

ISRAK AND MIKRAJ

17 FEBRUARY 2023 | 26 REJAB 1444 H

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

وَأَشْهَدُ 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 وَأُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Him in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 17 (surah al-Isra') verse 1:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ وَمِنَ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ①

Which means: “Glory be to the One Who took His servant Muhammad by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Farthest Mosque whose surroundings We have blessed, so that We may show him some of Our signs. Indeed, He alone is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing.”

Dear brothers and sisters

The events of Israk and Mikraj are a proof of the greatness and power of Allah the Almighty through the journey of the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam from Masjidil Haram to Masjidil Aqsa and then Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) ascended to the heaven to receive command from Allah the Almighty to perform daily prayers of five times a day.

Imam Fakhrurrazi in his book (Tafsir al-Kabir) states what Allah the Almighty says in the first verse from surah al-Isra': “لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا” which means

“So that We may show him some of Our signs”. This gives the understanding that Allah the Almighty wants to show what has been prepared as a reward for his servants in the afterlife; about the beauty of heaven and the misery of hell. The Prophet (pbuh) was led by Allah the Almighty to witness the signs of Allah the Almighty’s power and greatness, and this has increased the prophet’s faith and confidence and thus he was able continue to strive better in delivering the message of monotheism (*tauhid*).

The events of Israk and Mikraj tested the faith of Muslims in the truth of Islamic teachings. Those who have strong faith will definitely acknowledge and believe in these events which are beyond their common mindset.

Dear brothers and sisters

The most important lesson to be learned about the events of Israk and Mikraj is the obligation to pray. Prayer has been commanded directly from Allah the Almighty to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) without the mediation of the angel Jibril Alaihis Salam. Other acts of worship are prescribed by Allah the Almighty through the revelations delivered by the angel Jibril Alaihis Salam.

We Muslims are required to perform obligatory prayers five times a day and night and to keep to the prayer times. But what happens these days are some people neglect to perform or delay their prayers on the pretext of being busy with work, family and so on until they run out of time. Indeed, those who are truly righteous will take care of their prayers dilligently, both in terms of execution and timing. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 107 (surah al-Ma’un) verse 4 and 5:

فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ ﴿٤﴾ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ ﴿٥﴾

Which means: “So woe to those hypocrites who pray yet are unmindful of their prayers”.

Prayer is the backbone of other acts of worship. As the Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Al-Tarmizi:

" أَنْ أَوَّلَ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ الصَّلَاةُ "

Which means: “The first action for which a servant of Allah will be held accountable on the Day of Resurrection will be his prayers.”

Dear brothers and sisters

Among the blessings that Allah the Almighty revealed were various strange events in of Israk and Mikraj that serve as a reminder and lesson to humans to make positive changes to themselves. For example, if one used to neglect and be lazy to pray, then after appreciating this event and taking lessons from it, one will change to be diligent in performing prayers, especially in congregational prayers. If one used to take usury, now he/she would have changed and will not do it again. Furthermore, one will obey the command of Allah the Almighty and leave His prohibitions; not to continuously wallow in sin and immorality and not wanting to

listen to reprimands and advice, like the idiom ' go in the right ear, and out the other'. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 16 (surah an-Nahl) verse 97:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيٰوةً طَيِّبَةً ۖ وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٩٧﴾

Which means: “ Whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer, We will surely bless them with a good life, and We will certainly reward them according to the best of their deeds.”

بَارِكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنْ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهُ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

