

CCUPIED PALESTINE: THE LAND OF *ISRA*’

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ مُحَمَّدُهُ 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 عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ 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, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Rejab, the seventh month of the Islamic calendar, is the month of *Israk* and *Mikraj* (the Night Journey – the Prophet’s miraculous journey to Heaven). The great event that took place before the migration to Medina was proof of Allah’s love for the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him [PBUH]) and his followers. The Prophet (PBUH) was invited to Heaven to witness for himself the signs of the greatness of Allah the Creator as declared in the Quran in Chapter 17 (*Surah Al-Isra*’) verse (*ayat*) 1:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ

الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿١﴾

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.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Allah the Almighty begins the story of *Isra'* with *tasbih*, Glory be to Allah, who has the power to transport Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) during the events of *Isra'* and *Mikraj* in a very short time. This extraordinary event tested humans' faith. It also connects Muslims to the third most important mosque in Islam, *al-Aqsa* Mosque in Palestine, which is also the first *qibla* (the direction for Muslims to pray). Although Allah could have transported the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) directly to Heaven from Mecca, in His wisdom, the Prophet (PBUH) was taken to Palestine first.

On the night of *Isra'* and *Mikraj*, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) confirmed Muslim's claim to *al-Aqsa* Mosque by establishing prayers there with the previous prophets and messengers. Only during the reign of Caliph Umar bin al-

As a result of Muslim disunity, Palestine fell into the hands of British. In 1917 the British surrendered Palestine to the Jews, due to the lobbying from the International Zionist movement. That was the beginning of the Zionist terrorist attacks to seize the land belonging to the Palestinians. Inch by inch the Palestinian land was sold to the Jews and eventually, the whole country was conquered by the Jews. Four million Palestinians were forced to leave their homeland and became refugees. At its peak in 1948, Israel invaded and established their illegitimate state on Palestinian land. Such a situation could happen in our country if we are careless and do not take lessons from this tragedy.

In the spirit of *Isra'* and *Mikraj*, let us together express our support for the liberation of Palestine by always praying congregationally in the mosques as the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the previous prophets did in al-Aqsa Mosque. May we be united and continue to pray that Muslims around the world receive the blessings of Allah the Almighty as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 22 (*Surah Al-Hajj*) verse (*ayat*) 40:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

... وَلَيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَن يَنْصُرُهُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ ﴿٤٠﴾

Which means: "...God is sure to help those who help His cause- Allah is strong and mighty-".

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ 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
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.