

The last ten nights

Aisha (RA) said the Prophet (peace be upon him) tightened his waist-belt in the last ten of Ramadan. What that means, and what to do with these nights.

CENTREPIECE Sahih al-Bukhari 2024, Surah al-Qadr 97:3

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. He tightened his waist-belt

Aisha (RA) reported: 'When the last ten of Ramadan began, the Prophet (peace be upon him) tightened his waist-belt, stayed up the night in prayer, and woke his family' (Bukhari 2024). The waist-belt is a phrase for setting aside other preoccupations to focus on worship.

2. Laylat al-Qadr

Better than a thousand months. It falls on an odd night in the last ten, the 27th has the strongest support in the narrations, but the Prophet (peace be upon him) told us to seek it across all odd nights (Bukhari 2017).

3. The dua of the night

Aisha (RA) asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) what to say if she found the night. He said: Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun tuhibbu al-'afwa fa'fu 'anni, O Allah, You are the One who pardons, You love to pardon, so pardon me (Tirmidhi 3513, sahih).

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to the last ten nights.

Suggested closing: Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun karim, tuhibbu al-'afwa fa'fu 'anni.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

Prepared by Sumit Sharma for Barakah Life. Updated 2026-09-03.