

**“MIRAJ-UN-NABI”**

**What does the Holy Quran describe about Miraj-un-Nabi?**

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011 is anniversary of the event of Miraj-un-Nabi, a visionary journey by Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Various Muslim sects describe the event and its significance to humanity somewhat differently. Some sects take the event as an actual corporeal Ascension of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) from earth to Heaven, and after leading a prayer session for a congregation of previous prophets, he came back to earth. The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam (Lahore) Fiji views the event differently, based on common laws of Nature, insofar as physical movement and survival of a human body can endure outside the scope and atmosphere of earth. Holy 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 fluids, and ambient body temperature. The Holy Qur’an quotes the event in following word structures: **“17:1 Glory to Him Who carried His servant by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Remote Mosque, whose precincts We blessed, that We might show him of Our signs! Surely He is the Hearing, the Seeing.”**

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). Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), was not only the final (seal) of all prophets, but he was the only prophet from Prophet Abraham’s (as) first son Ishmael. Total prophets into every community in this world, exceed 124,000 since creation.

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 Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), which is testimony to declaration of Islam as a religion.

Miraj-un-Nabi hence becomes a bridging of that gap. Bridging of that gap comprised of common leadership under an Imam, who leads and utters prayers; and rest of the congregation listens and follows in silence but with collective utterances of “Ameen” at appropriate moments throughout the prayer. This unites that congregation to the Imam.

We know from various Hadith, that Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) remained bodily in bed; and that the spot where he lay was warm, as witnessed by his wife. This concludes that Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not leave his bed on earth but his trip to Heaven, after going through first six stages under guidance of Angel Gabriel, and the last stage all by him, was a spiritual journey only and as visionary. The journey of his movements from the Sacred Mosque to the Remote Mosque is indicative that all previous Israelite prophets, have all been brought under a common marquee and common leadership of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the Holy Qur’an and Islam.

In the final stage, he took a spiritual meeting with previous prophets and then led prayers, reciting from the Holy Qur’an. The previous Israelite prophets stood in lines behind Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), as we do on earth as members of the congregation, and by uttering “Ameen” at appropriate times, they became blessed as Muslims and their acceptance of the Holy Qur’an’s prayer verses and leadership as Imam by Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), became as a testimony to an irreversible sealed event. After having led the prayers, Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had his vision returned spiritually back to earth following the same routing.

The trip which Holy 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 Allah, on the great Judgement Day. This is proven in the verse from the Holy Qur’an: **“17:60 And when We said to thee: Surely thy Lord encompasses men. And We made not the vision which We showed thee but a trial for men, as also the tree cursed in the Quran. And We warn them, but it only adds to their great inordinacy.”** The “tree cursed” refers to evil nations and evil people, who will all receive prescribed measures of punishment, according to their misdeeds.

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 Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), whilst no new prophet will come after Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): **“33:40 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.”** 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 null and void.