



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

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Reflecting Upon the Event of Isra' Mikraj

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْمَلِكِ الْحَقِّ الْمُبِينِ الَّذِي أَبَانَ لِعِبَادِهِ مِنْ آيَاتِهِ مَا
بِهِ عِبْرَةٌ لِلْمُعْتَبِرِينَ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ
لَهُ إِلَهَ الْأَوَّلِينَ وَالْآخِرِينَ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ
وَرَسُولَهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا
مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا . أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jamaah,

Let us increase our taqwa to Allah s.w.t. Let us fulfil the responsibilities Allah has commanded us, and abstain from His prohibitions. Taqwa protects us from adversities as we go about life overcoming difficulties and hardships. When we face it all with patience and perseverance, it raises our status in the eyes of Allah s.w.t., in this life and the hereafter.

My Dearest Brothers in Islam,

Let us ponder upon Allah's words in Surah Al-Isra', Verse 1:

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ، لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى
الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ، لِنُرِيَهُ، مِن آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ
السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿١﴾

Which means: *“Glorified is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing.”*

The month of Rejab is one of the holiest months in Islam which demands our respect, we are thus highly encouraged to increase practicing good deeds towards ourselves and others. It is during this blessed month; will Muslims recall the historical event known as Isra' Mikraj which falls on the 27th of Rejab. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. was invited by Allah s.w.t. as His guest of honour on a journey which is now known as Isra' Mikraj. Isra' refers to the night journey from Masjidil Haram in Makkah to Masjidil Aqsa in Palestine, whereas Mikraj refers to the journey from Masjidil Aqsa to Sidratul Muntaha.

When Rasulullah s.a.w. recounted the journey to the people of Makkah, they refused to believe him and were vehemently against its idea. However, Sayyidina Abu Bakar r.a. said to

them, *“Truly I believe him in what is more distant than this. I believe him about the message from the heavens that he brought.”* [Hadith reported by Al-Hakim]

My Beloved Brothers,

The event of Isra' Mikraj is one of the greatest honours Allah s.w.t. bestowed upon Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. He who had endured much suffering, hardship and rejection – all while spreading the word of Islam. The situation further deteriorated following the death of his uncle Abu Talib and his beloved wife Khadijah r.a. Both of whom were two of his biggest and closest supporters. Their deaths affected him greatly.

Seeing that his dakwah efforts in Makkah had not been fruitful, Rasulullah s.a.w. decided to venture to the town of Taif to spread the message of Allah s.w.t. As the people of Taif were known for their hospitality, Rasulullah s.a.w. did not have any qualms about approaching them.

However, his hopes were short lived, as he was met with harsh reactions from the people of Taif. They were cruel and mocking, they physically attacked and drove away the Prophet and his followers out of their town. Such were the tests that befell Rasulullah s.a.w., one after another. We struggle to comprehend the magnitude of the calamities he shouldered. Yet even so, Rasulullah s.a.w. endured these predicaments with grace and patience.

Hence, among the reasons of Isra Mikraj, was to bring joy to Rasulullah s.a.w. and commend him for his efforts, perseverance and patience in doing dakwah to his people. His steadfastness and sacrifices would give rise to success in this world and the hereafter, as promised by Allah s.w.t. to all His prophets and messengers in the past. Indeed, the sweetness of victory is truly relished after much adversity.

My Dearest Brothers,

When we ponder upon the story of Isra' Mikraj, there is always something about it that we can learn and benefit from. Amongst the lessons that can be summarized are as such:

Firstly: Increasing our faith in Allah s.w.t. by observing and reflecting upon His creations on this earth. The event of Isra' Mikraj is a sign of Allah's Greatness and Might. As such, it is our task as Muslims to continue submitting ourselves – both heart and soul – to Allah s.w.t.

Secondly: In order to achieve success, we must first experience hardship. We will definitely be tested in various forms and directions, regardless of our wealth, position and marital status. When Allah s.w.t. blesses with wealth, that too is a test, hence let us not forget our duties such as giving zakat and sadaqah to those who are in need.

And when Allah s.w.t. tests us with difficulties, let us not waste our time complaining or questioning Allah's decree. Instead, we should adopt the right attitude and be positive when faced with such situations. Let us work hard and strive to find solutions to our problems, and have trust in Allah's judgement. A Muslim must be grateful during times of ease and remain patient during times of hardship. Allah s.w.t. mentions in Surah Ali Imran, Verse 139, which means: *“Do not lose heart and do not fall into despair, and you will be superior if you are true believers.”*

Thirdly: A key takeaway from the event of Isra' Mikraj is the command for the five daily prayers which was given to Rasulullah s.a.w. during this miraculous journey. The fact that Allah s.w.t. gave the command for our daily prayers through a special invitation to our Prophet s.a.w. gives us a clear impression on the importance of solat. It thus reflects the need for us to pay special attention to our solat by having focus and actively performing them such that it cultivates positive values in ourselves and brings about a healthy change in our lives. In a verse from the Qur'an, Allah s.w.t. declares that solat, when properly performed, gives rise to beautiful character, or akhlaq and dispels evil deeds.

Hence, solat, which is also a pillar of Islam, connects human beings together, which in turn, promotes a lifestyle which is built upon peace, justice and equality.

May Allah s.w.t. grant us strong faith and make our solat an important factor that brings about change in this world. May Allah include us from amongst His righteous and virtuous servants. Amin, Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.