

# Special Advice for Special Occasions

by Shaykh Muhammad  
Saleem Dhorat  
*hafizahullah*

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On special occasions like Laylatul-Qadr and the 15th of Sha'bān or the Day of Arafah, we feel a greater inclination to turn to Allah ﷻ. Attendance at the masājid increases and everyone tends to engage more in worship and the remembrance of Allah ﷻ. As well as engaging in salāh, dhikr, tilāwah etc. we must not forget that such occasions are also, through Allah's ﷻ Mercy, golden opportunities for us to reconcile with our Creator and start a fresh chapter in our lives.

Actually, for these occasions to be really beneficial for us, we must reconcile with Allah ﷻ. This means we must repent from all the sins that have become part of our lives, be they failure to perform the five daily salāh; casting evil glances at non-mahrams; gambling and playing the National Lottery; watching films; swearing; backbiting; slander; jealousy; malice; oppression; allowing months to pass without speaking to one another; or any other major or minor sin we are involved in. We must resolve that come what may, Allah's ﷻ Commands will not be broken.

We then need to beg Allah ﷻ for His help and make an effort to live up to our resolution. Our aim should be that whatever it takes, we want Allah ﷻ to be pleased with us and remain pleased till we breathe our last. We also want to acquire Jannah and be saved

from Jahannam.

The personal resolution to live our lives in accordance with Allah's ﷻ Will and to avoid disobeying Him in any way is essential in making up with Allah ﷻ, and it brings with it great barakah, success and progress. In fact, it is so significant that it can make even an ordinary day special. If on a normal day - not Jumu'ah or Laylatul-Qadr or the day of Arafah, just an ordinary day - somebody standing in a nightclub suddenly feels regret over his/her sins and turns to Allah ﷻ in repentance, making a firm resolution never to commit sins again and to start a good life, that time and place becomes very blessed and special for that person. This is because that time and that place witnessed a servant of Allah ﷻ reconcile with Him.

If, on the other hand, someone is standing in Makkah Mukarramah, on Laylatul-Qadr, knowing that he/she has a habit of committing adultery/fornication, yet that person does not repent from it and retains the intention of getting involved in it again on returning home, then neither that place nor that night holds any blessedness for that person. In fact, that place and time may become grounds for punishment: Allah ﷻ had put the blessed thought of repenting from adultery/fornication into the heart of His servant, in Makkah, on Laylatul-Qadr, yet despite the blessedness of the place and time, the unfortunate person did not repent.

To stress once more: the personal decision is vital if

we want and expect real results. Take the example of a man who resolves to marry a particular woman, but either she refuses to marry him or her parents object to the union. Because he has resolved, he will prostrate before Allah ﷻ and beg earnestly for success in his efforts to get married. If on the other hand, he has no desire to marry the woman then despite her wanting to marry him, and her parents also encouraging him to marry her, he will not pray to Allah ﷻ for the marriage to take place. Only when someone makes a firm resolution to do something will he take pains to try and get Allah ﷻ to fulfil his objective.

Therefore, the person who is serious in becoming the friend of Allah ﷻ and acquiring Jannah will, during such blessed moments of opportunity, prostrate before Allah ﷻ and earnestly beg Him for forgiveness and firmly resolve not to disobey Him in the future.

Inshā'allah, if we follow this advice then not only will the special occasions be very blessed for us, but our whole lives will be filled with barakah, as will the time of our passing away from this world.

May Allah ﷻ honour us with His Grace and include us amongst His Beloved Ones. Āmīn.

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at-tazkiyah

PO Box 8211  
Leicester • LE5 9AS • UK  
e-mail: admin@at-tazkiyah.com  
www.at-tazkiyah.com

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