**The night journey and ascension**

The journey of our beloved Prophet and Messenger (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him), by night from the Holy Mosque in Makkah to the farthest mosque in Jerusalem, it was a miracle granted to Him by Almighty Allah. The holy prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) was a lot of miracles. The night journey and ascension is one of these miracles. however, for us our holy prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) is the prime personality who in His every action and every deed was no less than a miracle and the number of miracles that came only from His personality is far greater than any of the earlier Prophets.

**A Brief Description:**

The event of Isra and Mairaj took place on the 27 night of the Islamic month of Rajab when Allah Almighty sent jibriel to Prophet Muhammad (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) to bring him to Allah. First Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) was taken to Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem and from there He ascended to heavens and the higher journey began.

‘Isra’ means ‘walking in night’ and ‘Mairaj’ means to “ascend “. Therefore, the Isra and Mairaj event represent the whole journey of Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) from His house to the higher skies and from there on backwards.

Approximately ten years after our beloved Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) received the first revelations of the Quran, he suffered two grave losses. One was the death of his uncle Abu Talib, the man who had supported and loved him from the time he was a young orphan, and then only two months later, his beloved wife, Khadijah (may Allah Almighty be pleased with her) died. This year became known as the Year of Sorrow and grief.

Allah Almighty himself states about this journey: Purity is to Him Who took His bondman in a part of the night from the Sacred Mosque to the Aqsa Mosque around which We have placed blessings, in order that We may show him Our great signs; indeed he is the listener, the beholder.

 (This verse refers to the physical journey of Prophet Mohammed – peace and blessings be upon him - to Al Aqsa Mosque and from there to the heavens and beyond. The entire journey back to Makkah was completed within a small part of the night.)

**How did the Ascension take place?**

After that, the Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) was brought two bowls; one of them had wine and the other had milk. He was told, “Have either of them!” The Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) chose the milk. Jibril (peace be upon him) said to the Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him), “You chose the natural one; if you had chosen the wine, your ummah would have gone astray after you. You were led to the natural state by choosing the milk; your ummah was led to the natural state, too.

Then he ascended into the heavens. He stopped by all of the layers of the sky. He met the prophets Adam, Yahya, Isa, Yusuf, Idris, Harun, Musa and Ibrahim (peace be upon all of them) respectively; they said to him, “Welcome!” and congratulated him. Then, he visited Bayt al-Ma’mur (the much-frequented house), which seventy thousand angels visited every day, and they never come back.

After that, he went to Sidra al-Muntaha together with Jibril (peace be upon him). Sidra al-Muntaha is a tree whose root is in the sixth layer of the sky and whose branches are over the seventh layer of the sky; it casts a shadow that covers the whole sky and Paradise; its leaves are like elephant ears and its fruits are like large jars.

**Rafraf and the Meeting in the Furthermost Place**

Jibril (peace be upon him) took the Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) to higher places; eventually, he took the Prophet to such a high place that the Prophet started to hear the pens writing people’s actions. The Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) saw that a very green Rafraf (silk bed) covered the horizon. The Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) sat on Rafraf. Jibril left the Prophet there. The Prophet was elevated and approached to his Lord, who is Aziz (Mighty and Strong).

In Miraj, the Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) gave the worshiping of all creatures to Allah Almighty as a gift instead of greetings. The talk of the Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) with Allah Almighty consists of the words of tahiyyat, which is recited during prayer, which is the ascension of believers. Here is the meaning of that talk:

The Prophet (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) said to Allah Almighty:

All salutation is due to Allah Almighty and all prayer and everything pure. Upon hearing this Allah Almighty said to his beloved prophet: peace be upon you, O prophet, and the mercy of Allah Almighty and his blessings: and peace be upon us and upon all righteous servants of Allah Almighty. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah Almighty, and I bear witness that Muhammad (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) is servant and messenger.

**Things that were Given to the Prophet in Ascension:**

1. Five daily prayers equal to the reward of fifty daily prayers.

2. The last two verses of the chapter al-Baqara.

3.The major sins of the people from the ummah of beloved prophet Muhammad (may the mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon him) were forgiven except those who associated partners with Allah.

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