, by focusing more on visits to supermarkets, while the traders at bazaars are zealously making profits, and housewives so caught up with preparing for the holidays that they sacrifice their fasting because of exhaustion, without realising that Ramadan al-Mubarak is soon leaving us.</p>
27	<p>Therefore, be mindful of how we manage our time during the last ten days of Ramadan. Hopefully, we are not considered as being among those who are deprived, as what was described by Rasulullah SAW in a hadith narrated by Abu Hurairah RA and recorded by al-Darimi:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">كَمْ مِنْ صَائِمٍ لَيْسَ لَهُ مِنْ صِيَامِهِ إِلَّا الظَّمْأُ، وَكَمْ مِنْ قَائِمٍ لَيْسَ لَهُ مِنْ قِيَامِهِ إِلَّا السَّهْرُ. (رواه الدارمي)</p>
28	<p><b>Which means:</b> "How many of those people who fast but do not get anything except hunger and how many of those people who perform the night worship (Qiamullail) but did not get anything except exhaustion?"</p>
29	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p>



	<p>The conclusions that can be derived from the <i>mimbar</i> this Friday are as follows:</p> <p><b>First:</b> The month of Ramadan offers various advantages and opportunities for Muslims to reap benefits from all the good deeds performed.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> Seek the Night of Power, as it is the greatest gift of Allah SWT to His servants, who are truly sincere in seeking His pleasure.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> Emulate Rasulullah SAW, his Companions and the believers who worship continuously, day and night, especially during the last ten nights of Ramadan.</p>
30	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah al-Baqarah, verse 186:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾</p>
31	<p><b>Which means:</b> <i>And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided.</i></p>
32	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِجَمِيعِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.</p>