

What Miraj-un-Nabi Means to Muslims

Introduction:

Each year, on the 27th Rajab (7th month in Muslim lunar calendar), most Muslims throughout the world will get together at their religious centres, and hold special functions in giving full and correct recognition to the event of Miraj¹-un-Nabi. This event may not be correctly understood by non-Muslim communities that Miraj-un-Nabi² is anniversary of the event of a visionary journey³ by Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), in bridging links between himself and the past 124,000⁴ revealed Prophets. These past Prophets had neither read the Holy Qur'an nor had they come within the canopy of practising Islam, both of which were final philosophies in their respective applications⁵. This happened in the year 621AD.

Discussion: What Does the Holy Quran Describe About Miraj-un-Nabi?

- 1) Various Muslim divisions within the sects⁶ describe the event and its significance to humanity somewhat differently. Some Muslim divisions

¹ Miraj is an Arabic word which means being able to reach upwards, such as a ladder.

² The Ascension of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) is stated in Hadith Sahih Bukhari 63:42. The gist of this Miraj-un-Nabi is a prophecy to the ultimate triumph of Islam, considering the most difficult circumstances, which were surrounding Islam, especially around 621AD.

³ This visionary journey was not a regular dream, which almost all people experience whilst soundly asleep. There is an Arabic expression "*Kashf*" which describes the peculiarity of this visionary journey. In the *Kashf*, a person who experiences this is in a state of wakefulness and is recording in the mind the details of whatever transpired throughout the *Kashf*. This experience is recorded in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ17:60** "*And when We said to you: Surely your Lord encompasses people. And We made the vision which We showed you only a trial for people, as also the tree cursed in the Quran. And We warn them, but it only adds to their great inordinacy.*" According to Hadith Sahih Bukhari 59:6, Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) described his experience of the Ascension as "a state between sleep and wakefulness." This verse **HQ17:60** is expanded upon later in this main article.

⁴ From names of Prophet Adam to Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), a total of 124,000 Prophets (*Nabi*) were ordained by Divine revelations, but directly delivered to them by Archangel Gabriel, as spiritually contracted. Out of 124,000 Prophets, only 313 are ordained Messengers (*Rasul*). Out of 313 Messengers, only 25 have been mentioned by name as case studies in the Holy Qur'an. Note: that every Messenger (*Rasul*) is also a Prophet, but every Prophet (*Nabi*) is not a Messenger. All of these 124,000 prophets were regular human beings who must eat food, drink water, breathe air and need atmospheric pressure to stay alive. The figure of 124,000 prophets is quoted in Hadith No 21257 of *Musnad ibn Hanbal*. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was the Last and Final Prophet and after his death in 632AD, that sealed off all prophets of any description whatsoever being ordained by Divine revelations, to serve humanity on Earth. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ33:40** "*Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things.*" Seal means total shutting off arrival of any prophet of whatsoever description: No new prophet and no re-entry of any of the past 124,000 prophets will eventuate.

⁵ The Holy Qur'an is the final revealed scripture. Islam is the final revealed religion.

⁶ In Islam there are only two sects in the main: They are Sunnis (in majority) and Shia. The total number of followership divisions amongst them are 72. Sunnis have 60 divisions and Shia have 12 divisions.

take the event as an actual corporeal physical Ascension of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) from Earth to Heaven. They maintain that he was corporeally involved into several sessions of spiritual strengthening, and getting involved into several sessions of person to person interviews, with several of the previous Prophets⁷. After leading a prayer session for a congregation of those previous Prophets, he had actual corporeal physical descent back to Earth, but using the reverse routing to his Ascension.

- 2) Whereas, some other Muslim divisions view the same event differently: They have interpreted the event of Miraj-un-Nabi, based on the valid common laws of Nature. This is insofar as corporeal physical movement and survival of a human person can be endured, outside the scope of vital essential resources and outside the atmosphere of Earth. These other divisions also maintain that most importantly, Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was very much human. Further, Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) saw himself during the *Kashf*, as taking a spiritual journey throughout the entire sets of episodes⁸, and getting involved into several sessions of spiritual strengthening. He observed in his *Kashf*, after leading a prayer session for a congregation of spirits of previous Prophets, he saw himself still in the *Kashf* and that he came back to Earth, but using the reverse routing to his Ascension, whilst he was still in the *Kashf*.
- 3) Some of the incidents recorded in various Hadith before, during and after the event of Miraj-un-Nabi need both logical and manifestly comprehensive mentions. These have been summarised below.
- 4) Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) experienced the entire episode with his spiritual vision (*Kashf*) using human eyes. He did not materially move his human form, from his bed in Mecca to throughout the entire routing and then materially came back to Earth. This is the pivotal point, which some people find difficult to grasp: Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was human; and all humans are designed by Nature to survive and sustain the natural Earthly and atmospheric support conditions of: atmospheric air, Earthly gravity, food and water, atmospheric pressure and ambient body

⁷ Some of the Prophets' names given in the Hadith (selected from 124,000) are sequentially as follows: Jesus, John the Baptist, Zakhraiya, Elisha, Elias, Jonah, Solomon, David, Aaron, Moses, Shuaib, Ezekiel, Job, Joseph, Jacob, Isaac, Ishmael, Lot, Abraham, Saleh, Hud, Noah, Enoch, Adam (*peace on them all*). These names are in reverse order of their service sequence on Earth, and same names as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an.

⁸ There are several events making the episodes: In a nutshell, these include spiritual journey to Medina, spiritual journey to Jerusalem, and spiritual journey to seven stages of Heaven, spiritually meeting the spirits of past dead Prophets, getting a vision of the future and then spiritually returning back to Earth, using same routing in reverse order. This completed the *Kashf*.

temperature⁹. There is significant difference between corporeal (or actual human person) movement into outer space; and the visionary journey, in which the person corporeally remains on Earth in the *Kashf*. The *Kashf*¹⁰, which allows the human mind to see and actually witness certain events, with particular outreach to locations, which under regular circumstances, cannot be reached by the human person. There are several Hadith on this landmark event, which requires concise understanding. According to some Hadith, Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) had gone to sleep in his bed. Then he gets awoken. The actual hours of the *Kashf* were between *Tahajjud* prayers and *Fajr* prayers¹¹. This night journey in the *Kashf* is called *Israa*. The Holy Qur'an quotes the event of the *Kashf* in following word structures with conciseness: **HQ17:1** "*Glory be to Him Who carried His servant by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Remote Mosque*¹², *whose precincts We blessed, that We might show him some of Our signs! Surely He is the Hearing, the Seeing.*"

- 5) *Israa* is an Arabic word referring to night journey of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) from Mecca to Medina and then to Jerusalem - specifically, to the site of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. According to some of the Hadith¹³ scholars, this *Kashf* is believed to have taken place on the night of 27th Rajab in 621AD. This was just around a year before Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) had migrated (*Hijri*) to Medina¹⁴ from Mecca.

⁹ When astronauts travel into outer space environment, they have to be fully equipped with all basic necessities for the human person to endure for survival of the human person alive, all the way back to Earth. According to NASA, no human being can survive above the Karman Line (100km or 62 miles above sea level), without the assistance of artificial support systems of pressurised space suit, breathing system replicating air on earth, body temperature, food and water. The temperature above the Karman line ranges around minus 270-deg C (minus 454-deg F). Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was a regular human (a *Rasul*), inasmuch as all other humans on Earth need certain essentials to survive.

¹⁰ *Kashf* is not a dream. *Kashf* is wakefulness where the person actually sees events with the specific blessed assistance of Almighty God. Dream is when the person is fully asleep but does not see.

¹¹ The gap between *Tahajjud* prayers and *Fajr* prayers is a matter of few hours only.

¹² This was from the mosque region of Al-Haram in Mecca to the mosque Al-Aqasa in Jerusalem.

¹³ There are variable reports from those of Anas ibn Malik, Malik ibn Sa'sa'ah, Abu Dharr al-Ghifari and Abu Hurayrah. Some other details have been narrated by 'Umar, 'Ali, 'Abd Allah ibn Mas'ud, 'Abd Allah ibn Abbas, Abu Sa'id al-Khudri, and Hudhayfah ibn al-Yaman, among other Companions of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*). There are so many other not so common Hadith, which give so just much complex *ad verbatim* details, not found elsewhere, and one is given to wonder in differentiating factual from imagined fabrication by those writers. Out of the six Sahih Hadith collections there are today, the first to be written was that of Bukhari who was born in the year 870 AD, which is 238 years after the death of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*). Bukhari was very senior in age when he commenced writing the Hadith. The authors of the other six hadith collections, like Muslim and Abu Dawood, were all born after Bukhari. There are so many other Hadith written, even after the deaths of the four Caliphs of Islam.

¹⁴ The migration from Mecca to Medina was in 622AD. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) remained there for a decade and returned to Mecca in 632AD as his farewell pilgrimage (*Hajj*). He died in 632AD.

- 6) There are variable writings in some Hadith that Archangel Gabriel opened the chest of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), washed and purified his vital organs therein with water, which he had brought over in a golden pitcher from the Zamzam. What this implies is that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was purified to the highest elevation as the Final Prophet. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) saw in his *Kashf* that he was purified to perfection before commencement of his visionary journey of *Kashf*.
- 7) There is however, a witness to Miraj-un-Nabi.
- 8) On the contrary, the wife of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), A'isha (*ra*) reported and witnessed, that when Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) awoke for *Fajr* prayers, his beddings were dry and still warm, as if he had slept there the entire night. His beddings were neither bloodied from the massive surgery as stated by some people, nor wet with water from the Zamzam.
- 9) The most important aspect, which some Hadith have materially stated, was the witnessing of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) of his own movements, riding the *buraq* together with Archangel Gabriel, narrated sequentially as: From Mecca to Medina¹⁵. Then from Medina to Jerusalem. Thereafter from Jerusalem to Heaven from the first through to the sixth level of Heaven. Archangel Gabriel had helpfully hinted to Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) to perform two *rakats* prayer at each transit stop, commencing from Medina, Jerusalem and at each strata of the six levels of Heaven. At this point of reaching the sixth level of Heaven, Archangel Gabriel informed Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was to proceed beyond to the seventh level on his own. Archangel Gabriel was reported as dismounting from the *buraq*, because he did not have the authorisation to exceed beyond the sixth level. This seventh level (highest glory) is called *Sidrat-ul-Munteha*. In addition, several of the Hadith inform that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was also given retentive glimpses of what both Heaven and Hell were to be like. Further, that it was on this visit to the seventh level that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was informed of performing prayers five times daily. Later this instruction got incorporated as revelations into the Holy Qur'an. Furthermore, that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) acted as the *Imam* and all past 124,000 revealed Prophets were retrospectively

¹⁵ This was a forewarning of the migration by Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) in the following year as the commencement of *Hijri*. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) had spent 10 years in Medina 622AD-632AD and where he had received revelations of 27 Chapters of the Holy Qur'an after the Miraj-un-Nabi. The other 86 Chapters of the Holy Qur'an were revealed in Mecca. The last and final revelation was Chapter 110 in Mecca (completing 87 Chapters), after his farewell pilgrimage (*Hajj*) in 632AD.

incorporated into Islam. This unique event happened at the seventh level of *Sidrat-ul-Munteha*.

- 10)** It also implies that Islam would be expanding to great heights; which Islam already has done so to date. The journey to and from the stated places on the fast *buraq* indicated that Islam would also spread globally at fast pace. This has been proven correct to date.
- 11)** It is vitally necessary to take cognizance, that all Prophets who descended from Prophet Abraham's (*as*) second son, Isaac, were all Israelite Prophets and their prophetic lineage ended with Prophet Jesus Christ (*as*). Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), was not only the final (seal) of all Prophets whatsoever, but he was the only Prophet descended from the lineage of Prophet Abraham's (*as*) first son Ishmael.
- 12)** There is a massive "gap" between the two lineages of prophets. The gap constitutes of the lack of accessibility of the previous prophets to the Holy Qur'an, fundamentals of Islam, and their ability to practice Islam, as the Holy Qur'an was revealed only to Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), which is testimony to declaration of Islam as a religion. It is important to note that since creation, there were so many other prophets who were sent as communal prophets to various other communities, which were neither of Hebrew descent nor of Israelite descent. The examples are many: such as communities of the African continent, communities of Europe, communities of Asian continent, communities of North America, South America and so forth. Their communal prophets were included in the collection of 124,000 prophets.
- 13)** Mirage-un-Nabi hence becomes a bridging of that gap. Bridging of that gap comprised of common leadership under an *Imam*, who led and recited prayers; and rest of the congregation listened and followed in silence but with collective utterances of "*Ameen*" at appropriate moments of verses' endings throughout the prayer. This united that congregation to the *Imam*. Objectively, therefore all past Prophets were now united to their *Imam* in Islam, who was Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*).
- 14)** We know from various Hadith, that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) remained bodily in bed; and that the spot where he lay was warm and dry, as witnessed by his wife¹⁶. This establishes that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) did not leave his bed on Earth but his trip to Heaven was all as *Kashf*, after

¹⁶ She was A'isha (*ra*).

going through first six stages¹⁷ under guidance of Archangel Gabriel, and the last stage all by him, was a spiritual journey only and as visionary *Kashf*. In the final stage at the seventh level, Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) took a spiritual meeting with previous prophets and then led 2 rakat prayers, reciting from the Holy Qur'an¹⁸. The previous Israelite prophets stood in lines behind Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), and by uttering "Ameen" at appropriate times, they became blessed as Muslims; their acceptance of the Holy Qur'an's prayer verses and leadership as *Imam* by Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), became as a testimony to an irreversible sealed event. After having led the prayers, Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) had his vision of *Kashf* returned spiritually back to Earth following the same routing in reverse order.

- 15) The spiritual journey, which Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) took is also exemplary to all human souls after death of persons: all souls will be passing through similar stages, before their final assembly before Almighty God, on the Great Day of Judgement. This is proven in the verse from the Holy Qur'an: **HQ17:60** "And when We said to you: Surely your Lord encompasses people. And We made the vision which We showed you only a trial for people, as also the tree cursed¹⁹ in the Quran. And We warn them, but it only adds to their great inordinacy." The Holy Qur'an also report about the tree accursed.
- 16) The "tree cursed" refers to all evil nations and all evil people, who will all receive Almighty God's tariff prescribed measures of reprimand, according to their register of their misdeeds.
- 17) The events outlined above also adds positive credibility to the seal and finality of prophethood, that all previous Israelite prophets have also been excluded from re-appearing and superseding Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), whilst no new prophet will come after Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) at **HQ33:40** "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things."

¹⁷ The Holy Qur'an states that there are seven Heavens at **HQ2:29** "He it is Who created for you all that is in the earth. And He directed Himself to the heaven, so He made them complete seven heavens; and He is Knower of all things."

¹⁸ The revelations received so far were only up to year 621AD, whereas revelations continued to be sent over and the last revelation was Chapter 110 in year 632AD. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) died in 632AD.

¹⁹ The tree cursed refers to the Tree of Zaqqum as food for sinners, who were as enemies to Islam. This is elaborated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ44:43-46** "Surely the tree of Zaqqūm is the food of the sinful, like molten brass; it seethes in (their) bellies like boiling water."

- 18)** In so doing, the event of Miraj-un-Nabi also sets the message that the Holy Qur'an is also the Final Scripture revealed to mankind. Henceforth, any claim of new Prophet or new Scripture becomes divinely null and void.
- 19)** After having reached the seventh strata of Heaven, Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) saw a faraway lote tree²⁰, with sprawling branches horizontally parallel to the ground. The lote tree implies Islam is a sprawling protective religion, in which there is no compulsion in religion²¹ for others to be coerced into becoming Muslims; that means Muslims must facilitate entertaining the existence of all other Faiths²². As all trees are structured, the firmness of the one central trunk of the lote tree also indicates firmness of Islam and the principle of One God, as the Almighty God. The clustered branches of the lote trees, indicate the sublime richness of Islam. The future of all souls on Earth shall be determined by their compliance in this material life on Earth. The Holy Qur'an has already given ample guidelines of right from wrong.
- 20)** What really matters is subtly correct interpretations of the various Hadith accounts. Some people are stating that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) met and spoke to Almighty God.
- 21)** This cannot be true. Almighty God is supremely the Spiritual Power and Who is not made of any identifiable body mass. Human eyes, which are conceptually designed to see material things only, cannot see Almighty God. Out of 124,000 past Prophets, none had seen Almighty God ever. Proof of this is in the Holy Qur'an, when Prophet Moses (*as*) pleaded with Almighty God that he wanted to see Almighty God and the response and the reaction that Prophet Moses (*as*) got becomes proof beyond reasonable doubt that the absolute Supremacy of the ever-existence of Almighty God cannot be seen with human eyes.
- 22)** This claim that human eyes cannot see is materially evidenced in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ7:143** *"And when Moses came at Our appointed time and his Lord spoke to him, he said: My Lord, show me (Yourself) so that I may look at You. He said: You cannot see Me, but look at the*

²⁰ The lote tree is native to desert domains and its wide sprawling branches and rich leafy structure provides shade and shelter for people and animals from the severe sunshine and unfavourable weather conditions. It is an accommodative and protective tree to those seeking shelter.

²¹ Holy Qur'an clarifies no compulsion in religion at **HQ2:256** *"There is no compulsion in religion — the right way is indeed clearly distinct from error. So whoever disbelieves in the devil and believes in Allah, he indeed lays hold on the firmest handle which shall never break. And Allah is Hearing, Knowing."*

²² Almighty God has already facilitated His compliance standards in religion and in addition He has also made provisions of reward for those compliant and reprimand for those non-compliant as Heaven and Hell respectively. It is not for Muslims to coerce other Faiths. This causes fragmentations of society.

mountain; if it remains firm in its place, then will you see Me. So when his Lord manifested His glory to the mountain, He made it crumble and Moses fell down fainting. Then when he recovered, he said: Glory be to You! I turn to You, and I am the first of the believers.”

- 23)** It is for all correct thinking Muslims to guide and assist other Muslims; the Holy Qur’an has sanctioned that correct advice shall be given to those who need to be guided. This is given in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ3:103**, as *“And from among you there should be a party who invite to good and enjoin the right and forbid the wrong. And these are they who are successful.”*

Conclusions:

- a) In Islam there are only two sects in the main. The total number of followership divisions amongst the two sects are 72. However, the 72 divisions have differences in their principles of opinions.
- b) Some divisions maintain that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) went up in the Miraj actually in his physical human person form.
- c) Whereas, some other divisions maintain that Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) remained bodily in bed in Mecca, but took a participative spiritual visionary journey in his wakefulness as a *Kashf*.
- d) The Holy Qur’an and the religion of Islam were both revealed to the Last and Final Messenger as Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*). The unique event of Miraj-un-Nabi bridged the gap between the past 124,000 communal Prophets to Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) as Final Prophet to the world.
- e) All past communal 124,000 Prophets have now been retrospectively brought under the common canopy of Islam.

-End of Document -

Fiji