



The Night Journey and Heavenly Ascension of the Prophet Muhammad

First Khutba

Praise be to Allah, the Most-High, who raised His Prophet to the highest heavens. And I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, alone, without partners, glorified be He. I also bear witness that our master and Prophet Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger, whom He chose and singled out of all mankind to bear His Message. O Allah, send your peace, blessings, and mercy upon him, upon his family, his companions, and all those who follow his guidance.

To Continue: I advise you, O servants of Allah, and myself, to adhere to the Taqwa of Allah, for it is a guiding lamp, a source of purification for souls, an invitation to virtues, and a salvation for the souls. It is the best that a person seeks and hopes for, a light by which we know the path we have to walk. **يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَآمِنُوا**

بِرَسُولِهِ يُؤْتِكُمْ كِفْلَيْنِ مِنْ رَحْمَتِهِ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ نُورًا تَمْشُونَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ

O you who have believed, fear Allah and believe in His Messenger; He will [then] give you a double portion of His mercy and make for you a light by which you will walk and forgive you. (Quran, ٥٧:٢٨)

O Lovers of the Prophet ﷺ:

In a night from the nights of prophethood, the Prophet ﷺ was in his house in the sacred city. Suddenly, a light emerged from the midst of darkness. It was the trustworthy angel Gabriel (peace be upon him), who came to take the most noble of creation, the Prophet (peace be upon him), from the Sacred Mosque in Mecca to the Farthest Mosque

in Jerusalem: **مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى**

From the Sacred Mosque (in Mecca) to the Al-Aqsa Mosque (in Jerusalem). (Quran, ١٧:٠١)

From Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem, the Prophet ﷺ ascended unto the highest heavens, to meet his Lord and Master, in a great miracle that human minds cannot comprehend or fully grasp the reality of. Yet the hearts of the believers still have faith in the power of its planner and the truthfulness of its companion, the one who undertook it, as Allah says:

مَا ضَلَّ صَاحِبُكُمْ وَمَا غَوَى* وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَى* إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا

وَحْيٌ يُوحَى

Your companion [Muhammad] has not strayed, nor has he erred, nor does he speak from [his own] inclination.

It is not but a revelation revealed. (Quran, ٥٣:٢-٤)

This is the miracle of the Night Journey and the Heavenly Ascension, wherein the Prophet ascended into the Heavens and was welcomed by the Angels and the Prophets. With the arrival of the heavenly guest upon them, all of them

said: **مَرْحَبًا بِهِ وَلِنَعْمَ الْمَجِيءُ جَاءَ:**

Welcome to him, and what a blessed arrival! [Bukhari and Muslim]

So, whom do you think the Prophet met, O servants of Allah? He met his brothers from the Prophets. In the heavens, he encountered Adam (peace be upon him), the father of humanity. He approached him, greeted him, and

Adam responded: **مَرْحَبًا وَأَهْلًا بِابْنِي، نِعَمَ الْإِبْنُ أَنْتَ**

Welcome to my son, what an excellent son you are! [Bukhari]

Then Gabriel (peace and blessings be upon him) ascended with him through the heavens, meeting the Prophets Yusuf, Isa, Yahya, Idris, Harun, and Musa (peace and blessings be upon them all). All of them, sending peace and blessings,

saying: **مَرْحَبًا بِالنَّبِيِّ الصَّالِحِ، وَالْأَخِ الصَّالِحِ**

Welcome to the righteous prophet and the righteous brother. [Bukhari and Muslim]

Then he met the Prophet of Allah, Ibrahim (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). There he was in the seventh heaven, resembling the Prophets, especially our Prophet ﷺ leaning his back against the "Bayt al-Ma'mur," the celestial Kaaba. Our Prophet ﷺ greeted him, and the Prophet Ibrahim returned the salutation and honored him.

Ibrahim then said: **يَا مُحَمَّدُ، أَقْرَى أُمَّتِكَ مِنِّي السَّلَامَ،**

وَأَخْبِرُهُمْ أَنَّ الْجَنَّةَ طَيِّبَةُ التُّرْبَةِ، عَذْبَةُ الْمَاءِ، وَأَنَّهَا قِيَعَانُ، وَأَنَّ

غُرَاسَهَا: سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

O Muhammad, convey my greetings to your nation and inform them that Paradise has pure soil, sweet water,

and it is spacious. Its seedlings are: "Subhan Allah, Alhamdulillah, La ilaha illallah, and Allahu Akbar".

[Tirmidhi]

Afterwards, our Prophet ascended until he reached a place never reached or touched by anyone before or after him, known as "Sidrat al-Muntaha," a majestic tree, as Allah

says: **عِنْدَ سِدْرَةِ الْمُنْتَهَى**

At the Lote Tree of the Utmost Boundary (Quran,

٥٣:١٤)

Near it is the Garden of Refuge **عِنْدَهَا جَنَّةُ الْمَأْوَى**

Near it is the Garden of Refuge (Quran, ٥٣:١٥)

The "Garden of Refuge" is where the knowledge of all creation ends. No one can describe its beauty. What an elevated place you have reached, O Messenger of Allah!

Indeed, you arrived at the place beyond reach ** There which neither wing nor foot shall breach.

Yes, our Prophet reached a lofty position, so close that even "Al-Jabbar, the Lord of Might" revealed to him:

فَتَدَلَّى * فَكَانَ قَابَ قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَى * فَأَوْحَى إِلَى عَبْدِهِ مَا أَوْحَى

So he was the distance of two bow lengths or nearer.

And He revealed to His Servant what He revealed."

(Quran, ٥٣:٩-١٠).

What was revealed to him, O servants of Allah? In that great station, a great command and a stable pillar was revealed: the prayer, the link between the servant and his Master. Allah obligated him and his nation fifty prayers a

day and night. He ﷺ said: **فَرَجَعْتُ حَتَّى أَمَرَ بِمُوسَى، فَقَالَ**

مُوسَى: مَا الَّذِي فَرَضَ رَبُّكَ عَلَيَّ أُمَّتِكَ؟ قُلْتُ: فَرَضَ عَلَيْهِمْ
خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً. قَالَ: فَرَاغِ رَبِّكَ، فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ

I returned until I passed by Musa, and Musa asked, 'What has your Lord enjoined upon your Ummah?' I said, 'Fifty prayers.' Musa said, 'Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce it, for your community will not be able to bear it. [Bukhari and Muslim]

So, he kept going back and forth, asking Allah to lighten the burden on us out of His mercy and compassion, saying:

يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ أُمَّتِي ضِعْفَاءُ، أَجْسَادُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ، وَأَسْمَاعُهُمْ
وَأَبْدَانُهُمْ، فَخَفِّفْ عَنَّا

O Lord, my nation is weak, both in body and heart, in hearing and in bodies. Lighten the burden on us.

[Bukhari]

The Lord of Majesty and Glory replied:

هِيَ خَمْسٌ وَهِيَ خَمْسُونَ، لَا يُبَدَّلُ الْقَوْلُ لَدَيَّ

They are fifty, and they will not be changed, as I have decreed. [Bukhari and Muslim]

Allah does not burden us beyond our capacity, as stated in a Hadith Qudsi:

إِنِّي قَدْ أَمْضَيْتُ فَرِيضَتِي، وَخَفَّفْتُ عَنْ عِبَادِي، وَأَجْزِي الْحَسَنَةَ

عَشْرًا I have completed My favor upon My servants and have reduced the obligations for them. I will reward a good deed ten times. [Bukhari]

Praise be to Allah, who obligated prayer on us from above the seven heavens, made it a means for us to ascend in ranks, a source of comfort for our hearts, a purification for our souls, and lightened the burden for us. I say what you have heard, and I seek forgiveness from Allah for me and for you.

Second Khutba

Praise be to Allah, abundantly as He commanded. May prayers and peace be upon our Master and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ the best of mankind, whose sight never failed, nor did his hearing miss any news. May blessings be upon his family, companions, and those who followed them in righteousness.

O Believers:

In the Night Journey, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ witnessed the greatest signs of his Lord. He saw Paradise with all its delights, saying:

أَدْخَلْتُ الْجَنَّةَ، فَإِذَا فِيهَا حَبَائِلُ اللُّؤْلُؤِ وَإِذَا تُرَابُهَا الْمِسْكُ

I entered Paradise, and there I saw pearls like raindrops, i.e. clusters and strings of pearls, and its soil was made of musk. [Bukhari and Muslim]

As he was in it, he passed by a river:

حَافَتَاهُ قِبَابُ الدَّرِّ الْمُجَوَّفِ

"Its banks were domes of hollowed pearls" [Bukhari];
and

عَلَيْهِ قَصْرٌ مِّنْ لُّؤْلُؤٍ وَزَبْرَجِدٍ

on it was a palace of pearls and coral [Bukhari]; and

طِينَةُ الْمِسْكِ

its soil was musk. [Ahmad]

He asked Gabriel:

فَقَالَ: مَا هَذَا يَا جِبْرِيْلُ؟ قَالَ: هَذَا الْكَوْثَرُ الَّذِي خَبَأَ لَكَ رَبُّكَ

"What is this, O Gabriel?" He replied, "This is Al-Kawthar which your Lord has kept for you." [Bukhari]

So, O servants of Allah, strive towards it with righteous deeds. As a poet says:

Work for the abode of tomorrow, the gates of which are guarded by the Angel Ridwan. For the companionship of Ahmad, build by al-Rahman.

Its palaces are made of gold, and its soil is musk. Where saffron is a plant blossoming in it with no dusk.

He (peace be upon him) also saw the Hellfire and the horrifying scenes therein. He saw a people scratching their faces and chests and he asked, "Who are these, O Gabriel?"

He replied: هَؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ لُحُومَ النَّاسِ، وَيَقَعُونَ فِي

أَعْرَاضِهِمْ

These are the people who consumed the flesh of others and trampled upon their honor. [Abu Dawud]

Reflect, O servants of Allah, on this journey, on its great principles, and noble values. It is the journey of divine honor for the Prophet in which he was granted three things:

الصَّلَاةِ الْخَمْسَةِ، وَخَوَاتِيمِ سُورَةِ الْبَقَرَةِ، وَغُفْرٍ لِمَنْ لَمْ يُشْرِكْ

بِاللَّهِ مِنْ أُمَّتِهِ شَيْئًا

The five daily prayers, the concluding verses of Surah Al-Baqarah, and forgiveness for those in his nation who do not associate anything with Allah. [Muslim]

It was a journey of facilitation and alleviation, brotherhood among the prophets, a journey of peace, of enquiry and dialogue. It is a miracle full of lessons and morals.

لَقَدْ كَانَ فِي قَصَصِهِمْ عِبْرَةٌ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ مَا كَانَ حَدِيثًا يُفْتَرَى
وَلَكِنْ تَصْدِيقَ الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَتَفْصِيلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً
لِقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ

Indeed, in their stories, there is a lesson for those of understanding. This is not a fabricated tale but a confirmation of what is before it and a detailed explanation of all things and guidance and mercy for a people who believe. (Quran ١٢:١١١)

O Allah, bless, grant Your peace, blessings and mercy upon our Master and Prophet Muhammad, the mercy for all creation, supported by miracles, and upon his family and companions with enlightened hearts.

O Allah, we believe in You, believe in Your Prophet, and ask You, our Lord, by Your majestic countenance and mighty sovereignty, to gather us in his company, admit us into Paradise with his companionship, let us drink from his honorable hand a drink after which we shall never be thirsty again.

O Allah, protect our nation with safety and stability, progress and prosperity, and turn away from it the harm of evildoers, O Almighty, O Subduer, O Allah, spread your mercy and peace, love and tranquility across the world. And send your blessings upon the righteous and rightly

guided Khulafa: Sayyiduna Abu Bakr, Sayyiduna Umar, Sayyiduna Uthman and Sayyiduna Ali, and upon all of the companions and those of the righteous who come after them, may Allah be pleased with them all.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that which is good and what pleases You.

O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace.

O Allah have mercy on those martyred for Your sake, and grant them intercession for their people, and grant their families patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon all of the believers, the living and the dead. Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Be grateful for your blessings and you will be increased therein.

وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ

And the remembrance of Allah is greater, and Allah knows what you do. (Quran ٢٩:٤٥).

So, stand up for prayer.