

## LIFE IN MAKKAH [SESSION 5]

### ISRAA and MIRAAJ [THE NIGHT JOURNEY]

Holy Prophet was once called by her cousin, Umm-e-Hani who was the daughter of Abu Talib to give the message of Islam to his husband. Holy Prophet went to their house and after the night prayer when it was time to sleep, he was offered to sleep there which he accepted.

During midnight he went to visit the Kaaba which he usually did and during that visit slept in the Hijr (the semi-circle also known as hateem). While he was asleep, he was awakened by Angel Jibraeel who led him to a milky white winged shaped creature was standing. The name of the creature was Burraq and it was there to take the Prophet to Jerusalem and then to the Heavens. Allah mentions this incident in Surah Isra where it is stated: *"Glory to Allah, who did take His servant for a journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Farthest Mosque"*

Holy Prophet rode on Burraq and was shown different sites, the first was Madinah, the second was Mount Sinai (The mountain where Torat was revealed to Hazrat Musa), the third was Bethlem (the place where Hazrat Isa was born). Then he was taken to the site of Masjid-Al-Aqsa (Jerusalem) where there was a great assembly of Prophets. He tied Burraq over a rock which was broken down by Angel Jibraeel and the other Prophets had also tied their animals nearby. All of these Prophets were led in prayer by the Holy Prophet. After the prayer was over, **Angel Jibraeel brought two vessels** to the Prophet, one of them contained Milk and the other one had Wine inside of it. He was asked to choose one, and drink from it. Holy Prophet chose the one containing Milk, upon which Angel Jibraeel said that *"You have been guided by the fitrah"*. This first part of the journey is known as Isra.

Holy Prophet then again rode on Buraaq and went to the heavens. While going on this journey, he saw a caravan who had lost their camel. This part of the Journey is known as Al-Mirraaj. Holy Prophet met different Prophets at different levels of Heavens in the following ascending order:

- 1- Hazrat Adam (It is reported that Hazrat Adam was sitting with a large group of people on both of his sides. It is stated that when he looked on his right he smiled, and while looking on left he wept. It was later told that the ones on right are inhabitants of heaven and the ones on left are inhabitants of hell)
- 2- Hazrat Yahya and Hazrat Isa
- 3- Hazrat Yousuf
- 4- Hazrat Idris



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5- Hazrat Haroon

6- Hazrat Musa (It is reported that at Hazrat Musa began to weep. He asked about the reason. Hazrat Musa answered that he was weeping because he witnessed a man sent after him as a Messenger (Muhammad) who was able to lead more of his people to the Paradise than he himself did.)

7- Hazrat Ibrahim

The seventh heaven led to a place from where onwards Angel Jibraeel said that he cannot go. This place is known as the "Sidrat-ul-Muntha" and it is where the **Mystical Lote Tree** is and he was shown Al-Bait-al-Ma'mur [(the much frequented house) which is like the Ka'bah (Sacred House) encompassed daily by seventy thousand angels, so that the angels who once encompassed it would not have their turn again till the Resurrection]. Holy Prophet then went alone and was granted a **sublime version** of his Creator.

Here he was directly revealed with verse **285-286 of Surah Baqarah** and both these verses represent the binding principles of Islam. Moreover, the command for prayer was given over here. Initially the prayers were fixed at **fifty** and were later reduced to five when Hazrat Musa commanded Holy Prophet that his nation will not be able to pray fifty prayers a day much like the nation of Hazrat Musa. Holy Prophet also saw **Malik, the gate keeper of hell** and **Ridhwan, the gatekeeper of heaven**. He also was shown the two rivers of Paradise, "**kauthar**" being one of them.

Holy Prophet then returned back to Kaaba where his bed was still warm. In the morning he told those at Kaaba about his night journey which no one believed in. Hazrat AbuBakar was then asked by these people as to what his remarks were about his friend. He replied that if Hazrat Muhammad is saying that then it is true. Thereupon, he was given the title of **Al-Siddiq (Testifier to the truth)**. Later, the Holy Prophet was asked by Qurayshites to prove his journey and that is when he told them about the **caravan that had lost his camel**. Upon researching, it proved to be true that the caravan did lose their camel.

The night journey proved to be vital for the Holy Prophet as he was undergoing persecutions at the hands of Makkans but this strengthened his faith and now he was even more determined to spread the word of Allah as he had been called upon by His Lord Himself.

As for the night journey, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ mentioned that he during his visit he saw two well-known rivers, the Nile and the Euphrates, as well as two hidden rivers. The visible rivers, the Nile and the Euphrates, symbolically represent the regions where the message of Islam will take root. The people



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living in these fertile areas will embrace Islam and continue to follow its teachings from one generation to another

### The Pledges of Aqabah:

It was a practice of Holy Prophet that he used to spread the message of Islam to those who came every year for the annual Pilgrimage at Makkah. It was during the year 620 that six men from Yathrib (4 from Khazraj and 2 from Aws), coincidentally met the Prophet, listened to him and vowed to bring back more people the next year.

As promised, they did go back and gave the message to their fellow city men and seven others agreed to accept Islam. Next year (621 AD), 12 men (Five of the initial six and seven new) marched towards a place called as Aqabah and accepted Islam at the hands of the Holy Prophet. There they pledged to associate no partners with Allah, not stealing, not committing adultery, not killing their children, not slandering or disobeying the Prophet. After this allegiance was made, our Holy Prophet (PBUH) said to them: ***“God has prepared Paradise and guarantees rewards for those of you who fulfill his pledge. If someone commits one of these misdeeds out of human error and is punished in this world, that punishment will be considered punishment. And whoever commits one of these out of human error and conceals what he has done and does not reveal it, then it is left to God to decide to forgive or punish him.”*** Furthermore, these Muslims made the following agreement with our Holy Prophet (PBUH): ***“Obedience and submission come first and foremost during times of distress, pressure, prosperity, and happiness. We are under your command. We will not disobey you in any way.”***

These men then told the Holy Prophet that from where they belong, there are arrogant tribal chiefs who would not accept their message. Therefore, they would require somebody from the Muslims to come alongside them so as to give them the message. Holy Prophet, then on their request sent Hazrat Musab bin Umair who stayed with them for a year and gave the message of Islam. Hazrat Musab returned before the second pledge of Aqabah and gave the news about how most of the people were happy on receiving the message of Islam.

Within the next few months in 622 AD, seventy-three men and two women came to Aqabah to accept Islam. They had brought a tribal chief with them whose name was Bara. The tribal chief invited the Prophet to come to their lands as the leader and Prophet told him that as soon as he gets permission from Allah, he would definitely come. a man named 'Abul Haitham At-Taihan spoke up and said, "O



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Prophet of Allah! We have agreements with the Jews that we might break if Allah grants you power and victory. Will you leave us and join your own people, the Quraish?" The Prophet (peace be upon him) smiled and replied: *"No, it would never be; your blood will be my blood. In life and death I will be with you and you with me. I will fight whom you fight and I will make peace with those with whom you make peace."*

These people pledged that they will listen and obey the Prophet, to spend in plenty as well as scarcity, to enjoy good and forbid evil, fear no one but Allah, and defend the Prophet if he needs it. After this Holy Prophet (PBUH) declared, **"Choose 12 individuals from among yourselves who will stand by me in every matter as the representatives of their tribes. Moses also had 12 representatives from the Sons of Israel."** The Muslims of Madina chose nine representatives from the Khazraj tribe and three from the Aws. Furthermore, after the 12 representatives were chosen, Holy Prophet (PBUH) appointed Hazrat As'ad bin Zurara (The man in whose house Hazrat Musab bin Umair stayed) as the head of the 12 representatives. These representatives spoke to the groups they represented, explained the importance of the allegiance, and prepared their respective groups to also pledge their allegiance to our Holy Prophet (PBUH.)

With this the ties of Prophet with Makkans weakened and these pledges changed the history of Islam.

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