

The Anniversary of Al-'Isrā' wal-Mi'rāj¹

Friday khuṭbah² 17th of July 2009 by,

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All praise is due to Allah, praise that complies with His blessings and compensates His abundance. Our Lord, for You is all praise as befits the majesty of Your countenance and the might of Your authority.

O Allah, I cannot sufficiently enumerate praises upon You; You are as you have praised Yourself. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone and He has no partner, and I bear witness that our Master³ Muhammad is His slave and Messenger and His sincere and intimate friend, the best Prophet that Allah sent to the entire world as a herald of glad tidings and admonition. O Allah, pray upon, give peace and give blessings upon our Master Muhammad and upon the family of our Master Muhammad, prayers and peace that last inseparably until the Day of Judgment. I advise you and my sinning self to have fearful awareness of Allah the Exalted.

To proceed, O slaves of Allah:

After two days both the Islamic and Arab world will officially and publically celebrate the anniversary of al-'Isrā' wal-Mi'rāj. In this blessed hour during this noble day of this blessed month, I ought to say a word about that honor bestowed by Allah, Mighty and Majestic, on His Messenger Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

I am not going to tackle the story of this ennoblement as some may do. I am not going also to discuss its exact dating and the controversy in this respect. Furthermore, I am not going to list the clear cut evidences that the Prophet did it both with his soul and body when he was on earth and then when he was ascended to the Heavens. All these issues are handled

1. It is a miracle gifted to the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. He was taken at night from Al-Masjid Al-Haram in Makkah, to Al-Masjid Al-Aqṣā in Jerusalem, known as (Isrā'). Then he was ascended from there up to the Heavens, known as (Mi'rāj). (Translator)

² . Friday khuṭbah (sermon) It was given on 25th of Rajab 1430 H, 17th of July 2009 .

3. Arabic: Sayed, which only applies to human beings

repetitively. So, anyone of you can refer to the academic subjects in the Prophetic traditions' (*Hadith*) references and sources.

Nevertheless, in the anniversary of this honoring granted on the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, what I really want to draw your attention to is a sole issue, in case of being truly sincere in our celebration. We should renew our pledge to Allah, Mighty and Majestic, and consequently to His Messenger Al-Mustafa, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and his family. We should carry out the included obligation granted on the Messenger of Allah and his nation during that night. This is how we should warmly celebrate this sublime ennoblement.

What is the second ennoblement bestowed on the nation of the Prophet Muhammad during that night?

It took the form of obligation, yet it is one of the most ever high ranks of honorableness. When the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was ascended to the Heavens, he reached the most sacred place where angels themselves cannot pass. At then Allah, the Sublime, addressed him directly. What did Allah say to him? What honor did He bestow on him and so on his nation?

He obligated him and his nation to perform five prayers (*Salat- pl. salwat*) a day. He has said they are five in number, but they are fifty in reward. This second honor is not only bestowed on the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, but also on his nation. It is called as an obligation, meanwhile, it is the sublime ennoblement ever gifted to the nation of the Prophet Mohammed, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and his family.

Therefore, if we really want to commemorate the occasion, it is not to be accepted by Allah and His Messenger without renewing our promise to Allah and His Messenger. We ought to be deserving that honor granted by Allah, Mighty and Majestic. We should warmly accept this generous invitation five times daily. If we confirm our promise to Allah and His Prophet through submissively performing them, genuinely deserving this rank of ennoblement, and never losing this honorable devotion; at this moment our celebration will be accepted by Allah and His Messenger.

Dear brothers, what is the fact of these granted five *salwat* at the night of Mi'rāj?

It is a precious call from Allah, Mighty and Majestic to you!! You are not hospitably gusted by a state president or a king, who finally in submission depart to Allah as salves. Nonetheless, you are at the presence of Allah *AL-Qayyum* (the Superb Upright Sustainer) of the earth and Heavens. He is the One Who perfectly created you. The One Who elevated you far above any other creature. Does anyone who believes in Allah turn away from this sublimity, o slaves of Allah?

Whosoever refuses a call by Allah to stand between His Hands to address Him, complaining for Him his pains and sorrows? He can ask Allah whatever he wants as He promised to answer him. Who receives such a cherishing invitation from Allah, but he discards it? My mind cannot ever imagine this, o slaves of Allah!! A man knows and believes in Allah, moreover he tastes the reverence of being a slave to Him, yet he turns away from Allah, Mighty and Majestic!! Is there a blessing more delightful to you, o son of Adam, than these minutes while you are standing before Him?

You definitely know that He sees you, hears you, and knows your most hidden feelings!! Whosoever turns away from that kind invitation? Who does not feel the same feelings as expressed by the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, **"O Bilal, Let us seek comfort through *salat*!"** He also used to say, **"My heart relief has been provided in *salat*".**

What shall I say, o slaves of Allah?! The tender noble emotions felt by the man who knows Allah, are much more elegant to be expressed in words. Who am I to be called upon by Allah? Addressing Him in what can be interpreted as, **"You (Alone) we worship, and you (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything)" [Surat Al-Fātiḥah, 1:5]**

That is the second honoring bestowed during the night of Isrā and Mi'rāj together with the firstly mentioned one. It is one of Allah's gifts to His Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Listen to the Prophet's saying, **"I have been conferred upon five (things) which were not granted to any Prophet before me"**, The second one is, **"The earth has been made for me (and my followers) a**

place for praying and something with which to perform *Tayammum*⁴. Therefore, anyone (of my followers) can pray (anywhere) and at any time that the Salat is due."

It is a merit granted to you, o son of Adam! Allah makes for you the whole earth wherever you go as a Masjid to perform salat! It is a place where you can put down your prostrating forehead to Allah, Glorified and Exalted! This ennoblement I would like you and myself to consider well in the occasion of Al-'Isrā' wal-Mi'rāj.

O brothers, when we celebrate this occasion, remember well this covenant. Don't ever take it lightly! Renew this honorable pledge in which you are repetitively invited five times daily. Let your hearts say aloud even before your tongues to our One and Only Lord: We will not ever miss this second granted ennoblement. We will keep kneeling and prostrating for Your Majesty whenever the call for *salat* summons us to stand before You, o the Owner of Majesty and Bounty.

It is in fact a promise between us and our beloved Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, that we should remember. It was not a written or an uttered one. It was delivered through the lovely smiles of the Messenger of Allah. On Monday morning, when he started to feel the pains of death, he pulled up the curtains between his dwelling and the Masjid. He found all his companions standing in rows, praying the Dawn prayer (Salat Al-Fajir) while Abu-Baker al-Seddiq, May Allah bless him, was their Imam.

This was the last depicted scene before the eyes of the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, for his nation. It was the scene that made him to defeat the pains of death with gaiety covering his countenance to the extent that the companions were about to leave their salat. They thought that the Messenger of Allah became better and wanted to join them, however, he beckoned them with his hand to complete their salat, and then he let the curtains down. The Messenger of Allah passed away to Allah, carrying in his mind this last scene, saying to his Creator: I left them my Lord while everyone of them was worshipping You only. They discarded the worship of idols. They were

4. To purify one's hands and face for salat by using dust, when water is not available. (Translator)

kneeling and prostrating for You. They came in servitude only for You, o the Lord of the worlds.

This was the last scene that drew the smile on his face. You are the heroes of this scene. It was depicted in his mind as a scene for his nation embodied in his companions.

O my Muslim brother, O my Muslim brother, O my Muslim brother!! Keep the promise that made the Messenger of Allah, May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was pleasingly smiling. Don't ever let it down! If you are still away from being directed to *Qiblah*⁵, and answering the call of salat, repent now. Renew your pledge to Allah now! Pray to Allah, Mighty and Majestic and be among those who share in drawing cheerfulness on the countenance of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

I say this to every brother in humanity and Islam. Wherever you are: O you! You are a slave to Allah. Bring your servitude into a living practice. If you had not been a slave, you might have got the right to rebel against this. Nonetheless, you know well that you will only depart to Allah as weak and helpless, so be a sincere slave to Him.

Come to Allah through His kind invitation and do not forget His words that say, **"Verily, the prayer is enjoined on the believers at fixed hours". [Surat An-Nisā', 4:103]**

Do not forget His words that can be interpreted as **"so worship Me, and perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat) to glorify and exalt Me". [Surat Tāhā, 20:14]**

How great are these words?! Perform salat to glorify and praise Me. Perform salat so that I grant My benevolence on you. Perform salat so that your praise to Me, embraces My benefaction on you!

O slaves of Allah, this salat prohibits immorality and wrongdoing. It prevents corruption. All of us seek to clear away corruption from our societies. Hence, do not you use this remedy mentioned in Allah's Book? **"Indeed, prayer prohibits immorality and wrongdoing", [Surat Al-`Ankabūt, 29:45]**

5. Qiblah, is the direction that should be faced when a Muslim prays during salat. It is fixed as the direction of the Kaaba in Makkah. (Translator)

I say this statement of mine and I seek the forgiveness of Allah, the Sublime. So, seek His forgiveness so that He forgives you.