

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: SŪRAT *Al-Qadr*, 97.

It is probably Makkan, though some hold that it was revealed in Madinah.

The subject-matter is the Night of Power (or Honour), in which Revelation came down to the Prophet for the first time through Angel Gabriel.

*Al-Qadr, or The Night of Power
(or Honour).*

*In the name of Allah, Most Gracious,
Most Merciful.*

1. We have indeed revealed
This (Message)
In the Night of Power:⁶²¹⁷
2. And what will explain
To thee what the Night
Of Power is?
3. The Night of Power
Is better than
A thousand Months.⁶²¹⁸
4. Therein come down
The angels and the Spirit⁶²¹⁹
By Allah's permission,
On every errand:
5. Peace!...This
Until the rise of Morn!⁶²²⁰

سُورَةُ الْقَدْرِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾

نَزَلَ الْمَلَكُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ

مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾

سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾

6217. Cf. xlv. 3 and n. 4690. The 23rd, 25th or 27th night of Ramadhān, as well as other nights, have been suggested as the Night of Power. See, however, the Introduction to this Sūra. It is best to take this in conjunction with verse 3 below, which says that the Night of Power is better than a thousand Months. It transcends Time: for it is Allah's Power dispelling the Darkness of Ignorance, by his Revelation, in every kind of affair.

6218. "A thousand" must be taken in an indefinite sense; as denoting a very long period of time. Cf. notes 3632 and 3634 to xxxii. 4-5, and n. 5678 to lxx. 4. This does not refer to our ideas of time, but to "timeless Time". One moment of enlightenment under Allah's Light is better than thousands of months or years of animal life, and such a moment converts the night of darkness into a period of spiritual glory.

6219. *The Spirit*: usually understood to be the angel Gabriel.

6220. When the Night of spiritual darkness is dissipated by the glory of Allah, a wonderful Peace and a sense of Security arise in the soul. And this lasts on until this life closes, and the glorious Day of the new world dawns, when everything will be on a different plane, and the chequered nights and days of this world will be even less than a dream.