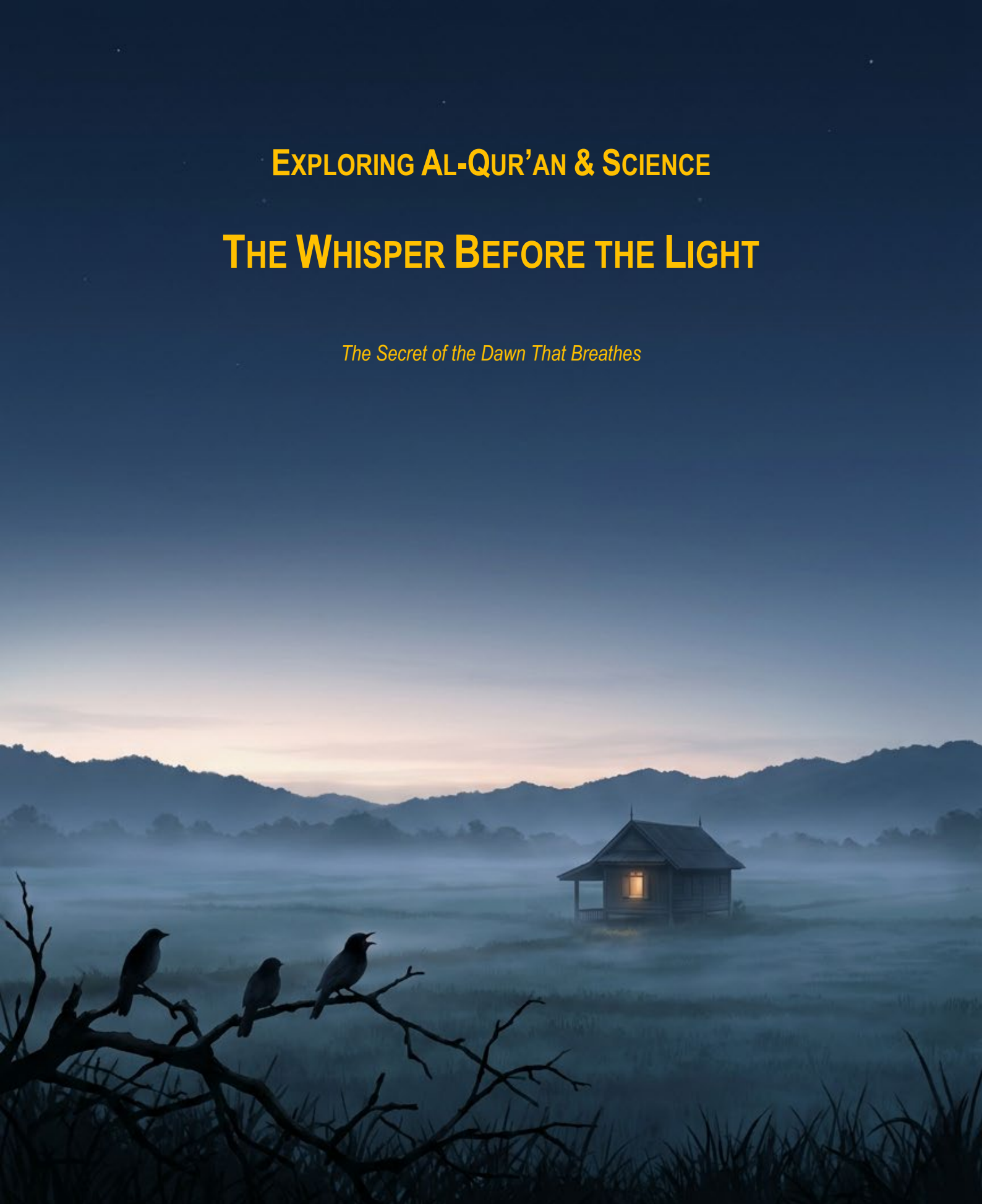
Exploring Al-Qur'an & Science

The Whisper Before the Light

The Secret of the Dawn That Breathes



Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron
AK (Kelantan)
quranscience.my

© 2026 M / 1448 H Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron AK (Kelantan) • quranscience.my • @QuranScienceMY
This eBook is FREE for the Muslim Ummah — not for sale.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

EXPLORING AL-QUR'AN & SCIENCE

THE WHISPER BEFORE THE LIGHT

The Secret of the Dawn That Breathes

وَٱلصُّبْحِ إِذَا تَنَفَّسَ

"And by the dawn when it breathes."

SURAH AT-TAKWIR 81:18

HJ CHE ALIM HJ CHE HARON

quranscience.my | @QuranScienceMY

© 2026 M / 1448 H quranscience.my — Free eBook. Not for sale.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praise belongs to Allah, the Lord who cleaves the daybreak, who made the night for rest and the dawn the beginning of the day. He descends to the lowest heaven in the last third of the night, calling His servants who supplicate, ask and seek forgiveness. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who prayed for blessing upon his community in their early mornings, and upon his family and Companions.

This eBook is dedicated especially to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

Whenever we wake in the small hours and see the eastern sky begin to pale, may we remember His words: ***"And by the dawn when it breathes"*** (81:18) — and may this eBook become *'ilmun yuntafa'u bih*, knowledge that is benefited from.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook shows ***the moments just before dawn*** in a Malay village. The sky at the top is still ***deep night-blue*** with a few faint stars, while on the eastern horizon, behind a line of hills, a ***very soft band of pale light*** appears — the sign of the true dawn, before the sun rises.

Morning mist covers ***the paddy fields***. In their midst stands ***a small wooden surau*** with a ***warm lamp*** glowing in its window — as if a servant of Allah is seeking forgiveness in the hours before dawn. In the foreground, ***a few birds*** perch on a bare branch, and one of them ***opens its beak to begin singing***. The image symbolises the theme of this eBook: ***the whisper of supplication, forgiveness-seeking and glorification before the light of morning appears***.

Note: This image is ***a symbolic illustration*** only. ***Two gold lines*** at the bottom frame the author's name.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

CONTENTS

THE WHISPER BEFORE THE LIGHT — *Introduction*

1. THE DAWN THAT BREATHES — *At-Takwir 81:15–18*

2. BY THE DAWN — *Al-Fajr 89:1–4, Al-Muddaththir 74:33–34, Al-An'am 6:96 and Al-Falaq 113:1*

3. THE WHITE THREAD AND THE BLACK THREAD — *Al-Baqarah 2:187*

4. WHISPERS BEFORE DAWN — *Ali 'Imran 3:17, Adh-Dhariyat 51:17–18, Al-Isra' 17:78–79 and An-Nur 24:41*

5. EVIDENCE FROM THE HADITH — *Nine Hadith on the last third of the night, the dawn and the morning*

6. WHAT MODERN SCIENCE SAYS — *Astronomical twilight, the Subuh time, the false dawn, the dawn chorus and the body clock*

7. BETWEEN HARMONY AND CAUTION — *An I'jaz Ilmi Analysis*

8. THE WHISPER IN DAILY LIFE: PRACTICE AND GUIDANCE

9. LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFERENCES

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

Colour guide: green box = verse of Al-Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; blue box = scientific finding; blue table = comparison. Narrator names underlined in blue can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

THE WHISPER BEFORE THE LIGHT

There is a time in every day that often escapes our attention. The night has not quite gone, yet the day has not yet arrived. The stars fade one by one. On the eastern horizon a ***very soft band of light*** appears, barely visible. The village is still silent — all that can be heard is the ***whisper*** of the wind, the first crow of a rooster, and the birdsong slowly beginning. That is the time of ***dawn*** (*fajr*).

The Qur'an swears by this time in a deeply poetic expression: ***"And by the dawn when it breathes"*** (*was-subhi iżā tanaffas*, 81:18). Allah also swears ***"By the dawn"*** (89:1), mentions the ***white thread*** becoming distinct from the ***black thread*** (2:187), and praises those who ***seek forgiveness before dawn*** (3:17; 51:18). The Messenger of Allah ﷺ informed us that Allah ***descends to the lowest heaven*** in the last third of the night, calling His servants.

Modern science explains that before sunrise the sky passes through ***three stages of twilight***, and astronomers in Malaysia set the Subuh time when the sun is ***18 degrees below the horizon***. Birds begin their ***"dawn chorus"***, and the human body prepares to wake. This eBook explores the verses, authentic Hadith and scientific findings about the time of dawn — honestly, distinguishing firm harmony from forced claims.

DAWN IN NUMBERS

Before exploring the verses of the Qur'an, here are some brief facts that will be explained in this eBook, with their sources:

FACT	FIGURE AND SOURCE
Criterion for the start of Subuh in Malaysia	The sun ***18° below the horizon*** — decided by the 116th MKI Muzakarah (21 November 2019), replacing 20° (Kedah State Mufti Department).
Effect of the change from 20° to 18°	Subuh and Imsak become ***about 8 minutes later*** (Kedah State Mufti Department).
Three stages of morning twilight	Astronomical (−18°), nautical (−12°) and civil (−6°) (US National Weather Service).
Time from Subuh to sunrise in Pasir Mas (20 March)	About ***69 minutes*** (author's calculation, Figure 2).
The same time span in London (20 March)	About ***113 minutes*** — dawn lasts longer far from the equator (author's calculation).
Rise in cortisol after waking	***50% to 156%*** in the first 30–45 minutes (Stalder et al., 2025).

Note: The translation of the Qur'anic verses in this eBook is that of Sahih International. The grade of each Hadith is stated in the Hadith box, with a link to sunnah.com. Every scientific finding is accompanied by a link to its original source. Times calculated by the author are estimates; please refer to the official prayer timetable for worship.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

THE DAWN THAT BREATHES

This chapter discusses the core verse of this eBook, Surah At-Takwir 81:18, together with the oaths that precede it.

SURAH AT-TAKWIR 81:15–18

فَلَآ أُقۡسِمُ بِٱلۡخُنَّسِ ١٥

So I swear by the retreating stars.

ٱلۡجَوَارِ ٱلۡكُنَّسِ ١٦

Those that run [their courses] and disappear.

وَٱلَّيۡلِ إِذَا عَسۡعَسَ ١٧

And by the night as it closes in.

وَٱلصُّبۡحِ إِذَا تَنَفَّسَ ١٨

And by the dawn when it breathes.

Translation: Sahih International — 81:15-18

FOUR OATHS ABOUT THE NIGHT SKY AND THE MORNING

In these verses Allah swears by four things: ***the stars that hide*** (*al-khunnas*), ***those that run their courses and then set*** (*al-jawār al-kunnas*), ***the night when it //'as'as//***, and ***the dawn when it //tanaffas//***. All four depict ***the transition from night to morning***: stars vanishing from sight, the night retreating, and the morning arriving.

COMMENTARY ON 81:17 — THE NIGHT AS IT DEPARTS

The Arabic word ***//'as'as//*** carries two opposite meanings: ***to approach*** and ***to depart***. Ibn Kathir reports both interpretations of the early scholars: some explained it as ***the night when it approaches*** with its darkness, and others as ***the night when it retreats***. Ibn Kathir favours the meaning of ***retreating***, because the next verse mentions ***the dawn when it breathes*** — the morning that replaces the departing night. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 81:17

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

COMMENTARY ON 81:18 — THE DAWN WHEN IT BREATHES

Sahih International renders the verse: ***"And by the dawn when it breathes."*** (The Malay translation of Abdullah Muhammad Basmeih renders it more freely as "the day when it begins to brighten".) Literally, *tanaffas* means ***to breathe***. Ibn Kathir reports that al-Dahhak explained it as ***when it rises***, Qatadah as ***when it brightens and advances***, and Ibn Jarir as ***its light when it appears***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 81:18

Scholars of language and rhetoric note that this expression is a beautiful ***isti'ārah*** (metaphor): the morning is pictured like a living being ***taking its first breath*** after being "held" by the darkness of the night. The light of dawn does not come all at once; it ***spreads gradually***, like a breath being exhaled — at first delicate, then ever wider.

WHY DOES ALLAH SWEAR BY THIS TIME?

When Allah swears by something, it shows ***the honour and importance*** of that thing. The oaths in 81:15–18 are followed by their answer: ***"Indeed, the Qur'an is a word [conveyed by] a noble messenger (Jibril)"*** (81:19). It is as though Allah says: just as dawn is certain to come after night, so ***the light of revelation*** comes to remove the darkness of ignorance.

REFLECTION — THE FIRST BREATH OF EVERY DAY

Every morning, as the dawn "breathes", we too ***breathe anew*** after sleep, which is likened to a minor death. The supplication on waking taught by the Messenger of Allah ﷺ says: ***"All praise belongs to Allah who gave us life after causing us to die, and to Him is the resurrection"*** (Sahih al-Bukhari 6312). Our first breath each day should be ***a breath of gratitude***. Sahih al-Bukhari 6312

Think of how many people did not wake this morning, and how many woke in pain or fear. To open one's eyes in safety and see the eastern sky slowly paling is itself a gift that deserves a moment of thanks before the rush of the day begins.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

BY THE DAWN

The time of dawn is mentioned in several surahs, with different names and images.

SURAH AL-FAJR 89:1–4

وَٱلۡفَجۡرِ ١

By the dawn.

وَلَيَالٍ عَشۡرٍ ٢

And [by] ten nights.

وَٱلشَّفۡعِ وَٱلۡوَتۡرِ ٣

And [by] the even [number] and the odd.

وَٱلَّيۡلِ إِذَا يَسۡرِ ٤

And [by] the night when it passes.

Translation: Sahih International — 89:1-4

COMMENTARY ON 89:1–4

Surah Al-Fajr opens with the oath ***"By the dawn"***. Ibn Kathir states that it means ***the well-known dawn***, i.e. the time of Subuh; some early scholars explained it as ***the dawn of the Day of Sacrifice*** or ***the Subuh prayer***. Verse 89:4 swears by ***the night when it passes*** (*iżā yasr*). Once again, the oath about dawn is accompanied by an image of ***the night departing***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 89:1

SURAH AL-MUDDATHTHIR 74:33–34

وَٱلَّيۡلِ إِذۡ أَدۡبَرَ ٣٣

And [by] the night when it departs.

وَٱلصُّبۡحِ إِذَآ أَسۡفَرَ ٣٤

And [by] the morning when it brightens.

Translation: Sahih International — 74:33-34

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

COMMENTARY ON 74:33–34 — THE MORNING WHEN IT BRIGHTENS

Here Allah swears by ***the night when it departs*** (*iż adbar*) and ***the morning when it brightens*** (*iżā asfar*). If 81:18 depicts ***the beginning*** of dawn (breathing), 74:34 depicts ***its fullness*** (shining bright). Together these verses paint ***the whole journey of the morning light***.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

SURAH AL-AN'AM 6:96

فَالِقُ ٱلۡإِصۡبَاحِ وَجَعَلَ ٱلَّيۡلَ سَكَنٗا وَٱلشَّمۡسَ وَٱلۡقَمَرَ حُسۡبَانٗاۚ ذَٰلِكَ تَقۡدِيرُ ٱلۡعَزِيزِ ٱلۡعَلِيمِ ٩٦

[He is] the cleaver of daybreak and has made the night for rest and the sun and moon for calculation. That is the determination of the Exalted in Might, the Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — 6:96

COMMENTARY ON 6:96 — THE CLEAVER OF DAYBREAK

Allah is described as ***//fāliq al-isbāh//* — *the Cleaver of daybreak***. Ibn Kathir explains that Allah ***splits the darkness of night*** with the light of morning, and the world becomes bright. In the same verse Allah makes ***the night for rest***, and ***the sun and moon for calculation*** (*husbānā*). Tafsir Ibn Kathir 6:96

The word ***"cleave"*** is a very apt description of dawn: the morning light appears as a ***horizontal band*** that seems to ***split*** the horizon between the still-dark sky and the still-black land.

SURAH AL-FALAQ 113:1

قُلۡ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ ٱلۡفَلَقِ ١

Say, "I seek refuge in the Lord of daybreak."

Translation: Sahih International — 113:1

COMMENTARY ON 113:1 — THE LORD OF DAYBREAK

In this surah of protection we seek refuge in ***Rabb al-Falaq***. Ibn Kathir reports from ***Jabir*** رضى الله عنه and ***Ibn 'Abbas*** رضى الله عنهما that *al-falaq* means ***the dawn***. The wisdom: the Lord who ***cleaves the darkness of night*** with the morning light is able to ***remove every evil*** that hides in darkness. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 113:1

REFLECTION — EVERY MORNING IS A PROMISE

The scholars of the past noticed how often the Qur'an pairs the departing night with the arriving morning. The pairing is never accidental: it teaches that endings and beginnings belong together, and that the One who closes the night is the same One who opens the day. A believer who lives with this awareness meets every difficult season with patience, knowing that a dawn has already been decreed for it.

Since the earth was created, there has never been a night that did not end in dawn. This certainty is ***Allah's promise*** renewed every day: ***darkness does not last***. For the one being tested, dawn is a reminder that ***hardship too will pass***, just as the night passes.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

THE WHITE THREAD AND THE BLACK THREAD

The Qur'an gives a very precise image to determine the start of the fast — and the start of the Subuh time.

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:187

أُحِلَّ لَكُمْ لَيْلَةَ ٱلصِّيَامِ ٱلرَّفَثُ إِلَىٰ نِسَآئِكُمْ ۚ هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَّكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ لِبَاسٌ
لَّهُنَّ ۗ عَلِمَ ٱللَّهُ أَنَّكُمْ كُنتُمْ تَخْتَانُونَ أَنفُسَكُمْ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَعَفَا
عَنكُمْ ۖ فَٱلْـَٰٔنَ بَـٰشِرُوهُنَّ وَٱبْتَغُوا۟ مَا كَتَبَ ٱللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۚ وَكُلُوا۟ وَٱشْرَبُوا۟ حَتَّىٰ
يَتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمُ ٱلْخَيْطُ ٱلْأَبْيَضُ مِنَ ٱلْخَيْطِ ٱلْأَسْوَدِ مِنَ ٱلْفَجْرِ ۖ ثُمَّ أَتِمُّوا۟
ٱلصِّيَامَ إِلَى ٱلَّيْلِ ۚ وَلَا تُبَـٰشِرُوهُنَّ وَأَنتُمْ عَـٰكِفُونَ فِى ٱلْمَسَـٰجِدِ ۗ تِلْكَ حُدُودُ
ٱللَّهِ فَلَا تَقْرَبُوهَا ۗ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ ٱللَّهُ ءَايَـٰتِهِۦ لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٧﴾

It has been made permissible for you the night preceding fasting to go to your wives [for sexual relations]. They are clothing for you and you are clothing for them. Allah knows that you used to deceive yourselves, so He accepted your repentance and forgave you. So now, have relations with them and seek that which Allah has decreed for you. And eat and drink until the white thread of dawn becomes distinct to you from the black thread [of night]. Then complete the fast until the sunset. And do not have relations with them as long as you are staying for worship in the mosques. These are the limits [set by] Allah, so do not approach them. Thus does Allah make clear His ordinances to the people that they may become righteous.

Translation: Sahih International — 2:187

COMMENTARY ON 2:187 — UNTIL THE WHITE THREAD BECOMES DISTINCT

Allah permits eating and drinking during the nights of the fasting month ***until the white thread of dawn becomes distinct to you from the black thread*** (*hattā yatabayyana lakumul-khaitul-abyadhu minal-khaitil-aswadi minal-fajr*). Ibn Kathir explains that what is meant is ***the whiteness of day*** against ***the blackness of night***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:187

THE STORY OF 'ADI BIN HATIM AND THE TWO THREADS

'Adi bin Hatim رضى الله عنه related that when this verse was revealed, he took ***a white thread and a black thread*** and placed them under his pillow. He looked at them through the night but could not tell them apart. In the morning he told the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who explained that what is meant is ***the darkness of night and the whiteness of day*** (Sahih al-Bukhari 1916). Sahih al-Bukhari 1916

This story shows that the Qur'anic expression is ***an accurate metaphor***: the light of the true dawn appears as ***a thin, horizontal white band*** along the horizon, bordering ***the darkness of night*** above it — truly like two threads that begin to be distinguished.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

THE FALSE DAWN AND THE TRUE DAWN

Scholars distinguish between two kinds of light before morning:

FALSE DAWN (FAJR KAZIB)	TRUE DAWN (FAJR SADIQ)
Light that ***stretches upward*** like a pillar or a wolf's tail.	Light that is ***horizontal*** and ***spreads*** along the horizon.
Appears ***earlier***, then ***fades*** again.	Appears later, and ***grows brighter*** until sunrise.
Does not mark the start of Subuh; one may still eat the pre-dawn meal.	Marks ***the start of the Subuh time*** and ***the beginning of the fast***.

This distinction is based on the Hadith of Samurah bin Jundub رضى الله عنه in Sahih Muslim (the Second Hadith in Chapter 5): ***"…nor (let) this whiteness (deceive you) until it spreads."*** In Chapter 6 we will see how science explains ***the zodiacal light*** often associated with the false dawn, and how ***astronomical twilight*** relates to the true dawn.

REFLECTION — DO NOT BE DECEIVED BY THE EARLY LIGHT

The same patience applies to our own spiritual growth. A sudden burst of enthusiasm can feel like a new beginning, yet fade within days, like the early vertical light. What lasts is the steady, spreading light of consistent practice — small acts of worship that grow a little brighter each day until they fill the whole horizon of a life.

The false dawn teaches a subtle lesson: ***not every light that appears early is true***. In life there are "lights" that look like guidance but later fade — like empty promises or passing pleasures. The person of knowledge waits patiently for ***the true light***, which grows brighter and does not go out.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

WHISPERS BEFORE DAWN

Before the dawn breaks, there is a ***whisper*** more beautiful than birdsong — the whisper of ***forgiveness-seeking and supplication*** from the servants of Allah.

SURAH ALI 'IMRAN 3:17

ٱلصَّٰبِرِينَ وَٱلصَّٰدِقِينَ وَٱلْقَٰنِتِينَ وَٱلْمُنفِقِينَ وَٱلْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ بِٱلْأَسْحَارِ ﴿١٧﴾

The patient, the true, the obedient, those who spend [in the way of Allah], and those who seek forgiveness before dawn.

Translation: Sahih International — 3:17

SURAH ADH-DHARIYAT 51:17–18

كَانُوا۟ قَلِيلًا مِّنَ ٱلَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ ﴿١٧﴾

They used to sleep but little of the night.

وَبِٱلْأَسْحَارِ هُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

And in the hours before dawn they would ask forgiveness.

Translation: Sahih International — 51:17-18

COMMENTARY ON 3:17 AND 51:17–18 — THOSE WHO SEEK FORGIVENESS BEFORE DAWN

Among the qualities of the God-conscious is ***seeking forgiveness before dawn*** (*bil-ashār*) — the last part of the night before the dawn. Verse 51:17–18 adds that they ***slept little*** at night, and ***in the hours before dawn they asked forgiveness***. Ibn Kathir notes that they spent the night in prayer, then at the pre-dawn hour ***sought forgiveness as though they had sinned***, even though they had just finished worshipping. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 51:18

Ibn Kathir also reports that Prophet Ya'qub عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, when his sons asked him to seek forgiveness for them, said: ***"I will ask forgiveness for you from my Lord"*** (12:98) — and some early scholars mention that he ***delayed it until the pre-dawn hour***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 12:98

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

SURAH AL-ISRA' 17:78–79

أَقِمِ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ لِدُلُوكِ ٱلشَّمۡسِ إِلَىٰ غَسَقِ ٱلَّيۡلِ وَقُرۡءَانَ ٱلۡفَجۡرِۖ إِنَّ قُرۡءَانَ ٱلۡفَجۡرِ كَانَ مَشۡهُودٗا ٧٨

Establish prayer at the decline of the sun [from its meridian] until the darkness of the night and [also] the Qur'an of dawn. Indeed, the recitation of dawn is ever witnessed.

وَمِنَ ٱلَّيۡلِ فَتَهَجَّدۡ بِهِۦ نَافِلَةٗ لَّكَ عَسَىٰٓ أَن يَبۡعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامٗا مَّحۡمُودٗا ٧٩

And from [part of] the night, pray with it as additional [worship] for you; it is expected that your Lord will resurrect you to a praised station.

Translation: Sahih International — 17:78-79

COMMENTARY ON 17:78–79 — THE WITNESSED RECITATION OF DAWN

Allah commands prayer at certain times, then specifically mentions ***//qur'ān al-fajr// — the recitation at dawn*** (the Subuh prayer) — ***"indeed, the recitation of dawn is ever witnessed."*** The Messenger of Allah ﷺ explained that those who witness it are ***the angels of the night and the angels of the day***, who gather at the Subuh prayer (Sahih al-Bukhari 4717, the Eighth Hadith in Chapter 5). Verse 17:79 commands ***the night prayer (tahajjud)*** as additional worship, with the promise of ***a praised station*** (*maqāman mahmūdā*). Tafsir Ibn Kathir 17:78

SURAH AN-NUR 24:41

أَلَمۡ تَرَ أَنَّ ٱللَّهَ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُۥ مَن فِي ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلۡأَرۡضِ وَٱلطَّيۡرُ صَٰٓفَّٰتٖۖ كُلّٞ قَدۡ عَلِمَ صَلَاتَهُۥ وَتَسۡبِيحَهُۥۗ وَٱللَّهُ عَلِيمُۢ بِمَا يَفۡعَلُونَ ٤١

Do you not see that Allah is exalted by whomever is within the heavens and the earth and [by] the birds with wings spread [in flight]? Each [of them] has known his [means of] prayer and exalting [Him], and Allah is Knowing of what they do.

Translation: Sahih International — 24:41

COMMENTARY ON 24:41 — THE BIRDS THAT GLORIFY

Everything in the heavens and the earth ***glorifies Allah***, including ***the birds with wings spread***. ***Each has known its prayer and its glorification.*** Ibn Kathir explains that Allah has inspired every creature with its own way of worship. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 24:41

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

We do not understand the reality of the birds' glorification. Yet when we hear the lively ***dawn chorus*** before sunrise, we can reflect that nature is ***welcoming the morning in its own way***, just as the believer welcomes it with remembrance and prayer.

REFLECTION — WHO WHISPERS FIRST?

Many of the righteous across the centuries described the pre-dawn hour as the sweetest part of their day: a time without noise or demands, when the heart is soft and the tongue speaks to its Lord without any audience. Whoever tastes that stillness even once understands why the Qur'an praises those who rise for it, and why they returned to it night after night.

At the pre-dawn hour the whole village sleeps. Yet there are two kinds of whisper that never stop: ***the whisper of forgiveness-seeking*** from servants who rise to worship, and ***the whisper of glorification*** from creation. The question is: ***is our voice among those whispers***, or are we still asleep until the sun is high?

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

EVIDENCE FROM THE HADITH

This chapter presents ***nine Hadith*** related to the theme of this eBook — ***the last third of the night***, ***the true dawn***, ***the pre-dawn meal***, ***the Sunnah prayer of Subuh***, ***the blessing of early morning*** and ***seeking forgiveness***. Each Hadith is presented in full with its Arabic text, a chain of narration linked to the narrator pages on sunnah.com, a translation and its grade.

HADITH	THEME
Sahih al-Bukhari 1145	Allah descends to the lowest heaven in the last third of the night.
Sahih Muslim 1094	Do not be deceived by Bilal's call or by the white light until it spreads.
Sahih al-Bukhari 1923	Take the pre-dawn meal, for in it there is blessing.
Sahih Muslim 725	The two rak'ahs of dawn are better than the world and all it contains.
Sunan Abi Dawud 2606	"O Allah, bless my community in their early mornings."
Sahih al-Bukhari 1131	The prayer most beloved to Allah is the prayer of Prophet Dawud عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.
Sahih Muslim 1163	The best prayer after the obligatory prayers is the night prayer.
Sahih al-Bukhari 4717	The angels of the night and the day gather at the Subuh prayer.
Sahih al-Bukhari 6306	The master supplication for forgiveness (Sayyid al-Istighfar).

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

FIRST HADITH — ALLAH DESCENDS TO THE LOWEST HEAVEN

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1145

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ مَسْلَمَةَ، عَنْ مَالِكٍ، عَنِ ابْنِ شِهَابٍ، عَنْ أَبِي سَلَمَةَ، وَأَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ الأَغَرِّ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «يَنْزِلُ رَبُّنَا تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى كُلَّ لَيْلَةٍ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا حِينَ يَبْقَى ثُلُثُ اللَّيْلِ الآخِرُ يَقُولُ مَنْ يَدْعُونِي فَأَسْتَجِيبَ لَهُ مَنْ يَسْأَلُنِي فَأُعْطِيَهُ مَنْ يَسْتَغْفِرُنِي فَأَغْفِرَ لَهُ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: ***"Our Lord, Blessed and Exalted, descends every night to the lowest heaven when the last third of the night remains, and He says: 'Who is calling upon Me, that I may answer him? Who is asking of Me, that I may give him? Who is seeking My forgiveness, that I may forgive him?'"***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Abdullah bin Maslamah, from Malik bin Anas, from Ibn Shihab (al-Zuhri), from Abu Salamah and Abu 'Abdillah al-Agharr, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Tahajjud, Chapter on Supplication and Prayer at the End of the Night, Hadith No. 1145.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1145

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: The last third of the night — the time before dawn — is ***the time most likely to be answered*** for supplicating, asking and seeking forgiveness. This is the time praised in 3:17 and 51:18.

Second: The scholars of Ahl al-Sunnah affirm this attribute of "descending" (*nuzūl*) in the manner befitting Allah's majesty, ***without likening Him to creation*** and without asking "how". What matters for us is ***to seize the opportunity*** of that call every night.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

SECOND HADITH — THE WHITE LIGHT THAT SPREADS

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1094

حَدَّثَنَا شَيْبَانُ بْنُ فَرُّوخَ، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْوَارِثِ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ سَوَادَةَ الْقُشَيْرِيِّ، حَدَّثَنِي وَالِدِي، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ سَمُرَةَ بْنَ جُنْدُبٍ، يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ مُحَمَّدًا، صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ : «لَا يَغُرَّنَّكُمْ أَحَدَكُمْ نِدَاءُ بِلَالٍ مِنَ السَّحُورِ ، وَلَا هَذَا الْبَيَاضُ حَتَّى يَسْتَطِيرَ»

TRANSLATION:

Samurah bin Jundub رضى الله عنه said: I heard Muhammad ﷺ say: ***"Let not the call of Bilal deceive any of you (into stopping) the pre-dawn meal, nor this whiteness, until it spreads (across the horizon)."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Shaiban bin Farrukh, from 'Abd al-Warith, from 'Abdullah bin Sawadah al-Qushairi, from his father (Sawadah), from Samurah bin Jundub رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Fasting, Chapter: The Fast Begins With the Rising of Dawn, Hadith No. 1094 (the first narration in this chapter on sunnah.com).

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1094a

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: In the time of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, ***Bilal*** رضى الله عنه called the adhan ***before dawn*** (to wake people for the pre-dawn meal and night prayer), while Ibn Umm Maktum called the adhan when the true dawn rose. This Hadith teaches not to mistake the first adhan for the start of Subuh.

Second: The expression ***"until it spreads"*** (*hattā yastatīr*) is the basis for distinguishing the false dawn (vertical) from ***the true dawn (horizontal and spreading)***. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ taught his community to ***observe the sky*** carefully.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

THIRD HADITH — THE BLESSING OF THE PRE-DAWN MEAL

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1923

حَدَّثَنَا آدَمُ بْنُ أَبِي إِيَاسٍ، حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْعَزِيزِ بْنُ صُهَيْبٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أَنَسَ بْنَ مَالِكٍ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم «تَسَحَّرُوا فَإِنَّ فِي السَّحُورِ بَرَكَةً».

TRANSLATION:

Anas bin Malik رضى الله عنه said: The Prophet ﷺ said: ***"Take the pre-dawn meal (suhur), for indeed there is blessing in the pre-dawn meal."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Adam bin Abi Iyas, from Shu'bah, from 'Abd al-'Aziz bin Suhaib, from Anas bin Malik رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Fasting, Chapter on the Blessing of Suhur Without It Being Obligatory, Hadith No. 1923.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1923

FOURTH HADITH — THE TWO RAK'AHS OF DAWN

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 725

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ عُبَيْدٍ الْغُبَرِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو عَوَانَةَ، عَنْ قَتَادَةَ، عَنْ زُرَارَةَ بْنِ أَوْفَى، عَنْ سَعْدِ بْنِ هِشَامٍ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «رَكْعَتَا الْفَجْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا فِيهَا» .

TRANSLATION:

'A'ishah رضى الله عنها reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: ***"The two rak'ahs of dawn (the Sunnah prayer before Subuh) are better than the world and all that it contains."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Muhammad bin 'Ubaid al-Ghubari, from Abu 'Awanah, from Qatadah, from Zurarah bin Aufa, from Sa'd bin Hisham, from 'A'ishah رضى الله عنها.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of the Prayer of Travellers, Chapter on the Recommendation of the Two Rak'ahs of Fajr, Hadith No. 725 (the first narration in this chapter on sunnah.com).

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:725a

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

LESSONS FROM THE THIRD AND FOURTH HADITH

First: The time before dawn is full of ***blessing***: a blessed pre-dawn meal, and two Sunnah rak'ahs that are ***better than the world and all it contains***. Waking a few minutes earlier opens the door to an immense reward.

Second: Both acts take place in ***the short span*** between night and day. It is as though Allah has placed ***His most precious treasures*** in the time when most people are asleep.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

FIFTH HADITH — BLESSING IN THE EARLY MORNING

HADITH — SUNAN ABI DAWUD, NO. 2606

حَدَّثَنَا سَعِيدُ بْنُ مَنْصُورٍ، حَدَّثَنَا هُشَيْمٌ، حَدَّثَنَا يَعْلَى بْنُ عَطَاءٍ، حَدَّثَنَا عُمَارَةُ بْنُ حَدِيدٍ، عَنْ صَخْرٍ الْغَامِدِيِّ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لأُمَّتِي فِي بُكُورِهَا» . وَكَانَ إِذَا بَعَثَ سَرِيَّةً أَوْ جَيْشًا بَعَثَهُمْ فِي أَوَّلِ النَّهَارِ . وَكَانَ صَخْرٌ رَجُلاً تَاجِرًا وَكَانَ يَبْعَثُ تِجَارَتَهُ مِنْ أَوَّلِ النَّهَارِ فَأَثْرَى وَكَثُرَ مَالُهُ . قَالَ أَبُو دَاوُدَ وَهُوَ صَخْرُ بْنُ وَدَاعَةَ .

TRANSLATION:

Sakhr al-Ghamidi رضى الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ prayed: ***"O Allah, bless my community in their early mornings."*** When he sent out a detachment or an army, he would send them at ***the beginning of the day***.

Sakhr was a merchant, and he would send out his merchandise at ***the beginning of the day***, and he became rich and his wealth increased. Abu Dawud said: He is Sakhr bin Wada'ah.

CHAIN Narrated by Imam Abu Dawud: from Sa'id bin Mansur, from Hushaim, from Ya'la bin 'Ata', from 'Umarah bin Hadid, from Sakhr al-Ghamidi رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Abu Dawud in Sunan Abi Dawud, Book of Jihad, Chapter on Setting Out Early in the Morning, Hadith No. 2606.

GRADE: SAHIH — graded sahih by al-Albani (as recorded on sunnah.com).

Source: https://sunnah.com/abudawud:2606

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: This supplication of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ makes ***the early morning*** a ***blessed*** time for work, study and trade. The story of Sakhr رضى الله عنه shows the fruit of that blessing in real life.

Second: The habit of "sleeping after Subuh until midday" runs against the spirit of this Hadith. Instead, the time after Subuh is ***a golden hour*** for beginning the most important tasks.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

SIXTH HADITH — THE PRAYER OF PROPHET DAWUD عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1131

حَدَّثَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا سُفْيَانُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا عَمْرُو بْنُ دِينَارٍ، أَنَّ عَمْرَو بْنَ أَوْسٍ، أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ بْنَ عَمْرِو بْنِ الْعَاصِ - رضى الله عنهما - أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ لَهُ «أَحَبُّ الصَّلاَةِ إِلَى اللَّهِ صَلاَةُ دَاوُدَ - عَلَيْهِ السَّلاَمُ - وَأَحَبُّ الصِّيَامِ إِلَى اللَّهِ صِيَامُ دَاوُدَ، وَكَانَ يَنَامُ نِصْفَ اللَّيْلِ وَيَقُومُ ثُلُثَهُ وَيَنَامُ سُدُسَهُ، وَيَصُومُ يَوْمًا وَيُفْطِرُ يَوْمًا».

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah bin 'Amr bin al-'As رضى الله عنهما reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said to him: ***"The prayer most beloved to Allah is the prayer of Dawud عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, and the fast most beloved to Allah is the fast of Dawud. He would sleep half the night, stand (in worship) for a third of it, and sleep (again) for a sixth of it; and he would fast one day and not fast the next."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Ali bin 'Abdullah, from Sufyan bin 'Uyainah, from 'Amr bin Dinar, from 'Amr bin Aus, from 'Abdullah bin 'Amr bin al-'As رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Tahajjud, Chapter on One Who Sleeps at the Pre-Dawn Time, Hadith No. 1131.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1131

SEVENTH HADITH — THE MOST EXCELLENT NIGHT PRAYER

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1163

حَدَّثَنِي قُتَيْبَةُ بْنُ سَعِيدٍ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو عَوَانَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي بِشْرٍ، عَنْ حُمَيْدِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ الْحِمْيَرِيِّ عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، - رضى الله عنه - قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «أَفْضَلُ الصِّيَامِ بَعْدَ رَمَضَانَ شَهْرُ اللَّهِ الْمُحَرَّمُ وَأَفْضَلُ الصَّلاَةِ بَعْدَ الْفَرِيضَةِ صَلاَةُ اللَّيْلِ» .

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: ***"The most excellent fast after Ramadan is (the fast of) Allah's month, al-Muharram; and the most excellent prayer after the obligatory prayer is the night prayer."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Qutaibah bin Sa'id, from Abu 'Awanah, from Abu Bishr, from Humaid bin 'Abd al-Rahman al-Himyari, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Fasting, Chapter on the Virtue of Fasting in al-Muharram, Hadith No. 1163 (the first narration in this chapter on sunnah.com).

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1163a

LESSONS FROM THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH HADITH

First: The prayer of Prophet Dawud عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ shows ***a balanced schedule***: sleeping the first half of the night, rising to worship for the next third, then ***sleeping again for the last sixth*** before dawn. Islam does not demand staying awake all night; it demands ***balance*** between rest and worship.

Second: The night prayer is ***the most excellent*** voluntary prayer. Even two rak'ahs before Subuh place a person among those who give life to part of the night.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

EIGHTH HADITH — THE WITNESSED RECITATION OF DAWN

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 4717

حَدَّثَنِي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الرَّزَّاقِ، أَخْبَرَنَا مَعْمَرٌ، عَنِ الزُّهْرِيِّ، عَنْ أَبِي سَلَمَةَ، وَابْنِ الْمُسَيَّبِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، رضى الله عنه عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «فَضْلُ صَلاَةِ الْجَمِيعِ عَلَى صَلاَةِ الْوَاحِدِ خَمْسٌ وَعِشْرُونَ دَرَجَةً، وَتَجْتَمِعُ مَلاَئِكَةُ اللَّيْلِ وَمَلاَئِكَةُ النَّهَارِ فِي صَلاَةِ الصُّبْحِ» . يَقُولُ أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ اقْرَءُوا إِنْ شِئْتُمْ {وَقُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ إِنَّ قُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ كَانَ مَشْهُودًا}

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: ***"The superiority of prayer in congregation over prayer alone is twenty-five degrees. And the angels of the night and the angels of the day gather at the Subuh prayer."*** Abu Hurairah said: ***"Recite if you wish: 'And [also] the Qur'an of dawn. Indeed, the recitation of dawn is ever witnessed' (17:78)."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Abdullah bin Muhammad, from 'Abd al-Razzaq, from Ma'mar, from al-Zuhri, from Abu Salamah and Ibn al-Musayyib, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Tafsir, Surah al-Isra', Hadith No. 4717.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:4717

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: The Subuh prayer is the time of ***the angels' change of shift***: the angels of the night ascend and the angels of the day descend, and they ***witness*** our prayer. How beautiful it would be if the first report about us each day were: ***"We left them while they were praying."***

Second: The ***twenty-five degrees*** of extra reward for congregational prayer encourage us to walk to the surau or mosque at Subuh, even when the air is cold and the eyes are still heavy.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

NINTH HADITH — THE MASTER SUPPLICATION FOR FORGIVENESS

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6306

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو مَعْمَرٍ، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْوَارِثِ، حَدَّثَنَا الْحُسَيْنُ، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ بُرَيْدَةَ، عَنْ بُشَيْرِ بْنِ كَعْبٍ الْعَدَوِيِّ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي شَدَّادُ بْنُ أَوْسٍ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم «سَيِّدُ الاِسْتِغْفَارِ أَنْ تَقُولَ اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ رَبِّي، لاَ إِلَهَ إِلاَّ أَنْتَ، خَلَقْتَنِي وَأَنَا عَبْدُكَ، وَأَنَا عَلَى عَهْدِكَ وَوَعْدِكَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُ، أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا صَنَعْتُ، أَبُوءُ لَكَ بِنِعْمَتِكَ عَلَىَّ وَأَبُوءُ لَكَ بِذَنْبِي، فَاغْفِرْ لِي، فَإِنَّهُ لاَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلاَّ أَنْتَ». قَالَ «وَمَنْ قَالَهَا مِنَ النَّهَارِ مُوقِنًا بِهَا، فَمَاتَ مِنْ يَوْمِهِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُمْسِيَ، فَهُوَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ، وَمَنْ قَالَهَا مِنَ اللَّيْلِ وَهْوَ مُوقِنٌ بِهَا، فَمَاتَ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُصْبِحَ، فَهُوَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ».

TRANSLATION:

Shaddad bin Aus رضى الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: ***"The master of seeking forgiveness is that you say: 'O Allah, You are my Lord; there is no god but You. You created me and I am Your servant. I abide by Your covenant and promise as best I can. I seek refuge in You from the evil of what I have done. I acknowledge Your favour upon me, and I acknowledge my sin. So forgive me, for none forgives sins except You.'***

He said: ***"Whoever says it during the day with certainty, and dies that day before evening, is among the people of Paradise. And whoever says it at night with certainty, and dies before morning, is among the people of Paradise."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu Ma'mar, from 'Abd al-Warith, from al-Husain (al-Mu'allim), from 'Abdullah bin Buraidah, from Bushair bin Ka'b al-'Adawi, from Shaddad bin Aus رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Supplications, Chapter on the Best Form of Seeking Forgiveness, Hadith No. 6306.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:6306

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: *Sayyid al-Istighfar* is ***the finest whisper*** at the pre-dawn hour and after Subuh. It combines ***affirmation of Allah's oneness, acknowledgement of His favours, admission of sin*** and ***a plea for forgiveness*** in a few short lines.

Second: This Hadith mentions ***morning and evening*** as the times for reciting it — the times of transition between night and day. Dawn is a daily chance to ***begin the day with a clean page***.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

WHAT MODERN SCIENCE SAYS

This chapter presents scientific findings about the time of dawn — from the physics of twilight and the determination of the Subuh time, to birdsong and the human body clock. Every fact is supported by a verifiable source, with a link.

A SIMPLE EXPLANATION — WHY IS THE SKY BRIGHT BEFORE SUNRISE?

Even though the sun is still below the horizon, some of its light already strikes ***the upper layers of the earth's atmosphere***. The air in those upper layers ***scatters*** the sunlight downward, so the sky on the eastern horizon begins to look bright. The closer the sun comes to the horizon, the lower the layers of air that are lit, and the brighter the sky becomes.

This is why the light of dawn ***does not come suddenly*** but ***spreads gradually*** from the horizon — at first very pale, then wider and brighter. This picture fits closely with the metaphors ***"the dawn when it breathes"*** (81:18) and ***"the cleaver of daybreak"*** (6:96).

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

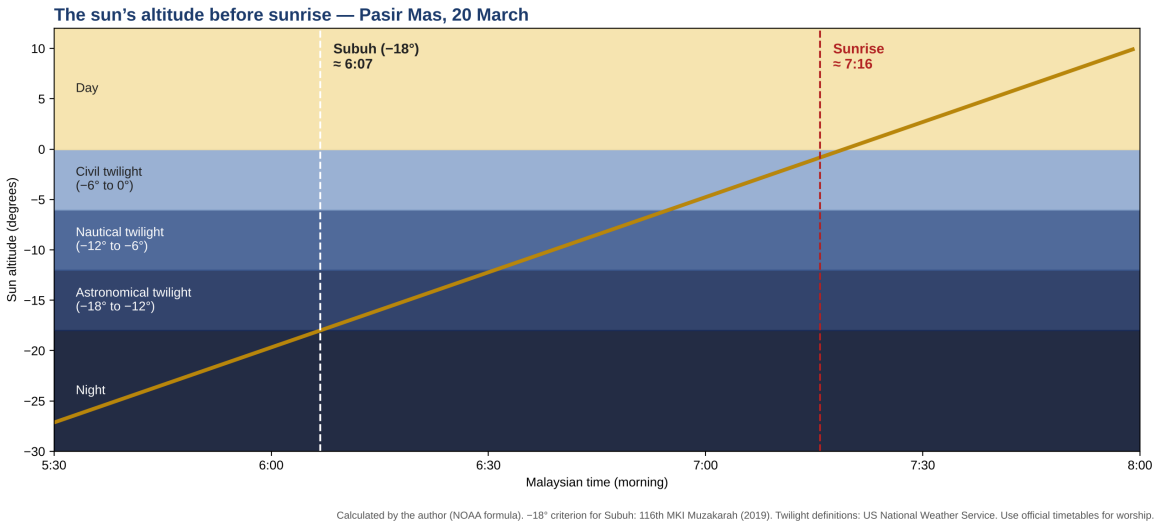


Figure 1: The sun's altitude on the morning of 20 March at Pasir Mas, Kelantan. The Subuh time by the 18°-below-the-horizon criterion falls around 6:07 am, and sunrise around 7:16 am (estimates; the official timetable may differ by a few minutes because of precautionary margins and calculation methods).

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE THREE STAGES OF MORNING TWILIGHT

The US National Weather Service defines three stages of twilight. ***Astronomical twilight*** begins in the morning when the centre of the sun is ***18 degrees below the horizon***; at this point the horizon is still ***not discernible***, and moderately faint stars can still be seen in a sky free of light pollution.

Nautical twilight begins when the sun is ***12 degrees*** below the horizon; the horizon is ***visible*** even without the moon. ***Civil twilight*** begins when the sun is ***6 degrees*** below the horizon; the brightest stars and planets can still be seen, but objects on the ground can be distinguished without lamps (Figure 1).

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

US National Weather Service. Twilight types. https://www.weather.gov/lmk/twilight-types

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE SUBUH TIME IN MALAYSIA: FROM 20° TO 18°

For many years, the Subuh time in Malaysia was set when the sun is ***20 degrees*** below the horizon. On ***21 November 2019***, the ***116th Muzakarah of the Fatwa Committee of the National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs Malaysia (MKI)*** decided to use ***18 degrees***. The Kedah State Mufti Department, for example, adopted this decision effective ***1 Rejab 1441 (25 February 2020)***.

According to that document, the change ***makes Subuh and Imsak about 8 minutes later***, and is said to ***better match the onset of the true dawn***, based on a sky-brightness study by JAKIM. This is an example of how ***astronomy*** and ***scientific observation*** are used to fulfil the command of the Shari'ah: ***"until the white thread of dawn becomes distinct to you from the black thread"*** (2:187).

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Jabatan Mufti Negeri Kedah (2020). Penentuan Awal Waktu Solat Subuh di Negeri Kedah Darul Aman. https://ifatwa.kedah.gov.my/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/1-PENENTUAN-AWAL-WAKTU-SOLAT-SUBUH-DI-NEGERI-KEDAH.pdf

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE ZODIACAL LIGHT — THE "FALSE DAWN" OF ASTRONOMY

Astronomy has a phenomenon known as the ***false dawn***. According to ***NASA (Astronomy Picture of the Day)***, at certain times of the year the horizon near the rising sun ***begins to glow unusually early***. This light does not come directly from the sun, but is ***sunlight reflected by interplanetary dust***, and is called ***the zodiacal light***.

The zodiacal light has the shape of ***an upright triangle*** rising from the horizon, and ***"may be mistaken, for a while, for a sunrise"***. Many students of astronomy link it with ***the false dawn (fajr kazib)*** described by the scholars — a light that is ***vertical***, appears earlier, and is then overtaken by the ***horizontal*** true dawn. The link is interesting, though it is ***a researchers' interpretation*** and not a definitive text (see Chapter 7).

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

NASA, Astronomy Picture of the Day (2012). Zodiacal Light and the False Dawn. https://science.nasa.gov/image-article/apod-2012-january-16-zodiacal-light-and-the-false-dawn/

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

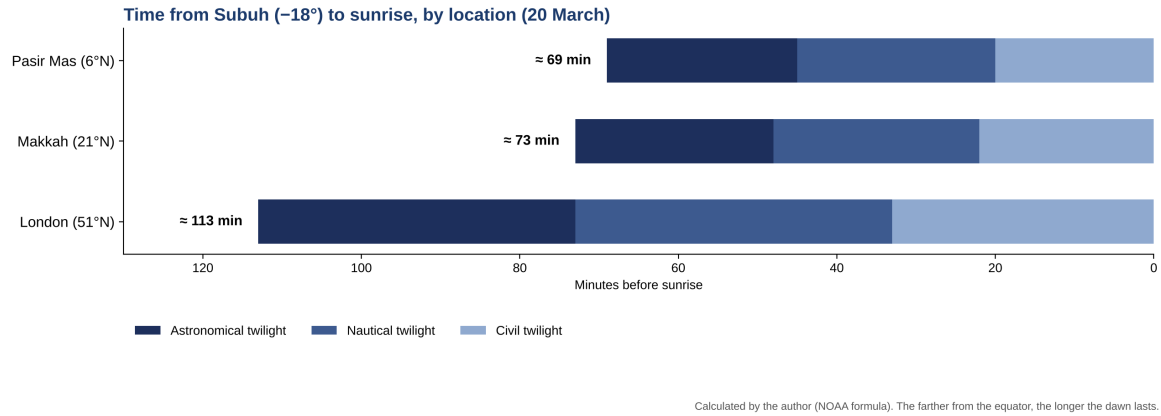


Figure 2: Time from the start of astronomical twilight (−18°) to sunrise on 20 March at three locations. Near the equator the sun rises steeply and dawn is shorter; far from the equator the sun rises at a slant and dawn is longer. Author's calculation.

WHY IS DAWN SHORTER IN MALAYSIA?

Figure 2 shows that at ***Pasir Mas*** (about 6° north of the equator), the time from Subuh to sunrise in March is only about ***69 minutes***. In ***Makkah*** (21° north) it is about ***73 minutes***. But in ***London*** (51° north) it stretches to about ***113 minutes***.

This is because near the equator the sun ***rises almost vertically*** from the horizon, so it passes through the zone from 18° to 0° quickly. Far from the equator the sun ***rises at a slant***, so it takes longer. In some places very far north, in summer, the sun ***never sinks to 18°*** below the horizon — raising fiqh questions about determining the times of Isha and Subuh that contemporary scholars have discussed.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE DAWN CHORUS OF THE BIRDS

Biologists call the phenomenon of birds singing together in the early morning the ***dawn chorus***. A field study by ***Da Silva, Valcu and Kempenaers (2015)*** at the ***Max Planck Institute for Ornithology***, Germany, recorded the singing activity of six songbird species at 12 woodland sites over three and a half months. They found that ***street lighting*** at some sites changed the ***season*** in which dawn and dusk singing began for four species.

A follow-up study by Da Silva and colleagues (2017) states that for songbirds, ***the most repeatable finding*** of earlier studies is that ***artificial night lighting leads to an earlier daily onset of dawn singing***. This shows that birds are ***highly sensitive to the first light*** of morning — they "hear" the dawn through their eyes. Reflect on 24:41: ***each has known its prayer and its glorification***.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Da Silva, A., Valcu, M. & Kempenaers, B. (2015). Light pollution alters the phenology of dawn and dusk singing in common European songbirds. Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B, 370(1667), 20140126. https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2014.0126

Da Silva, A. et al. (2017). Experimental illumination of a forest: no effects of lights of different colours on the onset of the dawn chorus in songbirds. Royal Society Open Science, 4(1), 160638. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.160638

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE HUMAN BODY PREPARES FOR MORNING

The human body has ***a biological clock*** (circadian rhythm) that regulates many hormones according to the time of day. One of the most studied is ***the cortisol awakening response***. A review in the journal ***//Endocrine Reviews//*** (Stalder et al., 2025) states that free salivary cortisol ***increases between 50% and 156%*** during ***the first 30 to 45 minutes*** after waking.

Researchers link this response to ***preparing body and mind*** for the new day. It is not evidence about prayer times, but it reminds us that the human body also has ***its own "dawn"*** — an orderly transition from rest to activity, just as nature moves from night to day.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Stalder, T. et al. (2025). The Cortisol Awakening Response: Regulation and Functional Significance. Endocrine Reviews, 46(1), 43–59. https://doi.org/10.1210/endrev/bnae024

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

THE STORY OF THE MUEZZIN AND THE EASTERN SKY

Imagine a muezzin at a village surau in the days before printed prayer timetables. After his night prayer, he sits on the veranda facing east. The sky is still dark. He watches patiently.

First he sees ***a vertical streak of light*** like a tail, faint on the horizon. "Not yet," he whispers, "this is the false dawn." A while later that light fades. Then, slowly, ***a horizontal band of white*** appears along the horizon, separating the dark sky from the black hills — ***the white thread from the black thread***. This light does not go out; it ***widens***, like a morning ***drawing breath***.

The muezzin rises, performs ablution, and calls ***the adhan of Subuh***. From a branch in the surau yard, the birds begin to sing. The angels of the night prepare to ascend, the angels of the day prepare to descend. And in the village houses, those who rose at the pre-dawn hour have already finished ***whispering*** to their Lord. ***"And by the dawn when it breathes"*** (81:18).

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

BETWEEN HARMONY AND CAUTION

The table below summarises an assessment of claims often heard about the time of dawn, the Qur'an and science.

POPULAR CLAIMS AND THEIR ASSESSMENT

COMMONLY HEARD CLAIM	ASSESSMENT
"*Tanaffas* (breathes) in 81:18 refers to the oxygen produced by plants at dawn."	***A forced interpretation.*** The commentators understood *tanaffas* as ***a metaphor*** for the morning light beginning to spread. Photosynthesis occurs throughout the day whenever there is light, not specifically at dawn.
"Oxygen or ozone levels are highest at Subuh, which is why we are told to wake."	***No firm evidence.*** This claim is widespread but not supported by reliable studies. The virtue of the Subuh time is established by revealed texts, without any need for such claims.
"The zodiacal light is the false dawn."	***A reasonable harmony, but a matter of ijtihad.*** Its features (vertical, appearing early) match the scholars' description, and many astronomers accept it. But it is ***a researchers' interpretation***, not a text.
"Science proves that 18° is the exact angle of the true dawn everywhere."	***Caution needed.*** Setting the angle is ***an astronomical ijtihad*** based on observation; weather, light pollution and latitude affect sky brightness. Authorities in different countries use different angles.
"'The white thread and the black thread' is a scientific description of light scattering."	***A reflection, not an interpretation.*** The verse uses a ***visually precise*** metaphor; the Hadith of 'Adi bin Hatim explains its meaning as the whiteness of day and the darkness of night.
"The birds' singing at dawn is their glorification that we hear."	***Caution needed.*** Verse 24:41 states that the birds glorify Allah, but ***we do not understand the reality of that glorification*** (17:44). The dawn chorus can be a reflection, without claiming that it is their glorification.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT DAWN

Question 1: Is the Subuh time the same throughout Malaysia? No. The Subuh time ***differs by location*** — the further east, the earlier. That is why prayer timetables are issued by ***zone***. The 18° criterion is used to calculate the times for each zone.

Question 2: If dawn in Malaysia is short, is the Subuh time short too? The Subuh time lasts from ***the rising of the true dawn until sunrise***. In Malaysia this period is ***a little over an hour*** (Figure 2). Yet the scholars encourage praying Subuh at ***the beginning of its time***, hastening before the light grows too bright.

Question 3: What is the main lesson of the theme of dawn? That the time of transition between night and day is ***an honoured time***: the time when Allah calls His servants, when the angels bear witness, and when blessing descends. Astronomy helps us ***observe its timing***; faith drives us to ***bring it to life***.

REFLECTION — WHY THIS CAUTION MATTERS

Caution is not coldness. It does not make the believer less moved by the verses about dawn; rather, it removes doubtful claims so that the heart can rest on what is certain. A reader who later discovers that an exaggerated claim was false may begin to doubt the rest, whereas a reader who was given only what is sound grows firmer in trust with every page.

The time of dawn is already honoured enough by authentic texts, without adding claims about oxygen or ozone. When we honestly distinguish between ***revealed text***, ***astronomical ijtihad*** and ***reflection***, we honour ***the knowledge of the scholars*** and ***the knowledge of the scientists*** — and we fulfil the trust of knowledge as the Qur'an requires.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

THE WHISPER IN DAILY LIFE: PRACTICE AND GUIDANCE

The time before and after dawn is ***a daily treasure*** open to every Muslim.

PRACTICE	EVIDENCE AND GUIDANCE
Rising in the last third of the night	Allah calls His servants to supplicate and seek forgiveness (Bukhari 1145).
Seeking forgiveness before dawn	A quality of the God-conscious (3:17; 51:18).
Night prayer, even two rak'ahs	The most excellent voluntary prayer (Muslim 1163).
Taking the pre-dawn meal, even a sip of water	In suhur there is blessing (Bukhari 1923).
The two Sunnah rak'ahs before Subuh	Better than the world and all it contains (Muslim 725).
Praying Subuh in congregation	Witnessed by the angels of night and day (Bukhari 4717; 17:78).
Reciting Sayyid al-Istighfar in the morning	The master supplication for forgiveness (Bukhari 6306).
Starting work in the early morning	"O Allah, bless my community in their early mornings" (Abu Dawud 2606).

FAMILY ACTIVITY: WATCHING THE DAWN

Step 1: Choose a clear morning. Check the Subuh time for your zone in the official timetable, and wake about 20 minutes before it.

Step 2: Sit in an open area facing east, away from street lights. Watch the sky every five minutes. When do you first see ***a horizontal band of light*** on the horizon?

Step 3: Listen for and note ***the first bird*** you hear, and the time. Is it before or after the adhan of Subuh?

Step 4: After praying Subuh in congregation, read 81:17–18 and 2:187 together, and tell the story of 'Adi bin Hatim and the two threads.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

ARRANGING A BALANCED NIGHT SCHEDULE

Following the example of the prayer of Prophet Dawud عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ (Bukhari 1131), a Muslim can arrange a balanced night schedule. For example: sleep early after Isha, rise ***30–45 minutes before Subuh*** to perform ablution, pray two rak'ahs of tahajjud, supplicate and seek forgiveness, take the pre-dawn meal (if fasting), then pray the Sunnah of dawn and Subuh in congregation. This schedule does not cut sleep excessively, but ***moves part of the time*** to the most blessed hours.

For the elderly and those with health problems, arrange the schedule according to ability and medical advice. Islam does not burden a soul beyond its capacity; ***a small deed done consistently*** is more beloved to Allah.

It also helps to prepare the night before: set out the prayer mat and clothes, keep a glass of water by the bed, and make an intention to rise. Small preparations like these turn a hope into a habit, and over weeks the pre-dawn hour becomes a familiar friend rather than a struggle.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: Dawn is an honoured sign. Allah swears by it (81:18; 89:1; 74:34).

Second: Darkness does not last. The Cleaver of daybreak is able to remove every evil (6:96; 113:1).

Third: Precision in worship. The white and black threads teach us to observe carefully (2:187; Muslim 1094).

Fourth: The pre-dawn hour is the time of whispering. Allah calls, and the God-conscious seek forgiveness (Bukhari 1145; 51:18).

Fifth: Blessing in the early morning. The pre-dawn meal, the two rak'ahs of dawn and early work are all blessed.

Sixth: Astronomy serves the Shari'ah. The 18° criterion is an example of knowledge used to observe the times of worship.

Seventh: Caution with claims. The virtue of Subuh is established by revealed texts, without claims about oxygen or ozone.

SUMMARY: VERSES, MESSAGES AND SCIENTIFIC REFLECTIONS

VERSE AND ITS MESSAGE	REFLECTION FROM SCIENCE
81:18 — The dawn when it breathes.	Dawn light spreads gradually through scattering in the upper atmosphere (Figure 1).
2:187 — The white thread from the black thread.	Astronomical twilight begins at −18°; the Subuh criterion in Malaysia since 2019 (116th MKI).
Muslim 1094 — The light that spreads, not the one that rises vertically.	The zodiacal light (false dawn) is an upright triangle (NASA APOD).
6:96 — The sun and moon for calculation.	The length of dawn varies by latitude: ≈ 69 minutes in Pasir Mas, ≈ 113 minutes in London (Figure 2).
24:41 — The birds glorify.	Songbirds are highly sensitive to morning light; dawn singing is affected by light (Da Silva et al., 2015, 2017).
Abu Dawud 2606 — Blessing in the early morning.	Cortisol rises 50–156% in the 30–45 minutes after waking (Stalder et al., 2025).

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

• ***Tonight:*** Sleep earlier, with the intention of rising before Subuh.

• ***Tomorrow morning:*** Wake 20 minutes before Subuh — perform ablution, pray two rak'ahs and seek forgiveness.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

- ***This week:*** Memorise Sayyid al-Istighfar and recite it every morning and evening.
- ***This month:*** Do the dawn-watching activity with your family.
- ***For life:*** Make the time after Subuh the time for your most important tasks.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

CONCLUSION

Before the morning light appears, there is a time full of ***whispers***: the whisper of supplication and forgiveness-seeking from the servants of Allah, the whisper of creation's glorification and the singing of the birds, and ***Allah's call*** descending to the lowest heaven in the last third of the night. The Qur'an depicts this time with beautiful metaphors — ***the dawn that breathes*** (81:18), ***the daybreak that is cleaved*** (6:96), and ***the white thread distinguished from the black*** (2:187). Modern astronomy explains the stages of morning twilight, and the scholars of Malaysia use scientific observation to set the Subuh time more precisely.

So let us not allow this most blessed time to pass in sleep. Rise even for a little while, whisper to your Lord, and greet the dawn with a prayer witnessed by the angels. ***"And by the dawn when it breathes"*** — may our first breath every morning be ***a breath of gratitude and forgiveness-seeking***.

God willing, the series Exploring the Qur'an & Science will continue with the title ***"The White Drop From Between the Blood"*** — on milk that comes out from between digested food and blood (16:66) — with the same method: the Qur'an, Hadith and science, with honesty and caution.

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERM	BRIEF MEANING
Tanaffas	To breathe; a metaphor for the morning light beginning to spread (81:18).
'As'as	A word meaning to approach or to depart, used of the night (81:17).
Fāliq al-isbāh	The Cleaver of daybreak — an attribute of Allah (6:96).
Al-Falaq	The dawn, according to the explanation of Jabir and Ibn 'Abbas (113:1).
Sahur / Ashār	The last part of the night before dawn; also the meal before fasting.
Fajr kazib	The false dawn — a vertical light that appears earlier and then fades.
Fajr sadiq	The true dawn — a horizontal, spreading light; the sign that Subuh has begun.
Astronomical twilight	Begins when the sun is 18° below the horizon.
Nautical twilight	Begins when the sun is 12° below the horizon.
Civil twilight	Begins when the sun is 6° below the horizon.
Zodiacal light	Sunlight reflected by interplanetary dust; known as the "false dawn".
Dawn chorus	The collective singing of birds in the early morning.
Circadian rhythm	The body's biological clock, regulating functions on a cycle of about 24 hours.

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• Why does Allah describe the dawn as "breathing" (81:18)? What is the beauty of this metaphor?

• What is the difference between the false dawn and the true dawn, and what spiritual lesson can be drawn from it?

• How does astronomy help Muslims observe the Subuh time? Why did Malaysia change its criterion from 20° to 18°?

• How do we distinguish between harmony of a verse with science and claims such as "oxygen is highest at Subuh"?

• What is one small step you can take this week to bring the pre-dawn hour to life?

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

REFERENCES

THE QUR'AN AND TAFSIR

The Noble Qur'an, Uthmani text and the Sahih International translation. https://quran.com

Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim (81:17–18; 89:1; 6:96; 113:1; 2:187; 51:18; 12:98; 17:78; 24:41). https://tafsir.app/ibn-katheer/81/18

Al-Qurtubi, al-Jami' li Ahkam al-Qur'an (81:18). https://tafsir.app/qurtubi/81/18

HADITH

Sahih al-Bukhari 1145. https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1145

Sahih Muslim 1094. https://sunnah.com/muslim:1094a

Sahih al-Bukhari 1923. https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1923

Sahih Muslim 725. https://sunnah.com/muslim:725a

Sunan Abi Dawud 2606. https://sunnah.com/abudawud:2606

Sahih al-Bukhari 1131. https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1131

Sahih Muslim 1163. https://sunnah.com/muslim:1163a

Sahih al-Bukhari 4717. https://sunnah.com/bukhari:4717

Sahih al-Bukhari 6306. https://sunnah.com/bukhari:6306

Sahih al-Bukhari 1916. https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1916

Sahih al-Bukhari 6312. https://sunnah.com/bukhari:6312

ASTRONOMY AND SCIENCE

US National Weather Service. Twilight types. https://www.weather.gov/lmk/twilight-types

Jabatan Mufti Negeri Kedah (2020). Penentuan Awal Waktu Solat Subuh di Negeri Kedah Darul Aman. https://ifatwa.kedah.gov.my/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/1-PENENTUAN-AWAL-WAKTU-SOLAT-SUBUH-DI-NEGERI-KEDAH.pdf

NASA, Astronomy Picture of the Day (2012). Zodiacal Light and the False Dawn. https://science.nasa.gov/image-article/apod-2012-january-16-zodiacal-light-and-the-false-dawn/

Da Silva, A., Valcu, M. & Kempenaers, B. (2015). Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B, 370(1667), 20140126. https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2014.0126

Da Silva, A. et al. (2017). Royal Society Open Science, 4(1), 160638. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.160638

Stalder, T. et al. (2025). The Cortisol Awakening Response. Endocrine Reviews, 46(1), 43–59. https://doi.org/10.1210/endrev/bnae024

NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory. Solar Calculation Details. https://gml.noaa.gov/grad/solcalc/calcdetails.html

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

This eBook is published **entirely free** for the Muslim Ummah and is **never for sale**. Donations are most welcome to help with the costs of research, hosting the website quranscience.my and publishing further articles and eBooks — but they are **not obligatory**. May Allah accept every donation as a continuing charity (sadaqah jariyah).

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

From Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه, from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who said: "Charity does not decrease wealth. Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah

CHAIN: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Virtue, Good Manners and Joining the Ties of Kinship, Chapter: The Encouragement of Forgiveness and Humility, Hadith No. 2588.

رويات إمام مسلم دالم صحيح مسلم، كتاب البر والصلة، حديث نومبور ٢٥٨٨

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

From Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه, that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: a continuing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

CHAIN: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Wills, Chapter: The Reward That Reaches a Person After His Death, Hadith No. 1631.

رويات إمام مسلم دالم صحيح مسلم، كتاب الوصية، حديث نومبور ١٦٣١

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

JAZAKUMULLAHU KHAIRAN KATHIRA

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah



Scan the QR code above (DuitNow) to donate.

DONATE

International donors: click the DONATE button or visit paypal.me/quranscience

© 2026 M / 1448 H All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for the Muslim Ummah