



Isra and Mi'raj

What is the story of Isra and Mi'raj?

We find in the Qur'an and Hadith the incredible story about the Prophet ﷺ traveling from Masjidul Haraam to Masjidul Aqsa and then to the Heavens all in one night! This journey was a gift from Allah after some difficult moments of the Prophet's ﷺ life, including both Khadija (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا) and Abu Talib's death and after visiting Ta'if.

When did Isra and Mi'raj occur?

Isra and Mi'raj occurred several years before the Prophet ﷺ performed the *Hijrah* to Madinah. There is a difference of opinion on the exact date and month of the miraculous journey; however, the 27th of Rajab is a popular and accepted opinion¹.

Did the journey really take place?

Indeed, the miraculous journeys of Isra and Mi'raj took place in one night! If they hadn't taken place, the Quraysh wouldn't have doubted the Prophet ﷺ when he described his journey upon returning to Makkah².

A brief Timeline of Isra and Mi'raj:

Isra- The angels visited the Prophet ﷺ, washed his heart with Zamzam, and filled it with Imaan and Wisdom³. Allah swt honored the Prophet ﷺ by giving him Al-Buraq, a winged animal, as a ride from Masjidul Haraam to Masjidul Aqsa. On the way to Masjidul Aqsa, Angel Jibril and the Prophet ﷺ made brief stops at Yathrib, Mount Sinai, Madyan, and Bethlehem⁴. The Prophet ﷺ also saw different groups of people getting punished for the various sins they were involved in. He witnessed one group of people whose heads were getting smashed by rocks because they used to neglect the Fardh prayer⁵. Upon arrival at Masjidul Aqsa, the Prophet ﷺ was honored by leading all the Prophets and even some of the angels in prayer. This honorable moment proves he is the *Imaamul Mursaleen*- the leader of the ones who were sent, the prophets!

Mi'raj-ascending the heavens.

The Prophet ﷺ climbed up the heavens on a special staircase. At each level of the heavens, he was warmly welcomed and honored by a previous prophet of this world⁶.

Baytul Ma'moor- The Prophet ﷺ also saw the heavenly version of the Ka'bah, where 70,000 angels perform Tawaaf daily.

Sidratul Muntaha is a tree in Jannah and the limit where the Angel Jibril stopped and could not go further. The Prophet ﷺ proceeded, alone, to meet his Lord.

Glimpses of Jannah and Jahannum: The Prophet ﷺ was shown the outcome of the wicked and wretched people in Hellfire and the outcome of good people in Paradise⁷.

Sareeful Aqlaam- The Prophet ﷺ also witnessed the place where the matters of the future are being recorded by the pens⁸.

Meeting Allah- During the special meeting with Allah, The Prophet ﷺ is honored with gifts and divine bounties, including the exceptional gift of *Salaah*. He is also honored with the title "Ḥabīb Allāh," meaning "Allah's Beloved."

The Prophet ﷺ was bestowed with three gifts from Allah:

1) The gift of *Salaah*. Allah had given him the gift of *Salaah* for his Ummah 50 times a day. Musa (AS) encouraged the Prophet ﷺ to reduce the prayer times until it became five times a day, but Allah swt still promised the reward of 50! What an excellent example of Allah's love and mercy upon us!

2)The Prophet ﷺ was also gifted the revelation of the final verses of Surah Al Baqarah, which contain duas of mercy, forgiveness, assistance, and help from Allah against the disbelievers.

3)The third gift from Allah was a promise for forgiveness of the major sins of the Ummah as long as they didn't commit *shirk*⁹.

Returning back from the heavens- The beautiful journey to the heavens had ended, and the Prophet ﷺ returned to Masjidul Aqsa and then to Makkah. The Prophet ﷺ shared the journey with the Quraysh and accurately described it. Some disbelievers thought the journey was associated with black magic, while

others scoffed and ridiculed the Prophet ﷺ. They tried testing the Prophet ﷺ, demanding details of Masjidul Aqsa and the journey, he replied by astonishing them with accurate details. The believers, on the other hand, accepted the journey as an example of Allah's incredible power and might. Abu Bakr (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) was granted the title Al-Siddique, after showing the utmost confidence and belief in the words of the Prophet ﷺ.

Wisdoms we can take from the journey of Isra and Mi'raj

The wisdoms behind the miraculous journey of Isra and Mi'raj are many. This is an extraordinary event that Allah brings about at the hands of a Prophet to prove his Prophethood, strengthen the believer's faith, and break the unbelievers' stubbornness. The journey took place after some of the most difficult events in the Prophet's ﷺ life: the Year of Grief and the visit to Ta'if. The people of Ta'if may have thrown stones at him and insulted him, but the people of the heavens gave him the warmest of welcomes! Allah SWT provided the Prophet ﷺ the journey as a means of comfort and on the journey the Prophet ﷺ was shown great honor from the angels, the other prophets, and Allah himself! Verily, with hardship comes ease!

The gift of Salaah: Additionally, the Prophet ﷺ was given the gift of Salaah. Of all of the commandments in Islam, we see that the obligation of five daily prayers was given in the heavens! Whenever we find it difficult to pray, we should always remember that Allah gave us Salaah as a *gift*, not a burden! The gift of Salaah is also the solution to many of our problems. The Prophet ﷺ would pray Salaah when he was distressed with anything¹⁰.

Glimpses into the Unseen: Through *Isra and Mi'raj*, the Ummah has been given a glimpse of what awaits them in the hereafter and the good and bad consequences of our actions. InshaAllah we can experience something similar to that of the Prophet ﷺ in Jannah if we work hard to please Allah in this life!

Believing in miracles and the Unseen- We see the reaction of believers such as Abu Bakr (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) when they heard the story of Isra and Mi'raj. We should have a similar attitude when believing in the Unseen and the miracles of Allah SWT. Truly, he has power over everything and can make anything possible!

Is there anything special Muslims need to do on the night of Isra and Miraaj?

In the Islamic calendar, the night of Isra and Mi'raaj is just like other regular nights. Therefore, there is nothing specific to practice or observe on the night of the journey. Instead, we should remember the miraculous journey and instill the lessons and wisdoms within the amazing story.

May Allah swt grant us unshakable faith and make *Salaah* the coolness of our eyes. Ameen!

JazakAllah Khairan!