

Al-Is-raa`

Praise is due to `Allaah, the owner of the universe. May `Allaah raise the rank of Prophet *Muhammad* ﷺ the greatest of the Messengers. `Allaah, the glorified and exalted, is the One Who created the Skies and the Earth and Who exists without being bound to place or time. **On the 27th of Rajab**, two years before the *hij-rah* (migration), `Allaah granted that Prophet *Muhammad* ﷺ **journey at night (`al-is-raa`)** in body and soul from `Al-mas-jid `al-ha-raam in Makkah to `Al-mas-jid `al-aq-saa in Jerusalem and make the ascension (`al-mi^-raaj) through the Skies.

During `al-is-raa`, `Allaah enabled Prophet *Muhammad* ﷺ to visit many places, see many wondrous creations and lead all the Prophets in prayer while in `Al-mas-jid `al-aq-saa.

The Prophet ﷺ **saw the world (*dunyaa*) as an old woman** wearing a great deal of jewellery. In this there is an indication of the reality of this world: it is superficially attractive, but will ultimately fade and vanish.

The Prophet ﷺ **saw** someone on the side of the road who did not dare to stand in his way or speak to him ﷺ. This was **`Iblees (Satan)**. `Iblees is a *jinn* who at one time was a *Muslim* and he used to live with the angels in Paradise. When `Allaah ordered the angels and `Iblees to honour Prophet `Adam ﷺ by prostrating to `Adam ﷺ, the angels did so in obedience to `Allaah because angels do not disobey `Allaah. However, `Iblees did not obey and instead objected to the order of `Allaah. `Iblees responded to God by saying, "You created me out of fire, and You created him out of clay. So how can You order me to prostrate to him?" This objection by `Iblees to the order of `Allaah was the first *kufr* that he committed.

The Prophet ﷺ also saw a bull which had passed through a very small outlet and was then trying in vain to return back through it. *Jibreel* told the Prophet ﷺ, 'This is like **the bad word: once spoken, it cannot be simply undone.**'

The Prophet ﷺ saw people scratching their faces and chests with brass finger nails. *Jibreel* told the Prophet ﷺ, 'These are the examples of those who commit *gheebah*'. ***Gheebah* is to say something true about a Muslim in his absence that he hates to be mentioned.**

The Prophet ﷺ saw angels smashing some people's heads with rocks. Their heads would return to their former shape and then the angels would smash their heads again. *Jibreel* told the Prophet ﷺ, 'These are the ones who would deliberately sleep and **miss the obligatory prayers.**'

The Prophet ﷺ saw people who were competing to eat some rotten meat while ignoring meat that was sliced and unspoiled. *Jibreel* told the Prophet ﷺ, 'These are people from your nation who chose to avoid what is permissible (*halaal*) and consume what is forbidden (*haraam*).' This was in reference to **the fornicators**, that is, those who avoided the permissible (marriage) and instead committed fornication.

The Prophet ﷺ **saw many other signs relating to sinful people:** the people who misuse the money that is held for safekeeping; the people whose speech causes tribulation and calls others to misguidance; the people who unjustly consume the money of orphans, `ar-ri-baa (usurious gains) and alcohol; and the people who do not pay *zakaah*.

`Al-Mi^-raaj

At the end of *`al-`is-raa`*, **Prophet Muhammad ﷺ ascended to the first sky on special gold and silver stairs.** In the first sky, Prophet *Muhammad ﷺ* met Prophet *`Adam ﷺ* who was looking to his left and right at the souls of his descendants. Prophet *`Adam ﷺ* would smile as he looked to his right at his descendants who would die as believers and be saddened as he looked to his left at those who would die as non-believers.

The Prophet ﷺ ascended through each of the seven Skies meeting Prophets *^Eesaa, Yahyaa, Yoosuf, `Idrees, Haaron, Moosaa and `Ibraaheem*, peace be upon them. Each Prophet would greet Prophet *Muhammad ﷺ* and make supplication for him. While in the seventh Sky he ﷺ saw *sid-ra-tul-mun-ta-haa*, an exceptionally beautiful tree originating from the sixth Sky on which gold butterflies came and settled. Ascending beyond the seven skies, the Prophet ﷺ entered Paradise and saw that most of its inhabitants would be poor Muslims.

Prophet *Muhammad ﷺ* also saw *Maalik*, **the angel in charge of Hellfire** who did not smile at him. When the Prophet ﷺ asked angel *Jibreel* about this, *Jibreel* said, '*Maalik* has not smiled since *`Allaah* created him; if he had smiled for anyone, he would have smiled for you.'

The Prophet ﷺ saw the *^ar-sh*, which is the ceiling of Paradise and the largest creation in size. If *`Allaah*, the exalted, were to allow it to fall on the creation below, all would be destroyed. The *^ar-sh* is carried by four angels, but will be carried by eight angels on the Day of Judgement. These angels are so large that the distance between the earlobe and shoulder of each is what a fast-flying bird would travel in 700 years.

^Imaam ^Aliyy said: '*`Allaah* created the *^ar-sh* as an indication of His power, and not to take it as a place for Himself'. *`Allaah* does not resemble the creation in any way; *`Allaah* is not a body and is free of the attributes of bodies. The creator is absolutely incomparable to the creation or to anything that can be imagined in the mind. *`Allaah* existed prior to the existence of time and place, and after creating them *`Allaah* exists without them. Moreover, the question 'where?' (i.e. 'which place') does not apply to *`Allaah*. *`Allaah* is not a light or a soul, and exists without place and direction and thus does not live in or above the Skies. The Muslims believe that the Prophet ﷺ went on the *mi^-raaj* to see the amazing signs that *`Allaah* created and not to meet *`Allaah* in a place.

During this miraculous journey **the Prophet ﷺ saw *`Allaah* without *`Allaah* being in one or multiple directions.** The Prophet ﷺ also heard the *Kalaam* (Divine speech) of *`Allaah* which is not composed of parts and is not a language, a letter or a sound.

Glory be to *`Allaah*, the exalted, the One Who honoured Prophet *Muhammad ﷺ* with great miracles that supported his ﷺ call to *Islaam*. Praise and thanks are due to *`Allaah*, the Lord of the worlds, the One Who is Exalted and free from resemblance to the creation, from all unbecoming attributes and from all that is falsely said about Him.

And *`Allaah*, the glorified, knows best.

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