

ISRA WAL MI'RAJ

الإسراء والمعراج

Utrujj Foundation Copyright 2021

Registered Charity No. 1099875

By Ayesha Khan, based on the teachings of
Shaykh Haytham Tamim, Utrujj Foundation

ISRA WAL MIR'AJ

ISRA - TO TRAVEL IN THE NIGHT (MAKKAH – JERUSALEM)

769 miles

WA - AND

MIRAJ - TO CLIMB (DOME OF THE ROCK – HEAVEN)



Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him)

571CE Birth

610CE Received the first revelation

Spread Islam privately to close friends and family

613CE Made a public declaration of Islam

Faced opposition

617CE Boycott of Muslims

620CE Isra wal Miraj

622CE Migrated to Madinah

632CE Death

YEAR OF SORROW (*AAM AL HUZN*)

AGE 50

10 YEARS AFTER THE REVELATION

ONLY ABOUT 100 PEOPLE HAVE BECOME MUSLIM

MUSLIMS HAD ENDURED 3 YEARS OF SIEGE/BOYCOTT AND STARVATION

LOST HIS WIFE KHADIJA – EMOTIONAL & FINANCIAL SUPPORT, MOTHER OF 4 THEIR DAUGHTERS

LOST HIS UNCLE – SECURITY IN THE COMMUNITY

REJECTED AND ATTACKED IN TA'IF

Though public tradition has associated it with 27th Rajab, other narrations have stated that it took place in Rabiul Awwal (which is the most accepted narration), or Rabiul Akhirah, or Dhul Qaidah or Ramadan.

One of the great miracles given to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him).

*“Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al- Aqsa,
whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs.*

Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing” [Surat al-Israa’ 17:1]

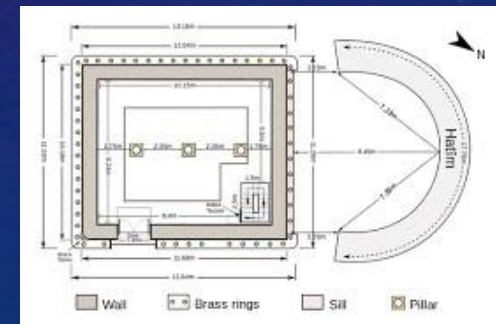
THE OPENING OF THE CHEST

“While I was lying in Al-Hatim or Al-Hijr, suddenly someone (an angel) came to me and cut my body open from here to here (his chest to the naval). He then took out my heart. Then a gold tray of Iman was brought to me and my heart was washed and was filled (with Iman) and then returned to its original place...” [Bukhari]

Hatim – semi circle (considered to be inside the Kaba)

Chest opened – 4 times

To strengthen him/his imaan for the journey



Why the Prophet's chest was opened (peace be on him)?

'And when Musa arrived at Our appointed time and his Lord spoke to him, he said, "My Lord, show me [Yourself] that I may look at You." [Allah] said, "You will not see Me, but look at the mountain; if it should remain in place, then you will see Me." But when his Lord appeared to the mountain, He rendered it level, and Musa fell unconscious. And when he awoke, he said, "Exalted are You! I have repented to You, and I am the first of the believers"'. [7:143]

AL BURAQ

THE NAME BURAQ COMES FROM BARQ, WHICH HAS ITS ROOTS IN LIGHT AND MEANS LIGHTNING, FLASH OR BOLT. IT TRAVELLED AS FAST AS THE EYE COULD SEE IN ONE STRIDE, SO IT WAS TRAVELLING FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

BURQA IS RESTLESS

AL BURQA WAS BROUGHT TO THE PROPHET (PEACE BE ON HIM) ON THE NIGHT OF ISRA, SADDLED AND REINED, BUT HE SHIED FROM HIM. SO JIBRIL SAID TO HIM: "IS IT FROM MUHAMMAD THAT YOU DO THIS? BY YOUR LORD! THERE IS NO ONE MORE HONOURABLE TO YOUR LORD THAN HIM." HE SAID: "THEN HE STARTED SWEATING PROFUSELY." (TIRMIDHI)

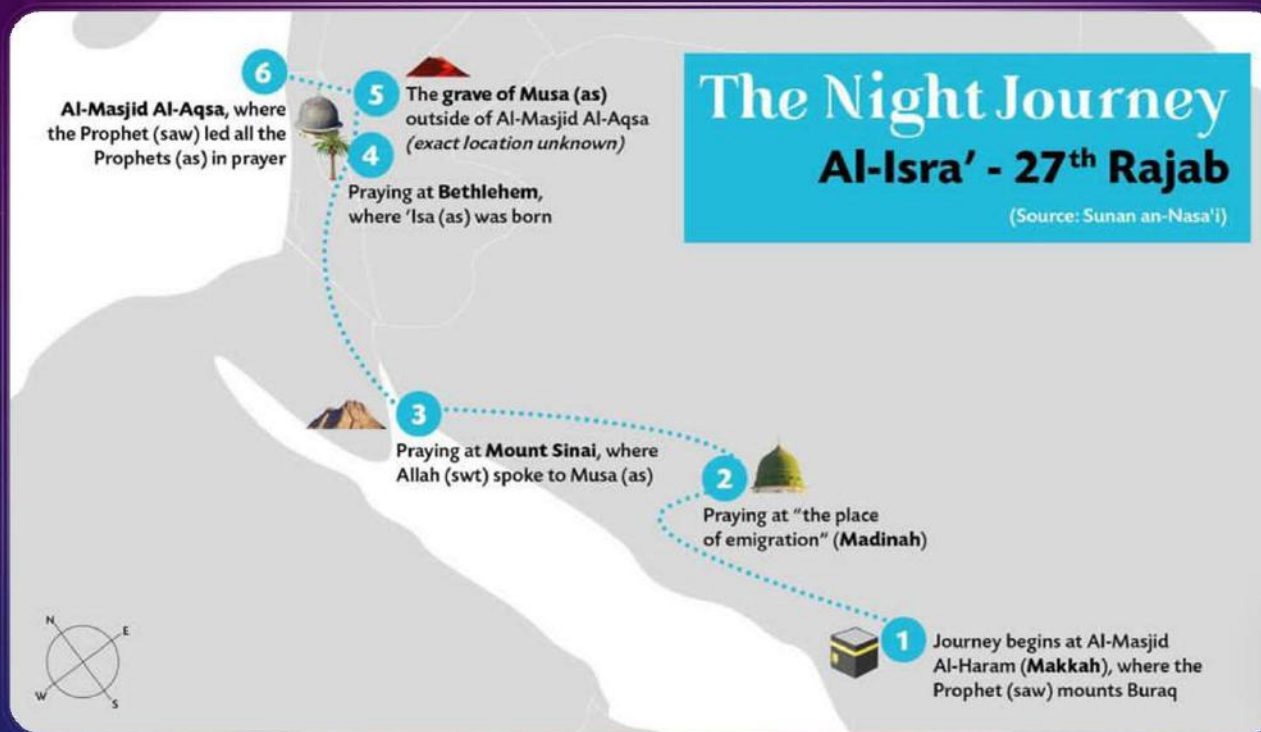
HONOUR OF RIDING

AL BURQA WAS GIVEN TO THE PROPHET (PEACE BE UPON HIM) AS A REFERENCE TO THE EXCLUSIVITY, HE SAID, AND THE POWER OF ALLAH WAS VALID TO TAKE THE PROPHET PEACE BE UPON HIM TO THE SKIES WITHOUT AL BURQA BUT THIS WAS EXTRA HONOURING, BECAUSE IF HE WENT UP BY HIMSELF HE WAS IN THE FORM OF A WALKER, AND THE RIDER IS DEARER THAN THE WALKER. (FATH AL BARI – 7/206)

SPEED

I WAS BROUGHT AL BURQA WHO IS AN ANIMAL WHITE AND LONG, LARGER THAN A DONKEY BUT SMALLER THAN A MULE, WHO WOULD PLACE HIS HOOF A DISTANCE EQUAL TO THE RANGE OF VERSION. I MOUNTED IT AND CAME TO THE TEMPLE (BAIT AL MAQDIS IN JERUSALEM), THEN TETHERED IT TO THE RING USED BY THE PROPHETS. I ENTERED THE MOSQUE AND PRAYED TWO RAKAHS IN IT, AND THEN CAME OUT AND JIBRIL BROUGHT ME A VESSEL OF WINE AND A VESSEL OF MILK. I CHOSE THE MILK, AND JIBRIL SAID: YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE NATURAL THING. (MUSLIM)

THE IDEA THAT AL BURQA HAS TWO WINGS IS IN POPULAR IMAGINATION, BUT IT IS FROM AN UNRELIABLE NARRATION BY IBN SA'D.



•“I was brought an animal that was larger than a donkey and smaller than a mule, whose stride could reach as far as it could see. I mounted it, and Jibril was with me, and I set off. Then he said: ‘Dismount and pray,’ so I did that. He said: ‘Do you know where you have prayed? You have prayed in Taibah, which will be the place of the emigration.’ Then he said: ‘Dismount and pray,’ so I prayed. He said: ‘Do you know where you have prayed? You have prayed in Mount Sinai, where Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, spoke to Musa, peace be upon him.’ So I dismounted and prayed, and he said: ‘Do you know where you have prayed? You have prayed in Bethlehem, where ‘Eesa, peace be upon him, was born.’ Then I entered Bait al Maqdis (Jerusalem) where the Prophets, peace be upon them, were assembled for me, and Jibril brought me forward to lead them in prayer. (Sunan An Nasqi)

Riding al Buraq

He was familiar yet different

You can feel the air around you unlike being in an enclosed capsule like an aeroplane or a spaceship.

When you fly up in a plane you see a different view of the world below you. It gives you a shift in perspective.

When the world diminishes and disappears, it is like the problems of the world diminishing and then disappearing. This is a technique used in NLP to shrink problems.

The journey was a form of convalescence.

“ Bait al Maqdis – Purified House also known as al Masjid al Aqsa ‘the furthest mosque’ Al Quds – The Holy Land - Jerusalem

Bait al Maqdis is where Ibrahim, Dawood and Suleman lived.

Due to its historical significance, Allah Almighty chose it over others.
Allah has sanctified some places. *It is very blessed land*

When Sulaiman bin Dawud finished building Baitil-Maqdis, he asked Allah for three things: judgment that was in harmony with His judgment, a dominion that no one after him would have, and that no one should come to this mosque, intending only to pray there, but he would emerge free of sin as the day his mother bore him.” The Prophet (peace be on him) said: “Two prayers were granted, and I hope that the third was also granted.” (Ibn Majah)

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) said:

He said: “O Allah, bless for us our Shaam; O Allah, bless for us our Yemen.” (Bukhari)

“A prayer in the Masjid al-Haram is akin to one hundred thousand prayers, a prayer in my mosque is like a thousand prayers, and a prayer in the Baitul Maqdis is like five hundred prayers [in reward].” [Tabarani: Mu`jam al Kabir]
It was the Qibla during Salah until the Qibla was changed after migration.



The Blessed Masjid Al-Aqsa sanctuary includes the grey-domed Qibly Masjid, where the Prophet (peace be on him) led all the Prophets (as) in prayer during the miraculous Night Journey (Al-Isra').

The Dome of the Rock Masjid, contains the rock from which the Prophet (peace be on him) ascended¹² to heaven. Its Arabic name is Qubbat as-Sakhrah. This sits magnificently at the centre of the complex, and is famous for its golden dome.

- Ibrahim (Abraham) lived there. He built a masjid.
- Musa (Moses) died in the desert. He did not reach Palestine.
- Dawood (David) beat Jalut (Goliath) and believers settled in Palestine. He became king.
- His son Suleman (Solomon) became king of the best kingdom ever to have existed.
- Romans conquered Palestine and expelled the Jews from Jerusalem.

Qibla was Bait al Maqdis
619 CE The Isra wal Miraj took place
Qibla changed to Makkah

In 638, Muslim's conquered Jerusalem. They built Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock (completed in 692 AD). The Haram Sharif "Noble Sanctuary" is the third holiest place in Islam, after Mecca and Medina.

Meeting the prophets and leading them in Salah

I also saw myself among the group of apostles. I saw Moses saying prayer and found him to be a well-built man as if he was a man of the tribe of Shanu'a. I saw Jesus son of Mary (peace be upon him) offering prayer, of all of men he had the closest resemblance with 'Urwa b. Masu'd al-Thaqafi. I saw Ibrahim (peace be upon him) offering prayer; he had the closest resemblance with your companion (the Prophet himself) amongst people. When the time of prayer came I led them. When I completed the prayer, someone said: Here is Malik, the keeper of the Hell; pay him salutations. I turned to him, but he preceded me in salutation.(Muslim)

The choice between wine and milk

When they arrived at the mosque in Bait al Maqdis, the Prophet (peace be on him) was offered a cup of wine and milk, and he choose milk. Jibril said that this symbolised the fitrah (natural goodness).

The Angel Jibril (peace be upon him) said,
“All praise is due to Allah who has guided you to that which is natural, for had you selected the wine your nation would have been led astray.” (Bukhari and Muslim)

Milk vs wine:

Our first food in life is breastmilk.

White is the colour of purity

Milk is natural, we require it for growth and health

Wine is an intoxicant

MEETING THE PROPHETS...

IS LIKE ARRIVING FOR HAJJ

YOU GO FROM BEING OSTRACISED TO WELCOMED

FROM BEING ONE MUSLIM IN A MINORITY TO THE ENTIRE CROWD BEING MUSLIM

FROM BEING BULLIED TO BEING HONOURED AND TREATED AS A VIP

THE PROPHETS IN THE 7 SKIES WERE LIKE HIS RECEPTION PARTY

BEING REUNITED WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY

MEETING HEROES YOU HEARD OF BUT NEVER MET

YOU CAN EXCHANGE AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THOSE WHO SHARED THE SAME MISSION AS YOU

MUSA IS MENTIONED 136 TIMES IN THE QURAN - HE PLAYS THE BIGGEST PART IN THIS EPISODE

IBRAHIM IS THE MOST CLOSELY RELATED – THE PROPHET (PEACE BE ON HIM) WAS A DIRECT DESCENDENT, SO IT WAS LITERALLY A FAMILY REUNION

LATER WHEN THE PROPHET (PEACE BE ON HIM) WOULD NARRATE REVELATIONS ABOUT THEIR STORIES IN MADINAH PARTICULARLY ABOUT MUSA (PEACE BE ON HIM) IT WOULD BE AFTER THIS MEETING WITH HIM. THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM TELLING A STORY ABOUT SOMEBODY YOU NEVER MET.

The Journey through the 7 skies

Then he took me to heaven. Jibril then asked the (gate of heaven) to be opened and he was asked who he was.

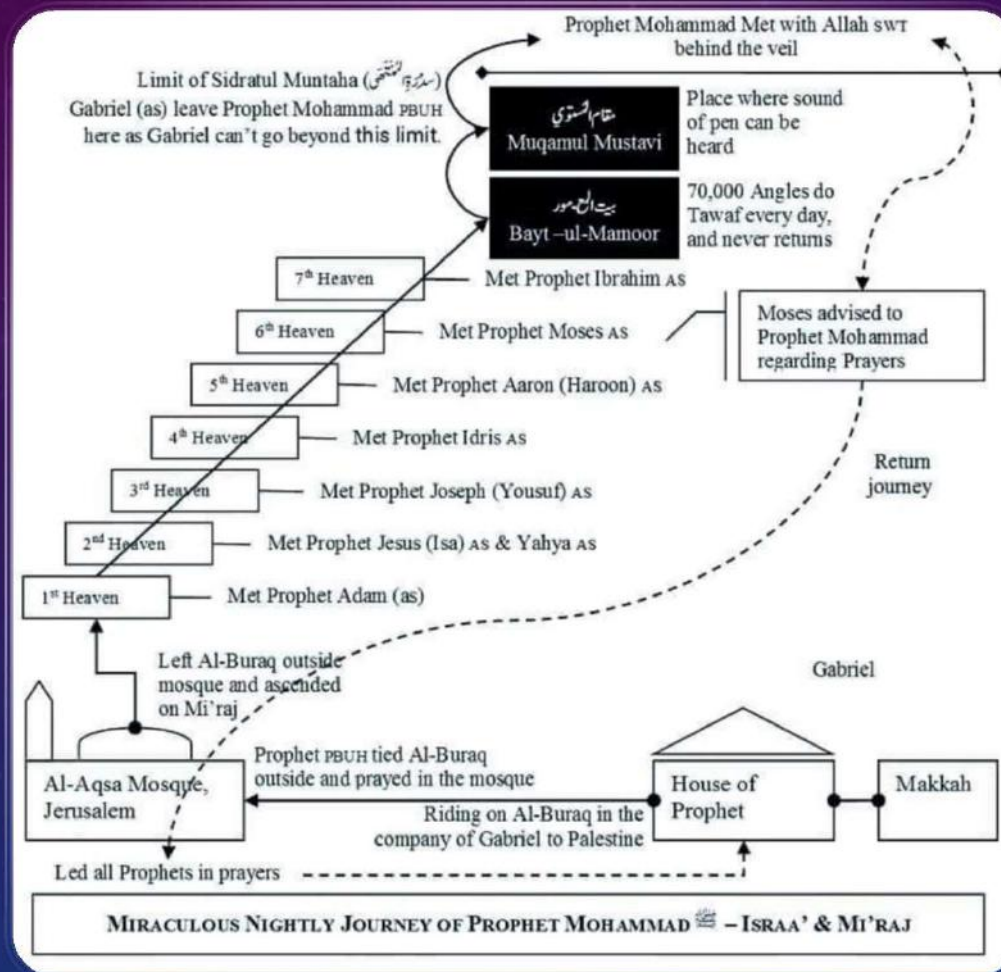
He replied: Jibril.

He was again asked: Who is with you?

He (Jibril) said: Muhammad.

It was said: Has he been sent for?

Jibril replied: He has indeed been sent for. And (the door of the heaven) was opened for us and lo! We saw Adam. He welcomed me and prayed for my good. (Muslim)



Meeting Ibrahim (peace be on him)

Our Lord! Raise from among them a messenger from among themselves, who would recite to them His verses, and teach them the scripture and wisdom and purify them (Qur'an 2:129).

THEN I WAS TAKEN UP TO THE SEVENTH HEAVEN. JIBRIL ASKED THE (GATE) TO BE OPENED. IT WAS SAID: WHO IS HE? HE SAID: JIBRIL IT WAS SAID. WHO IS WITH THEE? HE REPLIED: MUHAMMAD (MAY PEACE BE UPON HIM.) IT WAS SAID: HAS HE BEEN SENT FOR? HE REPLIED: HE HAS INDEED BEEN SENT FOR. (THE GATE) WAS OPENED FOR US AND THERE I FOUND IBRAHIM (ABRAHAM PEACE BE UPON HIM) RECLINING AGAINST THE BAIT UL MA'MUR AND THERE ENTER INTO IT SEVENTY THOUSAND ANGELS EVERY DAY, NEVER TO VISIT (THIS PLACE) AGAIN. (MUSLIM)

"AND BY THE BAIT UL MA'MUR (THE HOUSE OVER THE HEAVENS PARABLE TO THE KA'BAH AT MAKKAH, CONTINUOUSLY VISITED BY THE ANGELS)" (52:4)



Every salah is the Mi'raj (accession) of the believer to his Lord

Shaykh Haytham Tamim



WHY IS THE MI'RAJ SIGNIFICANT
FOR US?

SALAH FIVE TIMES A DAY WAS
MADE A COMMAND FOR US

EVERY TIME WE PRAY, WE
SHOULD LEAVE THE WORLD WITH
ITS WORRIES, SADNESS AND
TROUBLES AND TRAVEL TO
HEAVEN AND OUR CREATOR. IT
SHOULD BRING US COMFORT
AND TRANQUILITY. EVERY SALAH
IS A MIRAJ TO ITS LORD.

SIDRATUL MUNTAHA – THE LOTE TREE

of the utmost boundary

ONE TO ONE WITH ALLAH ALMIGHTY

THEN I WAS TAKEN TO SIDRATUL MUNTAHA WHOSE LEAVES WERE LIKE ELEPHANT EARS AND ITS FRUIT LIKE BIG EARTHENWARE VESSELS. AND WHEN IT WAS COVERED BY THE COMMAND OF ALLAH, IT UNDERWENT SUCH A CHANGE THAT NONE AMONGST THE CREATION HAS THE POWER TO PRAISE ITS BEAUTY. THEN ALLAH REVEALED TO ME A REVELATION AND HE MADE OBLIGATORY FOR ME FIFTY PRAYERS EVERY DAY AND NIGHT. (MUSLIM)

BEHOLD! ITS FRUITS WERE LIKE THE JARS OF HAJR (I.E. A PLACE NEAR MEDINA) AND ITS LEAVES WERE AS BIG AS THE EARS OF ELEPHANTS. GABRIEL SAID, 'THIS IS THE LOTE TREE OF THE UTMOST BOUNDARY). BEHOLD! THERE RAN FOUR RIVERS, TWO WERE HIDDEN AND TWO WERE VISIBLE, I ASKED, 'WHAT ARE THESE TWO KINDS OF RIVERS, O GABRIEL?' HE REPLIED, 'AS FOR THE HIDDEN RIVERS, THEY ARE TWO RIVERS IN PARADISE AND THE VISIBLE RIVERS ARE THE NILE AND THE EUPHRATES. (BUKHARI)

Salah is prescribed and negotiated

Then I went down to Musa (peace be upon him) and he said: What has your Lord enjoined upon your Ummah? I said: Fifty prayers. He said: Return to thy Lord and beg for reduction (in the number of prayers), for your community shall not be able to bear this burden; as I have put to test the children of Isra'il and tried them (and found them too weak to bear such a heavy burden).

I then kept going back and forth between my Lord Blessed and Exalted and Musa, till He said: There are five prayers every day and night. O Muhammad, each being credited as ten, so that makes fifty prayers. He who intends to do a good deed and does not do it will have a good deed recorded for him; and if he does it, it will be recorded for him as ten; whereas he who intends to do an evil deed and does not do, it will not be recorded for him; and if he does it, only one evil deed will be recorded. I then came down and when I came to Musa and informed him, he said: Go back to thy Lord and ask Him to make things lighter. Upon this the Messenger of Allah remarked: I returned to my Lord until I felt ashamed before Him. (Muslim)

Salah - The ascension of the soul

Though the command to pray had been there for the Prophet (peace be on him) from the outset, Jibril taught him and subsequently the companions how to pray since the very beginning of the mission.

The obligation to pray five times was commanded during the Mi'raj.

The command came direct from Allah without intermediary.

All our other commands came through Jibril, but salah was given directly to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) without any third party.

It is no coincidence, that the Salah is our 1-2-1 communication with Allah without intermediary.

It is the highest form of worship. ALL of the prophets participated in the salah for the relationship with Allah has always been through salah.

The salah has come to raise us, to elevate us. It is the ascension of our soul to Allah. Performing the five prayers connects the servant with his Lord.

The Prophet (peace be on him) was shown Jannah and this motivated him even more on his return, as he had seen what Allah Almighty had created with his own eyes, smelt it and experienced its majesty and wonders.

He had certainty and insight so when he would reveal it, it would be from a place of knowledge and experience.

After this, no matter what difficulty he would face, it would be with the knowledge of what awaited in the akhirah.

And the consequences of rejecting imaan.

When you will see the fruits of your work before your eyes you will wish you had done more. If we have more yaqeen, we would behave differently in this life.

The Prophet (peace be on him) passed jannah and jahannum and the river of al Kawther in Jannah.

“The Messenger of Allah (peace be on him) said: “I saw a river in Paradise, whose banks had tents were made of pearl. I said: “What is this O Jibril?”” He said: “This is Al-Kauthar which Allah has granted you.”
[Tirmidhi]

RETURN TO MAKKAH

I FOUND MYSELF IN HIJR AND THE QURAISH WERE ASKING ME ABOUT MY MIGHT JOURNEY. I WAS ASKED ABOUT THINGS PERTAINING TO BAIT AL MAQDIS WHICH I COULD NOT PRESERVE (IN MY MIND). I WAS VERY MUCH VEXED, SO VEXED AS I HAD NEVER BEEN BEFORE. THEN ALLAH RAISED IT (BAIT AL AQDIS) BEFORE MY EYES. I LOOKED TOWARDS IT, AND I GAVE THEM THE INFORMATION ABOUT WHATEVER THEY QUESTIONED ME.



All this took place between Isha and Fajr.

LESSONS

DID IT REALLY OCCUR PHYSICALLY?

“HIS VISION DID NOT STRAY, NOR DID IT GO WRONG, HIS HEART DID NOT LIE ABOUT WHAT IT SAW, CERTAINLY, HE SAW THE GREATEST SIGNS OF HIS LORD” [AN-NAJIM: 53:18]

THESE ARE SCENES FROM THE UNSEEN WORLD, WHICH WE CANNOT PENETRATE WITH OUR INTELLECT. IN THIS JOURNEY, THE AUTHENTIC OPINION IS THAT THE PROPHET (PEACE BE ON HIM) SAW ALLAH ALMIGHTY, HOWEVER WE DO NOT KNOW IF HE SAW HIM WITH HIS EYES OR WITH HIS HEART.

THERE IS ANOTHER OPINION THAT HE DID NOT ACTUALLY SEE ALLAH ALMIGHTY, WHICH WAS HELD BY AISHA (MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HER).

WHEN HE WAS ASKED IF HE HAD SEEN ALLAH, THE PROPHET (PEACE BE ON HIM) REPLIED, NURUN ANNA ARA: ‘HE IS LIGHT WHERE EVER I LOOK, I SEE HIM’. (BUKHARI)

THE NATURE OF THE MIRACLE WAS CONSOLATION

Gift for the Prophet (peace be on him)

Strengthened his imaan

He met the prophets – whose stories he conveyed and would convey

Meeting the prophets was like meeting your relatives

He conversed with them and those who faced the same challenges

He would see Jannah and jahannum with his own eyes

He is honoured throughout his visit – every where he goes he is greeted, by the prophets, the angels, and the prophets

He conversed with Allah

A test for the ummah

The miracle of the Isra wal Miraj was so hard for many of the community to believe it caused much tension. They accused the Prophet (peace be on him) that he was lying or touched by jinn and shaytan.

When they challenged him, he felt sad because he could not remember the details that were evident in dark. However Allah Almighty created a vision of it for him on the palm of his hand, so he could see it and describe it clearly. He was able to describe the caravan belong to Quraysh and one of the camels which was lost in the desert.

Abu Bakr's unstinting belief in the Prophet's (peace be on him) veracity earned him the title Al Siddiq. Aisha reported:

After the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, was miraculously taken by night to the furthest mosque in Jerusalem, the people began to talk about it. Some of them renounced their faith and belief in him. They sought Abu Bakr and they said, "Have you heard that your friend imagined he was taken by night to the sacred house?" Abu Bakr said, "Did he say that?" They said yes. Abu Bakr said, "If he said it, he has spoken the truth." They said, "Do you believe he went by night to the sacred house and returned before morning?" Abu Bakr said, "Yes. Verily, I believe what is even more astonishing than that. I believe he has received messages from heaven for everything he does." For this reason, Abu Bakr was named the Truthful, al-Siddiq. (Dala'il al-Nubuwwah)

Designated worship for Isra wal Mir'aj

Misconception regarding At-Tahiyaat

Another famous misconception is that the At-Tahiyaat was revealed during the Miraj, and that this was his conversation with Allah Almighty. As he did not know what to say, he said,

'All the best compliments and the prayers and the good things are for Allah.' Then Allah Almighty replied: *'Peace and Allah's Mercy and Blessings be on you, O Prophet!'* and the angels said, *'Peace be on us and on the pious slaves of Allah'* And the Prophet added, *'I testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and I also testify that Muhammad is Allah's slave and His Apostle.'*

The words fit beautifully into this story of their conversation, however there is no authentic evidence to support this narration. It may be a nice story, but not every nice story can be attributed to the Prophet (peace be on him).



Do you need to do anything special on this day?

No. There is no extra worship. But you can spread knowledge.

THANK YOU

READ UP ON ISRA WAL MIRAJ
AT UTRUJJ.ORG