



## LESSONS OF THE NIGHT JOURNEY AND ASCENSION TO HEAVEN (*ISRA' & MI'RAJ*)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ  
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ  
وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ  
أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَآيَايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Indeed, the month of *Rejab* (the 7th month in the Islamic calendar) is one of the most sacred months in Islam. Muslim scholars believe that this is the month in which *Isra' and Mikraj* took place. We clearly see the significance of this event because one of the chapters (*Surah*) in the Quran is named after it.

*Isra' and Mikraj* is not a mere celebration but it is also one of the many miracles that Allah the Almighty granted upon Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him [pbuh]). *Isra' and Mikraj* is full of valuable lessons for Muslims. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 17 (*Surah Al-Isra'*), verse (ayat) 1:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى

الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ

الْبَصِيرُ

Which means: *Glory to (Allah) Who did take His servant for a Journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to the farthest Mosque, whose precincts We did bless, - in order that We might show him some of Our Signs: for He is the One Who heareth and seeth (all things).*

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Among the lessons from *Isra' and Mikraj* is the importance of purification and cleanliness. Before being taken on a *Buraq*, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was operated on by Angel Gabriel and his heart was cleansed. Muslims who neglect their personal hygiene, especially before praying in the mosques, take cleanliness lightly. Although there are many ways that encourage cleanliness like taking ablution, cleaning teeth and putting on fragrance, there are still some who do not respect the mosques by not keeping themselves clean: having strong body odor, letting their mouth smell from cigarettes or food, and not washing toilets after using them. Let us together respect our acts of worship and mosques by maintaining cleanliness. Hopefully Allah the Almighty will look at our worship favorably.

*Isra' and Mikraj* links Muslims with the third most important mosque in Islam (which is also the first *qibla*), the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Palestine. Logically, it would be easier if Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was taken to heaven directly without first going to Baitul Maqdis (Jerusalem). However, there was a blessing in it because currently the place that is being



occupied by the Zionist government is increasingly being forgotten. Muslims are more familiar with the region's name in Hebrew than in the Arabic language. Some also do not recognize Al-Aqsa Mosque. Some do not even sympathize with the fate of the Palestinians whose homeland was seized by Israeli occupiers. Hopefully, by commemorating the story of *Isra' and Mikraj*, Muslims will be aware of the developments in Palestine and take the role in contributing towards the liberation of *al-Quds*.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

During his *Mikraj* (ascension to heaven), Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had met with the previous Prophets at each stopover of the seven stages of heavens. Every Prophet that he met was delighted to see him and recognized the position of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as the last glorified messenger. This is the glory that Allah the Almighty bestowed upon Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Unfortunately, many of his followers today are trivializing the importance of loving the Prophet (pbuh). The clearest evidence is how many of us are reciting the salutation to the Prophet (*Salawat*) whenever his name is mentioned? How many of us make the practice of *Salawat* as many as we can on Fridays? How can we be worthy of his intercession (*syafa'at*) in the hereafter if we have no love for the beloved Prophet (pbuh)?

In addition, the five daily prayers were also directly commanded by Allah the Almighty when Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was at the *Sidratul Muntaha* (a large holy tree in the seventh heaven). How generous and loving Allah the Almighty is to us, keeping the reward of 50 times prayer, even though the actual number of prayers was reduced to only five times. In Sahih Muslim, the Prophet stated that Allah has said:

*Which means: O Muhammad! Indeed I made it obligatory to pray five times a day. Each obligatory prayer is multiplied by ten times which makes it equivalent to fifty prayers. Likewise, whoever intends, to do good but does not do it, will surely be credited for him a favor. If he does it, then he will be credited ten favors. While anyone who intends to commit a crime, but does not do it, then he will not be penalized.*

In conjunction with the appreciation of *Isra' and Mikraj*, let us together try to be righteous Muslims, in order to become valuable servants of Allah the Almighty. Let us keep clean, love al-Aqsa mosque, recite *Salawat* and pray at all times. Let us be reminded by the verse in the Quran in Chapter 17 (Surah Al-Isra'), verse (*ayat*) 60:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لَكَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ أَحَاطَ بِالنَّاسِ وَمَا جَعَلْنَا الرُّءْيَا الَّتِي أَرَيْنَاكَ إِلَّا فِتْنَةً  
لِّلنَّاسِ وَالشَّجَرَةَ الْمَلْعُونَةَ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ وَنُخَوِّفُهُمْ فَمَا يَزِيدُهُمْ إِلَّا طُغْيَانًا كَبِيرًا



Which means: " Behold! We told thee that thy Lord doth encompass mankind round about: We granted the vision (during the ascension to heaven) which We showed thee, but as a trial for men, as also the Cursed Tree (mentioned) in the Qur'an: We put terror (and warning) into them, but it only increases their inordinate transgression!"

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِيْ وَلِكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ  
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ  
قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِيْ وَلِكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ،  
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.