

## Sixteenth Rule

# VIGIL AND ALERTNESS

By vigil, we mean to remain awake in the midst of nights and pray to our Lord for deliverance and forgiveness. Indeed, one of the most efficient and productive ways to reach The Almighty and gain His attention is by keeping vigil during the nights. This is what we learn from our Infallible (AS) and The Prophet (S). Denouncing the sleeping at dawn and praising the keeping awake at that time, Allah (SWT) says,

They used to sleep only a little, while at night and at dawn used to seek forgiveness.

**(Qur'an - Chapter 51, verse 18)**

By vigil, we also mean to guard our actions from The Accursed Shaytan and never let him destroy the actions we are blessed to commit and wish their acceptance. The advice is to recite supplications for an hour every night; even if we are not in the right mood for it, do not give up seclusion with God.

The Aimmah (AS) have said,

There are amazing blessings in waking up at dawn and the last one third of the night. Whatever you want from God can be obtained through begging at dawns. Do not be negligent of begging at dawns; whatever blessings you achieve can be gained by that. A lover hardly goes to sleep and yearns nothing but union with The Beloved. Dawn is the time of meeting and union with Him.

In many verses of The Qur'an, Allah enjoins the rising by the night for glorification and worship of Allah. He says:

In addition, in the night, give Him glory too, and at the setting of the stars.

**(Qur'an – Chapter 52, Verse 49)**

Moreover, during part of the night adore Him, and give glory to Him (for a) long (part of the) night.

**(Qur'an – Chapter 76, Verse 26)**

They used to sleep but little in the night. In addition, in the early part of the morning they asked forgiveness.

**(Qur'an – Chapter 51, Verse 16-17)**

Their sides draw away from (their) beds, they call upon their Lord in fear and in hope, and they spend (benevolently) out of what We have given them So no soul knows what is hidden for them of that which will refresh the eyes, a reward for what they did.

**(Qur'an – Chapter 32, Verse 16-17)**

The reward for those who rise by night to glorify Allah cannot be described. As The Prophet (S) has said,

There is no good deed except that its reward has been outlined in The Qur'an, except Salat-ul-Layl. Almighty Allah has not specified its reward due to its greatness with Him.

In addition, during a part of the night, pray Tahajjud beyond what is incumbent on you; maybe your Lord will raise you to a position of great glory.

**(Qur'an – Chapter 17, Verse 79)**

In this verse, Almighty Allah describes the extraordinary spiritual effects of reciting Salat-ul-Layl. It raises the human being to *Maqame Mahmood*, a position of glory and praise. It is an elevated position with Allah, one that few people can attain. Salat-ul-Layl is thus one of the most effective ways of achieving closeness to Allah.

Surely, the rising by night is the firmest way to tread and the best corrective of speech.

**(Qur'an – Chapter 73, Verse 6)**

H & T Kassamali report 14 traditions (from The Infallible (AS) in favor of Salat-ul-Layl.

1. Three things bring happiness to the heart of a believer:
  - a) Meeting brethren in faith
  - b) Breaking the fast
  - c) Waking up in the later part of the night for Salat-ul-Layl
2. Jibraeel continued to advise me about staying up at night until I thought that the virtuous ones of my Ummah do not sleep.
3. The honor and greatness of a believer lies in his praying at night.
4. I detest that a man who has recited The Qur'an, wakes up at night but does not rise until the morning when he wakes up for Salaat of Subh.
5. Allah says; Wealth and children are an ornament of the life of this world. (Qur'an – Chapter 18, Verse 46), but the eight units recited by a servant at the end of the night are an ornament of The Hereafter.
6. Two units of prayer recited in the darkness of the night are more beloved to me than the world and all that is in it.
7. The rising by night is healthy for the bodies.

8. Salat-ul-Layl brightens the faces, makes the night pleasant, and attracts sustenance.

9. When the servant of Allah turns to his Lord in the middle of the dark night, and whispers to Him, Allah establishes His light in his heart . . . then He tells The Angels: O my Angels, look at my servant. He has turned to Me in the middle of the dark night while the false ones are playing, and the heedless ones are sleeping; bear witness that I have forgiven him.

10. Whoever has been granted the chance to recite Salat-ul-Layl, a male servant or a female one, and he (or she) rises for Allah sincerely, does proper wudhu , prays for Allah with a true intention, a sound heart, a humble body and a tearful eye, Allah will place behind him nine rows of Angels. The number of Angels in each row cannot be counted except by Allah. One side of each row is in the East, and the other is in the West. Then when he completes his prayer, he gets the reward of all of The Angels in the rows.

11. There is no good deed except that its reward has been outlined in The Qur'an, except the Salat-ul-Layl. Almighty Allah has not specified its reward due to its greatness with Him. He says (about the reward of those who recite Salat-ul-Layl): So no soul knows what is hidden for them of that which will refresh the eyes, a reward for what they did. (Qur'an – Chapter 32, Verse 17)

12. A man came to Imam Ali (AS) and said, I have been denied the chance to recite Salat-ul-Layl. The Imam replied that your sins have prevented you.

13. Whoever tells himself he will wake up for Salat-ul-Layl but sleeps through the time, his sleep will be charity and the reward of what he intended will be written for him.

14. Do not disregard the reciting of Salat-ul-Layl, for the one who is denied Salat-ul-Layl is in a great loss.