

# Shabe Mehraj

## Me'raaj - An Event Unparalleled

The sun set. The 26th day of the month of Rajab got over and the 27th night descended. This night is absolutely different from other nights, and the event that took place on this night was also unique and unparalleled in the history of mankind. Of all the messengers and prophets, from Hazrat Nooh (Peace be on him) to Hazrat Isaa (Peace be on him), none got an invitation from the Almighty Allah to pay a visit to him. Prophet Hazrat Moosa (Peace be on him) has the privilege of conversing with the Almighty Allah, but no prophet was ever invited to visit the Almighty Allah.

This privilege, this special invitation of visiting the Almighty Allah was extended to Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) Hazrat Muhammed (Blessing of Allah and peace be on him). He is the one and only person who became an honoured guest of the Almighty Allah.

On the night of 27th of the month of Rajab, angel Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) came to the earth, along with fifty thousand angels and the heavenly animal Buraaq. Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) opened the chest of Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) and washed it with Zamzam water. Then he brought a golden dish full of wisdom and faith and put it in the body of Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ).

The heavenly animal which was brought for the journey of Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ), was white and long, larger than a donkey, but smaller than a mule, whose hoof touched the ground at a distance equal to the range of its vision. Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) mounted it. The journey began from the Sacred Mosque (masjidul Haraam-Makka). Angels Hazrat Jibreel, Hazrat Meekail (Peace be on them) and other angels were accompanying him.

When they reached Masjid-e-Aqsa in Jerusalem, the Buraaq was tied to a stone. According to one tradition, Hazrat Jibreel made a hole in the stone and the heavenly animal Buraaq was tied there.

In Masjid-e-Aqsa, all the prophets, from Hazrat Adam to Hazrat Isa (Peace be on them) were present. Everyone offered two raka'at namaaz. Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) led the prayer and all the prophets followed him.

Here Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) offered two cups, one containing milk and the other containing wine, to Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ). He chose milk and drank it. According to eminent historian Ibne Hishsham, three cups, one containing water, the second containing milk and the third containing wine, were brought to Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) and he heard someone saying, "If he chooses water, his people (ummat) will go astray. If he chooses milk, then he and his people (ummat) will be on the true path". Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) choose and drank milk, and Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) said, "O Messenger of Allah! You and your people (ummat) found the primordial path."

Now the journey for Heavens began. They came to the lowest (1st) heaven. Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) asked the angel guarding the gate to open it. The angel enquired who he was. He replied that he was Jibreel. The angel questioned who was with him. Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) said that Hazrat Muhammed (Blessing of Allah and peace be on him) was with him. The guarding angel asked whether he (Allah be pleased with him)'s Messenger) had been sent for and when Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) replied that, that was so, the guarding angel said, "Welcome, his coming is good." And the gate was opened.

Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) and Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) entered. Prophet Hazrat Adam (Peace be on him) was there. Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) said to Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ), "This is your father Adam so give him a salutation." Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) did so. Hazrat

Adam (Peace be on him) returned his salutation and said, “welcome to the good son and the good prophet.”

Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) and Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) reached the second heaven. The same question and answers were exchanged between the guarding angel of the gate and Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him). Then the angel opened the gate and said, “Welcome, his coming is good.”

Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) met prophets Hazrat Yahya and Hazrat Isaa (Peace be on them). Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) said to Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ), “They are Hazrat Yahya and Hazrat Isaa.” Then he requested him to give them a salutation. Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) did so. Both Hazrat Yahya and Hazrat Isaa (Peace be on them) returned Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him )’s salutation and said, “Welcome to the good brother and the good prophet.”

In this manner Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) met prophet Hazrat Yusuf (peace on be him) on the third heaven .On the fourth heaven He met prophet Hazrat Idris (peace on be him). On the fifth heaven He met prophet Hazrat Haroon (peace on be him). On the sixth heaven He met Hazrat Moosa (peace on be him).At the gate of each heaven the same question answers were asked by the guarding angel and Hazrat Jibreel (peace on be him) each time gave the same replies. When Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) passed from there Hazrat Moosa (peace on be him) began to weep and when He was asked what was making him weep,He replied, ”I am weeping because more followers of a young man who was commissioned after my time will enter paradise than of mine (remember, this weeping was not because of envy, but was out of sadness for his people-his ummat).

On the seventh heaven Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) met Hazrat Ibrahim (peace on be him) Hazrat Jibreel said, ”This is your father Ibrahim. So give him a salutation.” Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) gave a salutation to Hazrat Ibrahim (peace on be him).He returned the salutation and, ”welcome to the good son and the good prophet.”

From the seventh heaven, Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) was taken up to the lote-tree. The tree’s fruits were like very big earthen-ware vessel (matka) its leaves were like elephant’s ear. Lote-tree (Sidratul Muntaha) is a boundary. No one, not even Hazrat Jibreel (peace on be him) is allowed to go beyond that.

Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) saw four rivers, two concealed and two apparent. He asked Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be o him) about those rivers. Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) replied, “The two concealed ones are rivers in paradise and the two apparent ones are the Nile and the Euphrates.”

Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) could not go above the prescribed limit, i.e. Sidratul Muntaha. Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) said, “If I were to go even slightly beyond this limit, my wings will get burnt.”

Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) said, “If you wish for anything, do tell me, I will put it before the Almighty Allah, “Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) said, “Please grant me permission from the Almighty Allah that on the Day of Judgement when your people (ummat) cross the bridge of Sirat (Pool-sirat) I may be allowed to spread my wings on the pool-sirat so that your people (ummat) can cross it without any trouble.” Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) replied that he would convey his wish to Almighty Allah.

Near Sidratul Muntaha, Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) saw a row of camels which was passing continuously. He asked Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) about those camels who were carrying boxes on their backs. Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) said, “O Allah’s Messenger ( Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him ) ! These rows have been passing in this manner even from before I was created. I do not know anything about it. Only Allah knows its secret.”

Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) said, "get one of the boxes and open its lock after reciting Bis-mil-laa-hir-rah-maa-nir-ra-heem." Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) did so. The box was full of eggs. And each egg had a lock on it. Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) said, "Say Bis-mil-laa-hir-rah-maa-nir-ra-heem and open its lock." Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) recited Bis-mil-lah and opened the lock of one egg. The egg contained poppy seeds. And each poppy seed had a lock on it. Again Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) asked Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) to open the lock of the poppy seed after reciting Bis-mil-lah. Hazrat Jibreel did so, and saw that there was a world existing inside it and there was a big city and in that city there was a huge gathering. A speaker was addressing the gathering "The last of the prophets has declared his Prophethood Unless and until we have faith in him, we will not be able to obtain salvation. " Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) got up and said, "I am Jibreel and the last of the prophets, Muhammad Mustafa (Blessings of Allah and peace be on him) is with me." At that time the whole gathering recited Kalimaa and got into the fold of Islam. After that Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) locked the poppy seed, the egg and the box and placed it on the camel's back and the rows went on moving. (This particular incident is narrated in the book Rahbar-e-Haq).

Allah's Messenger saw hell and paradise. Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) said that from there He continued his journey all alone. There were seventy thousand veils. The thickness of each veil was equal to five hundred year's journey, and the distance between the two veils was also five hundred year's journey. The heavenly animal Buraaq and Hazrat Jibreel (Peace be on him) remained back at Sidratul Muntahaa.

The conveyance that carried Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) upward in his journey is known as Rafrat. It was very bright and more illuminating than the sunlight. Rafrat means soft bed. Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) was moving upwards and finally He reached the ultimate destination and met the Almighty Allah and saw Him with his own eyes.

In this auspicious night the Almighty Allah presented 50 times Namaaz daily, to His Messenger. Apart from that He was given the last verses of Sura al-Baqarah and forgiveness of serious sins to those of his people (ummat) who did not associate anything with the Almighty Allah.

The Almighty Allah enquired from His distinguished guest about the wish of Hazrat Jibreel. Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) said that He (Allah be pleased with him) is all knowing. The Almighty Allah said, "I grant acceptance to the wish of Jibreel. But that will be only for those persons who, O the loved one, will love you, befriend you and stay in your company.

On his return journey, Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) met Hazrat Moosa (Peace be on him), who enquired, "What did you get for your people (ummat)?" Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) replied, "Fifty times Namaaz daily." Hazrat Moosa (Peace be on him) said, "Your ummat will not be able to offer fifty times Namaaz per day. I have experience of my people (ummat). Please go back to the Lord Almighty and request him to reduce the number of Namaaz. Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) went back to the Almighty Allah and requested him to reduce the number of Namaaz. The Almighty Allah reduced it to five times Namaaz daily. When Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) returned, Hazrat Moosa (Peace be on him) asked him about the number of the reduced Namaaz and told him to request Allah to make some more concession. Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) went back to the Almighty Allah and on that visit five more Namaaz were reduced. Again Hazrat Moosa (Peace be on him) told Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) to get more concession and again the Almighty Allah reduced five more Namaaz. In this manner, finally when only five times Namaaz per day remained, Hazrat Moosa (Peace be on him) told Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) that his people (ummat) will not be able to offer even five times Namaaz every day, because his people (Hazrat Moosa's ummat) were not regular even though these were only two times Namaaz was compulsory for them. Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) said, "I have asked many times, now I feel ashamed to ask for more." If a person offers five times Namaaz every day, he/she will get virtues equal to fifty times Namaaz.

After that Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) came back to earth at Masjid-e-Aqsa. Here prophets Hazrat Ibrahim, Hazrat Moosa and Hazrat Isaa (Peace be on him) were waiting for him. He offered Namaaz there and subsequently came back to Makka and returned to his sleeping chamber. It is mentioned in the commentaries of the Holy Qur'aan that when Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) returned, his bed was still warm and the chain of the door was moving (signifying that He was away from the bed for just a little time).

On the morning of 27th Rajab, He described the details of his night journey.

When Abu Jahal, the staunch enemy of Allah and His Messenger heard this, He went to Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) and said, "Muhammad (Blessing of Allah and peace be on him) says that during the night He went to Baitul Muqaddas and then went to heavens. Is it believable?" Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) said, "If Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) says so, I will believe it, because he never speaks untruth."

On this firm belief of Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) he was called Siddique, meaning truthful.

Abu Jahal went to Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) and said, "Are you prepared to tell what you told us, to the people of Makka?" Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) replied in the affirmative. Abu Jahal called all the disbelievers. When they heard that event they started shouting and clapping trying to ridicule Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ).

Someone said, "We know quite well that you never visited Baitul Muqaddas and if you have visited it tell us about it. At that time Baitul Muqaddas was brought in front of Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) and He answered all the questions that the disbelievers put to him pertaining Baitul Muqaddas. One disbeliever said, "While coming back you must have seen our trade-caravan. If you have tell us something about it." Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) said that He came across some caravans. One was close to Roohaa (name of a place). It will reach here by sunset on Wednesday. They had lost one of their camels. They were worried about it and were searching it. I called out to them and told them that their camel was at such and such place. They were surprised to hear my voice. Another caravan was at such and such place and will reach here by Wednesday afternoon. Two persons were riding on a camel when my Buraaq passed from there, the camel got scared and threw them down. The third caravan I spotted was near Tan'eem. In front of the caravan was a camel havin. One camel rider was asking his slave to give him a blanket, That caravan will reach here by sunrise."

The caravans arrived as told by Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ) and the disbeliever went and enquired with them about the things described by Allah's Messenger ( Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him ). The caravan people confirmed with what Allah's Messenger had said. Hearing that many disbelievers accepted Islam.