



Lessons from Al-Isra' wal Mi'raj

PART 1

Al-Isra' wal Mi'raj in Arabic refers to a remarkable night journey divided into two parts. 'Isra' means 'to take' at night, while 'Mi'raj' means an elevator or lifting device. The first part of the journey was from Makkah to Masjidil Aqsa, while the second part involved an ascension from Masjidil Aqsa to the seventh heaven.

Here are **six lessons** we can learn from this event:

1. Ease for every hardship.

'Aishah (ra) reported that: I asked the Prophet (saw), "Have you ever experienced a day harder than the battle of Uhud?". He (saw) replied, "Yes," and he (saw) mentioned Taif.

The accumulated grief from the death of our Prophet's (saw) wife, Khadijah (ra) and uncle, Abu Talib, left him with a glimmer of hope that the people of Taif would be more receptive towards his message. Regrettably, the Prophet (saw) was met with an intense adverse reaction from the people, who resorted to pelting him with stones and eventually drove him out of the city.

"So, surely with hardship comes ease. Surely with [that] hardship comes [more] ease." (Ash-Sharh: 5-6)

The unfortunate incidents that occurred at the same time had put him in the darkest moment. It was then that Allah (swt) comforted him by taking him into His (swt) divine presence during Al-Isra' wal Mi'raj, to strengthen and prepare him for the next challenging stage.

2. The test of faith (Imaan)

The miraculous event of Al-Isra' wal Mi'raj stirred up a lot of commotion among both disbelievers and new Muslims who had weak faith. Prior to this, they had been ridiculing the Prophet (saw) and labelling him as insane. However, they believed they had found evidence to support their claims after the event.

Some of them even rushed to Abu Bakr (ra) and told him about the Prophet's (saw) journey story, hoping that Abu Bakr (ra) might be in doubt. However, Abu Bakr (ra) instantly verified and said, "By Allah, if he (saw) said it, that it is the truth." Because of his statement, the Prophet (saw) referred to him as As-Siddiq (the truth verifier).

3. Muslims' significant relation to Al-Aqsa.

The story of Al-Isra' wal Mi'raj provides an essential understanding of the profound connection that all Muslims should have with Masjid al-Aqsa. Al-Aqsa is not just the third holiest site and the first Qiblah (direction for praying), but it holds a much greater significance. This place was where our Prophet (saw) stopped and prayed before ascending to the heavens.

Moreover, Al-Aqsa is also the burial place of numerous Prophets of Allah (swt) and companions, which amplifies its importance even more.

(To be continued)