I'tikaaf MANUAL

"When there comes the month of Ramadan,
The gates of mercy are opened,
The gates of hell of locked,
And the devils are chained." (Bukhari)

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Why Itikaaf - Intro by Allama sahib

Ramadan - Anniversary of the Holy Quran: Ramadan is that blessed month in which the Holy Quran was first revealed to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). In this regard this month celebrates the birthday of the Holy Quran. To render our dues we should recite the Holy Quran as much as possible. During this month, at night the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) use to recite the Holy Quran in its entirety with Angel Gabriel (Jibraeel).

Ramadan's Special relationship with Tahajjud Prayers: Hazrat Abu Hurairah may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him said "A person who gets up at night for Prayer and fulfils all requirements of his faith with an intention of receiving blessing during the Month of Ramadan, is forgiven all his past sins".

Last Ten days of Ramadan: Hazrat Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) narrates that, during the month of Ramadan, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be him) used to develop a new vigour, staying awake all night and also waking members of his family for worship (Sahih Bukhari). During the month of Ramadan worship reaches its peak in the form of I'tikaaf (retirement for Allah's worship).

Ramadan

Q. What is Aitekaf?

A. Staying in a mosque, where Jama'at is said, for devotion and prayers, is called Aitekaf.

Q. Why only staying in the mosque is taken to be 'ibadat.

A. When a man leaves his pleasures, recreations and work and stays in a mosque just for Allah's pleasure, this certainly is an 'ibadat.

Q. Where should a woman do Aitekaf?

A. At a place in her own house where she says her prayers, she should do the Niyyat for Aitekaf and remain there. She must not move from that place to courtyard or to other part of the house, except when the goes to attend the call of nature. If there is no particular place for saying prayers in the house, she should, before beginning the Aitekaf, fix a place for that, and should observe the Aitekaf there.

Q. What are the benefits of Aitekaf?

A. These are: (1) one doing Aitekaf dedicates his whole being and time to the "ibadat of Allah (2) he remains safe from sins and evils of worldly life. (3) he gets the blessing of prayers all the time he is in Aitekaf, because in Aitekaf a person is always eagerly waiting to join prayers and Jama'at. (4) he is like angels who worship and remember Allah all the time. (5) a mosque is Allah's house, so a Mo'takif (one who sits for Aitekaf) is Allah's neighbor, and his guest.

Q. How many types of Aitekaf are there?

A. Three types: Wajib, Sunnat-e-Maukkida and Mustahab.

Q. What Aitekaf is Wajib?

A. Aitekaf-e-Nazr is Wajib, i.e., Aitekaf as a promise for fulfillment of some desire. For example, somebody promises to sit in Aitekaf and says that if a certain work is completed, he would observe Aitekaf of two or three days for Allah.

O. What Aitekaf is Sunnat-e-Maukkida?

A. Aitekaf in the last ten days of Ramadan is Sunnat-e-Maukkida it starts from the evening of the 20th Ramadan after the sunset and ends as soon as the 'Eid moon is seen. The Sunnat will be fulfilled whether the moon is seen on the 29th or 30th. This Aitekaf is Sunnat-e-Maukkida and Kifaya, that is, if a few people do it, the rest are absolved of its responsibility.

Q. What Aitekaf is Mustahab?

A. Except Wajib and Sunnat-e-Maukkida all the rest of Aitekaf are Mustahab. Aitekaf can be done in all the days throughout the year.

Q. What are the conditions for the propriety of Aitekaf?

A. (1) to be a Muslim. (2) to be free of menstruation and Hadath-e-Akbar. (3) to be sans (4) to do Niyyat. (5) to sit for Aitekaf in a mosque where Jama'at is said. These conditions are necessary for all sorts of Aitekaf, but for a'itikaf-e-wajib fasting is also a condition.

The Mustahib at-e-Aitekaf

Q. What things are Mustahab in Aitekaf?

A. (1) to do virtuous and good deeds (2) recitation of the holy Quran. (3) reciting Durood Shareef. (4) reading and teaching of religious books. (5) to give advice and sermons. (6) Aitekaf in Jame'a mosque.

The timings for Aitekaf

Q. What is the minimum period for Aitekaf?

A. It is necessary to keep fast in the a'itikaf-e-wajib, so the least time for it is a day. Thus to vow for Aitekaf of less than a day, for a few hours or for the night, is not right. The time limit for Aitekaf which is Sunnat-e-Maukkida is the last 10 days of Ramadan. For a'itikaf-e-nafil there is no limit. It may last for 5 or 10 minutes, too. If one when entering the mosque makes the Niyyat for Aitekaf each time. It will bring lots of blessings for several Aitekaf each day.

Things which are permitted during Aitekaf

Q. On what grounds a Mo'itakif is allowed to come out of a mosque?

A. (1) for latrine. (2) for Fard bathing. (3) going out for Friday prayers at zawal (when the sun crosses the meridian) or to reach Jame'a mosque at least for such a time in advance that four Rakat of Sunnat can be said before khutba. (3) to come out beyond the area of mosque to say Adhan.

Q. How far one is allowed to go for the call of nature?

A. It is right to go up to his own house at whatever the distance it may be. If one has two houses, it is necessary to do to the nearest one from the place of Aitekaf.

Q. Is it right for Mo'takif to come out for the Janaza prayers?

A. If he did Niyyat at the time of the commencement of Aitekaf that he would go out for Janaza prayers, then it will be allowed, but if he did not do the Niyyat it will not be allowed.

Q. What other things are allowed in Aitekaf?

A. To eat, drink, sleep in the mosque or to buy a thing of necessity if it is not available in the mosque or to marry, is allowed.

The Makruhat and Mufsidat in Aitekaf

Q. What things are Makrooh in Aitekaf?

A. (1) to be absolutely silent and to consider it as an 'ibadat. (2) to buy or sell things brought inside the mosque. (3) to quarrel or talk nonsense.

Q what things make Aitekaf Fasid?

A. (1) coming out of mosque knowingly or unknowingly without an excuse. (2) sexual intercourse during Aitekaf. (3) to go out for certain reason and to stay unnecessarily for a long time, e.g., if one goes for the call of nature but remains at home for some time after answering to the call of nature. (4) coming out of the mosque due to fear or disease. In all these conditions, when it becomes Fasid?

Q. Is qadr of Aitekaf necessary, when it becomes Fasid?

A. The gadr of a itikaf-e-wajib is Wajib but for Sunnat or Nafil there is no gadr Wajib.

NAWAAFIL (NAFIL) SALAAH

Nawaafil Salaah, even though they are not obligatory, help Muslims to praise Almighty Allah and increase Barakah. It also helps us to create a closer bond with our Creator, Almighty Allah. Care should be taken that these Salaah are not performed during the Makrooh times.

Salaatut Tahajjud

Salaatut Tahajjud can be read from Isha till Subha Saadiq (dawn). Four to 12 Rakaah can be read. One may read this Nafil Salaah as a 4 or as a 2 Rakaah Salaah with Salaams after every 2 or 4 Rakaah. This Salaah is read after awakening from sleep.

Salaatul Ishraaq

Salaatul Ishraaq can be read from about 20 minutes after sunrise till the time of Salaatul Chaast. Two or 4 Rakaah of this Salaah can be read.

There is also great Barakah for one who reads this Salaah.

Salaatul Chaast

Salaatul Chaast can be read from the time when the sun has fully risen till the time of Zawaal. About this Salaah, Sayyiduna Rasulullah (sallal laahu alaihi wasallam) has said, "Whosoever reads 12 Rakaah of Salaatul Chaast, Almighty Allah will build for him a place in Jannah." One may read 4 or 12 Rakaah in this Salaah.

Salaatul Awwabeen

It is reported in a Hadith that whosoever reads 6 Rakaah of Salaatul Awwabeen after Maghrib without any talk will get Thawaab equal to 12 years of Ibaadah. Salaatul Awwabeen is read from after Maghrib till Isha. One may read from 2 to 20 Rakaah in this Salaah.

Salaatul Tasbeeh

It is reported that anyone who reads this Salaah will have all his or her sins wiped out. Salaatul Tasbeeh can be read once every day, or every Friday, or once in a month or once in a life time.

HOW TO READ SALAATUL TASBEEH:

- a. Make the intention.
- b. Read the Thana after the Takbeer-e-Tahreema (first Takbeer).
- c. Read the third Kalimah 15 times:
- d. Read Surah Fatiha and any Surah. Then read the third Kalimah 10 times.
- e. Go into Ruku. Read the Tasbeeh of Ruku and read the third Kalimah 10 times.
- f. Stand up for the Qaumah and read the third Kalimah 10 times.
- g. Go into the first Sajdah. After the Tasbeeh of Sajdah read the third Kalimah 10 times.

h. Sit in the Jalsa position after the first Sajdah and read the third Kalimah 10 times. i. Go into the second Sajdah and after the Tasbeeh read the third Kalimah 10 times. Note: This would complete the third Kalimah 75 times in each Rakaah. In this manner, when you have read 4 Rakaah, you would have read the third Kalimah 300 times. It is better to read the Salaatul Tasbeeh before the Fard of Zohar, that is, between the Sunnah and Fard of Zohar. However, if it is not possible, then you may read it at any time.

Salaatul Haajaat

Salaatul Haajaat is a 2 or a 4 Rakaah Salaah which is read if one desires a special favour or help from Almighty Allah. After this Salaah, one should read as much Durood Shareef as possible and beg Almighty Allah for assistance. After the Surah

Fatiha in the first Rakaah, one should read the Ayaatul Kursi 3 times. In the second, third and fourth Rakaah, one should the 3 Quls (Surah Ahad, Surah Falaq and Surah Naas). If one is reading 2 Rakaah, then the 3 Quls should be read in the second Rakaah. One can read any Du'a.

Salaatul Istikhaarah

Salaatul Istikhaarah is read when one needs guidance on what action one needs to take in a certain matter. One should read 2 Rakaah Salaah with the intention of Istikhaarah. After completing the Salaah, one should read the following dua. When one comes to the word "Haazal Amr", one should think about the reason he or she is reading this Salaah. After reading this Salaah, one should go to sleep and await for a sign. There should be no talking after the Du'a. It is better to read this Salaah for 3, 7, 9 or 11 nights. If one sees red or black colour in a dream, then it is a sign that one should not do what one intends. If one sees green or white colour, then it is a good sign for one to carry out ones intentions.

Salaatul Istisqa

Salaatul Istisqa is a Salaah for rain. The people get dressed in their old clothes and offer 2 Rakaah Salaah with Jamaah outside the town.

After the Salaah, the Imaam reads a Khutbah and then makes a Du'a for rain. Thereafter, the Imaam also changes his shawl inside out with the intention that the weather will change for the best.

Salaatul Kusoof and Salaatul Khusoof

Salaatul Kusoof is that Salaah which is read at the time of the eclipse of the sun.

Salaatul Khusoof is read at the time of the eclipse of the moon. In Salaatul Kusoof 2 Rakaah are read. The Imaam reads softly. After the Salaah, a long dua is read lasting till the moment the eclipse is over. In Salaatul Khusoof the 2 Rakaah of Salaah are read individually by each person. Each person reads the Salaah aloud. Thereafter, a Du'a is read.

Tahiyatul Masjid Salaah

This special Salaah consist of 2 Rakaah Sunnah which is read by a person on entering a Masjid. It should be read before one sits in the Masjid.

Tahiyatul Wudu Salaah

These are 2 Rakaah of Salaah which is read by a person after Wudu.

Praying on the 27th Night

Ramadan and Laylatul Qadr (Night of Decree): Hazrat Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) said: O Allah's Prophet, if I know which night is Laylatul Qadr then what should I pray? He replied: 'you should pray: 'O Allah, you are very forgiving and love those who forgive others. So bestow your blessings on me and forgive me" (Jamiah Tirmidhi). Laylatul Qadr is such a night that the Holy Quran has declared it to be better than a thousand months. May Allah (SWT) enable us to be the recipients

of Laylatul Qadr that we truly benefit from the coming month of Ramadan. May Allah (SWT) accept our prayers. Ameen

One who offers four raka'at Namaz in this night and in each raka'at he /she recites Surah Fatiha and Surah Qadr once each and Surah Ikhlas 27 times, his/her all earlier sins are pardoned and he becomes like a child who is born the same day. Allah will also give him a thousand palaces in the paradise.

According to another narration, one who offers four rak'at Namaz on the 27th night of the month of Ramadan and in each raka'at he/she recites after Surah Fatiha, Surah Qadr three times and Surah Ikhlas fifty times and after Salaam again goes in Sajda (Prostration) and recites

"Subhaan Allahe Walhamdolillahe Walahelaha illallaho Wallahoakbar"

and then whatever Dua he/she makes that will be granted and the Almighty will pardon his/her sins and give him/her countless rewards. (Ghunyatul Talibeen)

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DUAS for last 10 days of Ramadan

آللْهُ مَّ اجْعَلُ صِيَاحِى فِيهُ صِيَامَ الصَّآئِمِ مِنْ وَقِيَا فِي فِيهِ قِيَا مِي فِيهِ قِيَامِ فِيهِ فِيه قِيَامَ الْقَائِمِينُ وَنَبِّهُ خِي فِيهِ عَنْ نَوْمَ فِي الْخَافِلُ أَنْ وَهَبُ لِي الْمُعُرِينُ وَاعْفُ عَنِي يَاعَافِيًا عَنِ الْمُعُرِينُ وَاعْفُ عَنِي مَا اللهِ الْمَاكِمِينَ وَاعْفُ عَنِي يَاعَافِيًا عَنِ الْمُعُرِينُ وَاعْفُ عَنِي اللهُ الْمَاكِمِينُ وَاعْفُ عَنْ عَنِي اللهِ الْمَاكِمِينُ وَاعْفُ عَنِي اللّهُ اللّهِ اللّهُ الْمُعْلِينَ وَاعْفُ عَنِي اللّهُ اللّهِ اللّهُ اللّ

Allah, on this day make my fasts the fasts of those who fast (sincerely), and my standing up in prayer of those who stand up in prayer (obediently), awaken me in it from the sleep of the heedless, and forgive me my sins, O God of the worlds, and forgive me, O one who forgives the sinners.

Allah, on this day, take me closer towards Your pleasure, keep me away from Your anger and punishment, grant me the opportunity to recite Your verses (of the Qur'an), by Your mercy, O the most Merciful.

Allah, on this day, grant me wisdom and awareness, keep me away from foolishness and pretention, grant me a share in every blessing You send down, by Your generosity, O the most Generous.

Allah, on this day, strengthen me in carrying out Your commands, let me taste the sweetness of Your remembrance, grant me, through Your graciousness, that I give thanks to You. Protect me, with Your protection and cover, O the most discerning of those who see

LAYLA-TUL-QADR - THE NIGHT OF POWER

In this night, the Holy Qur'aan was sent down from Lawhe Mahfuz (the Preserved Tablet) to the sky of the earth. The place where the Qur'aan was sent down is known as Baitul Izzat.

According to traditions, we are asked to search for this night among the 21st, 23rd,

25th, 27th and 29th night.

Angel Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) comes down to the earth at sunset and remains here till the first rays of the sun hit the earth the next morning, and he showers mercy and peace on those who are bust worshipping.

According to one tradition, more angels come to earth than there are tiny stones and pebbles on the earth, and pray for the ummat's peace.

The significance of this night is that it is neither too cold nor too hot. In this night the worshippers have a feeling of immense satisfaction. And in case anyone feels shivering and tears roll down hie eyes, then that means that angel Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) has shaken hands with him.

Saints and pious person have studied the Holy Qur'aan and have raised curtain from many mysteries. One such mystery whish is explained to us is about Lailatul Qadr. In Sura Qadr, the word Lailatul Qadr comes thrice. The first aaya, In-na-an-zal-naa-hu fi lai-la-til qad-ri; the second aayat wa-maa ad-raa-ka maa lai-la-tul qadr; and the third aayat, lai-li-tul qad-ri khai-rum-min al-fi shahr. In Arabic languages Lailatul Qadr or Lailatul Qadri is composed of nine letter. These nine letters come thrice, its tital comes to twenty seven. Some saints have said that in Sura Qadr, the word 'hiya' (this) is the 27th word. All these facts lead us to the conclusion that lailatul Qadr is the 27th night.

It is necessary that one should spend the whole night, right from sunset to sunrise the next morning, in worshipping Allah. Eating and drinking are the necessities of human beings. So, if these necessities are begun with 'Bis-mil-lah' and as one finishes if one utters 'Al-ham-du-lil-laa-hi rab-bil aa-la-ameen', then we hope that by the Grace of Almighty Allah, that eating and drinking will be considered as worhip. We are writing this so that even that much time is not lost of this most blessed night.

Dear readers, please take the benefit of this night from sunset till sunrise of-er nawafil, recite Qur'aan, say istagfaar, repent and pray for pardon, recite many many Darood Sharif and say du'aas. A special du'aa of Lailatul Qadr is: AL-LAA-HUM-MA IN-NA-KA A-FUV-VUN TO-HIB-BUL AF-VA-FA A-FU-AN-NAA, Meaning: "O Allah! Your are the Forgiver and You like forgiving so forgive me".

Allah's Messenger (Blessings of Allah and peace be on him) said that Shab-e-Qadr is to be searched in the last ten days of Ramzan. Out of 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th night, one is Shab-e-Qadr.

We are presenting voluntary prayers to be offered in these night. 21ST NIGHT offer four rak'at with two salaams (2sets of 2 ra'akat each). In each raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du'recite 'Sura Qadr' once and 'Sura Ikhlas' (Qul-hu-wal-lah) once. After completion recite Darood Sharif seventy (70) times.

Offer two raka'ats and in each raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du' recite 'Sura Qadr' once and 'Sura Ikhlas' thre times. After completion of namaaz, recite Istagfaar seventy times.

In this night (21st), recite 'Sura Qadr' twenty-one times.

23RD NIGHT Offer four raka'ats with two salaams (2 sets of 2 ra'akat each). In each raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du'recite 'SuraQadr' once and 'Sura Ikhlas' three times.

Offer eight raka'ats with four salaams (2 sets of 2 ra'akat each). In each raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du' recite 'Sura Qadr' and 'Sura Ikhlas' After completion of namaaz, recite the third kalima Tamjeed seventy times. After that plead to the Almighty Allah for forgiveness of sins committed. Allah Willing, he/she will be forgiven by Allah.

In the 23rd night recite 'Sura Yaaseen' once and 'Sura Rahmaan' once.

25TH NIGHT In this night offer four raka'ats namaaz with two salaams (2 sets of raka'at each). After 'Al-ham-du' recite 'Sura Ikhlas' five times in each raka'at. After completion of namaaz recite Kalima-e-Tayyab (the first Kalima) 100 times.

Offer four raka'ats with two salaams (2 sets of 2 raka'at each). In each raka'at, after 'Alham-du' recite 'Sura Qadr' three times and 'Sura Ikhlas' three times and after completion of namaaz, recite Istagfaar seventy times. This namaaz is good for the pardoning of sins.

Offer two raka'at namaaz. In each raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du' recite 'Sura Qadr' once and 'Sura Ikhlas'fifteen times. After namaaz, recite the second Kalima, Kalima-e-Shahaadat seventy times. The reward of this namaaz is freedom from the punishment of the grave.

Recite 'Sura Dukhan'. Allah Willing he/she will be granted freedom from the punishment of grave.

27TH NIGHT In the 27th night offer twelve raka'ats with three salaams (3 set of 4 raka'at each). In each raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du' recite 'Sura Qadr' once and 'Sura Ikhlas' fifteen times. After namaaz recite Istagfar seventy times.

Offer two raka'at. In each raka'at, after 'Sura Fatiha (Al-ham-du)' recite 'Sura Qadr' three times and 'Sura Ikhlas' twenty-seven times, and plead to Allah for the forgiveness of one's sins. Allah willing, the Almighty Allah will forgive all his/her previous sins.

Offer four raka'ats with two salaams (2 sets of 2 ra'akat each). In each raka'at, after 'Alham-du' racite 'Sura Takaasur' once and 'Sura Ikhlas' three times. The one who offers this namaaz, he will be saved from hardship at the time of death. And Alllah Willing, he/she will be freed from the punishment of the grave.

Offer two raka'at, In each raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du' recite 'Sura Ikhlas' seven times and after namaaz recite this seventy times: AS-TAG-FI-RUL-LAA-HAL A-ZAA-MAL-LA-ZEE LAA I-LAA-HA IL-LAA HU-WAL HAIY-YUL QAY -YOO-MU WA A-TOO-BU I-LAIH Before the person gets up from the prayer-mat, the Almighty Allah will pardon him/her and his/her parents. And the Almighty Allah will pardon him/her and his/her parents. And the Almighty Allah will Command the angels to adorn the Paradise for him/her and it is said that unless he/she sees the ne'mats of Paradise from his/her own eyes, he/she will not meet with death.

Offer two raka'at. In each raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du' recite 'Sura A-lam nash-rah' once, 'Sura Ikhlas' three times and after namaaz, recite 'Sura Qadr' 27 times.

Offer four raka'ats (1 set of 4 raka'at). In each raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du' recite 'Sura Qadr' three times and 'Sura Ikhlas' fifty times and after completion of namaaz, recite this is prostration (sajda): SUB-HAA-NAL-LAA-HI WAL HAM-DU LIL-LAA-HI WA-LAA I-LAA-HA IL-LAL-LAA-HU WAL-LAA-HU AK-BAR After that whatever wish one may have, either worldly or religious, may be pleased. Allah Willing, his/her supplication will be fulfilled.

In this night, recite 'Sura Mulk' 7 times. It is good for freeing from punishment.

29TH NIGHT Offer four raka'at with two salaams (2 sets of 2 raka'at each). In every raka'at, after 'Al-ham-du' recite 'Sura Qadr' once and 'Sura Ikhlas' three times. After namaaz, recite 'Sura A-lam nash-rah' seventy times.

Offer four raka'ats with two salaams (2 sets of 2 raka'at each). In each raka'at, after 'Alham-du', recite 'Sura Ikhlas' five times. After namaaz, recite Darood Sharif one hundred

times.

Recite 'Sura Waaqiaa' seven times.

In any night of Ramzan, after taraavih recite 'Sura Qadr' seven times. Allah Willing, the one who does so, will be saved from all troubles.

NAWAFIL NAMAAZ OF LAST FRIDAY OF RAMZAN

On the last Friday of Ramzan, after Jume or Zuhr namaaz, offer two raka'at, in the first raka'at, after 'Sura fatiha' recite 'Sura Zilzal' once and 'Sura Ikhlas' ten times and in the second raka'at, after 'Sura Fatiha' recite 'Sura Kaafiron' three times and after completion of namaaz recite Darood Sharif ten times. Then offer two raka'at. In the first raka'at, after 'Sura Fatiha' recite 'Sura Takaasur' once and 'Sura Ikhlas' ten times and in the second raka'at after 'Sura Fatiha' recite ' Aayatul Kursi' three times and 'Sura Ikhlas' twenty-five times and after completion of namaaz recite Darood Sharif ten times.

Almighty Allah will grant unlimited virtues till the Day of Judgement to the one who offers this namaaz.