

ISRA' AND MI'RAJ

24 JANUARY 2024 | 24 RAJAB 1446H

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغُورُهُ. 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 عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ 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, Allah will be pleased with us in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The arrival of the month of *Rajab* reminds us of *Isra'* and *Mi'raj* which is one of the miracles of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him [PBUH]). This great event was his journey at night from *Masjidil Haram* in Mecca to *Masjidil Aqsa* in *Baitul Maqdis* and then his ascent through the seven heavens reaching *Sidratul Muntaha*. This is mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 17 (*Surah Al-Isra*) Verse (*ayat*) 1,

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنَ
ءَايَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

Which means: “*Glory to Him who made His servant travel by night from the sacred place of worship to the furthest place of worship, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him some of Our signs: He alone is the All Hearing, the All Seeing.*”

The event of *Isra’* and *Mi’raj* was a miraculous journey arranged by Allah the Almighty for the Prophet (PBUH) in which the obligation of prayer was accepted. The event was also a comfort for the Prophet (PBUH) as he was grieving due to the death of two people he loved, his wife *Saidatina* Khadijah and his uncle Abu Talib. He also had gone through hardships in his journey of spreading the religion when he was hurt and oppressed while in Taif. While in this state of sadness, which was also known as the year of sorrow, Allah the Almighty allowed him to travel to see His majesty and greatness.

This event provided great motivation because even though he was humiliated on Earth, the Prophet (PBUH) was glorified in the Heavens. He was honored by meeting the Prophets in each layer of the Heavens, namely Prophet Adam, Prophet Jesus (Isa) and Prophet Yahya, Prophet Joseph (Yusuf), Prophet Idris, Prophet Aaron (Harun), Prophet Moses (Musa) and finally in the seventh heaven he met Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was honored to be the *Imam* of all the Messengers and Prophets when they performed prayers in the Aqsa Mosque.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Among the lessons of *Isra’* and *Mi’raj* is that we should all strive to do good deeds and avoid all evil and sinful acts. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) was shown some of the rewards of good deeds and the punishment

of sins on that night. Indeed, the rewards of good deeds in heaven and the punishment of hell are true. The Prophet (PBUH) smelled the fragrance of Masyitah and her children who were willing to sacrifice their lives to defend their faith and beliefs.

The Prophet (PBUH) also saw the punishment for the sin of those who backbite and seek out the faults of others. May we strive hard to guard our tongues so that we do not get caught up in committing the acts of *mazmumah* (negative behavior) because the punishment for sin is very frightening. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Abu Daud which means: “*During the Mi'raj (the Night of Ascension), I saw a group of people who were scratching their chests and faces with their copper nails. I asked, 'Who are these people, O Jibril?' Jibril replied: 'These are the people who ate flesh of others (by backbiting) and trampled people's honour.'*”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The *Isra'* and *Mi'raj* event encourages us all to appreciate how great the act of prayer is because the Prophet (PBUH) received the obligation of praying five times a day directly from Allah the Almighty that night. According to a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari,

ثُمَّ فُرِضَتْ عَلَيَّ الصَّلَاةُ خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ فَرَجَعْتُ فَمَرَرْتُ عَلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ بِمَا أُمِرْتُ قَالَ
أُمِرْتُ بِخَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ

Which means: “*Then the prayers were enjoined on me: They were fifty prayers a day. When I returned, I passed by Moses who asked (me), 'What have you been ordered to do?' I replied, 'I have been ordered to offer fifty prayers a day.'*”

Based on the *hadith* above, originally the obligation of prayer was 50 times a day, but it was eventually reduced by Allah the Almighty to 5 times a day. This shows that the obligatory prayers cannot be taken lightly and must be carried out in the most impeccable way. Therefore, perform prayer on time, in congregation and perform it in the mosque so that it is accepted and makes us loved by Allah the Almighty. Today, many among us are complaining about the weakness of Muslims, but we also forget that the main cause of this weakness is neglecting obligatory prayers.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The event of *Isra'* and *Mi'raj* has a great connection with *Masjidil Aqsa* because the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) was taken by Allah to this holy mosque. We must remember that the mosque that was once the first *Qibla* of Muslims is now under the control of the Zionist Jews because of their evil plans, the weakness of Muslims' faith and the collapse of unity among Muslims. The struggle to liberate this noble land is the greatest responsibility of Muslims in this era. Therefore, let us all contribute what we can to this struggle and do not forget to always pray that Allah the Almighty helps our brothers in Palestine who are being oppressed.

In conclusion, appreciate the event of *Isra'* and *Mi'raj* by praying five times a day earnestly and avoiding all the evils and punishments that have been described in the event of *Isra'* and *Mi'raj*.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

مَا كَذَبَ الْفُؤَادُ مَا رَأَى أَفْتَمَرُونَهُ عَلَىٰ مَا يَرَىٰ وَلَقَدْ رَءَاهُ نَزْلَةً أُخْرَىٰ عِنْدَ سِدْرَةِ الْمُنْتَهَىٰ عِنْدَهَا جَنَّةُ الْمَأْوَىٰ

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.