

Mi'raaj; A Miraculous Journey

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The journey of Al-Israa and Al-Mi'raaj is the most miraculous, fascinating and fast journey that took place in the history of Islam. This journey was granted to the holy Prophet Mohammed PBUH as an honorary reward due to his relentless sacrifice in the path of Dawah. It was in the early stage of Islam and about a year before the migration of the holy Prophet Mohammed from the sacred land of Makkah Al-Mukarramah to Madinah Al-Munawarah. An incredible amount of tension was present amongst the enemies of Islam. The holy Prophet PBUH suffered from two major bereavements. His beloved uncle / personal security Abu-Talib and his dearest wife, the mother of the believers Sayyidah Khadijah Radiallahu Anha, the internal source of motivation had departed his world.

Indeed ease comes after difficulties. There is no better gift than being a special guest of the ultimate king of this universe, Allah, the almighty. It was during the blessed sleep of the holy Prophet PBUH someone suddenly arrives and taps him to wake up. He saw the leader of angels Jibreel Alaihis Salam present with a special vehicle called Al-Buraq. It is a type of animal which is smaller than a mule and bigger than a donkey. The holy Prophet PBUH was escorted from the holy land of Makkah to the third holiest site in Islam, Al-Aqsa mosque located in the city of Al-Quds in Palestine.

A warm welcome and angelic hospitality was given to him as he was offered two glasses of two drinks. A glass of wine and a glass of milk. The Prophet PBUH chose the glass of milk even though alcohol was permissible at the early stage of Islam. However, the gradual prohibition of alcohol came into place due to immense social problems caused by its consumption.

Prophet Mohammed's PBUH greatness, highness and leadership over all the prophets was proven when he was honoured to lead Salah in Al-Aqsa Mosque right before his ascension to the seventh heaven in order to be in the presence of his creator, Allah, the almighty. His congregation of Salah included some of the most influential prophets such as Sayeeduna Ibrahim, Musa and Isa Alaihimus Salam. His journey from Makkah Al-Mukarramah to Masjid Al-Aqsa was known as Al-Israa which means travelling during the night.

His Mi'raaj, the ascension to the seventh heaven with the company of angel Jibreel Alaihis Salam was indeed the best trip a human can ever experience. A meeting with Allah nearby Sidratul Muntaha, the Lote Tree that marks the end of seventh heaven, the boundary where no creation can pass and beyond which is the throne of Allah, the almighty. Near it is the paradise of abode. The

package of his ascension to the seventh heaven also included the meeting with Major Prophets and angels of Allah, where Salah, the second most important pillar in Islam was made obligatory alongside with the exchange of beautiful greetings.

The holy Prophet Mohammed PBUH was taken back to Makkah after this great mission of Al-Israa Wal Mi'raaj while the darkness of the night still remained. The enemies of Islam in Makkah belied this miraculous event and mocked the holy Prophet PBUH as it was their nature but the intellectuals like Sayeeduna Abu-Bakr Raidiallahu Anhu and other companions instantly put their trust in the statement of their prophet Alaihis Salam.

Lessons of ease after difficulties, greatness and highness of prophet Mohammed PBUH, immense significance of performing Salah and remaining steadfast in the face of difficulties can be learnt from this fascinating event. No special rituals or prayers can be found to be practiced during the night of Al-Israa Wal Mi'raaj and the exact date of this great journey is differed by the Muslim Historians although 27th night of Rajab was the strongest assumption.