

ISRAA'& MI'RAAJ: ITS CONNECTION WITHSALLAAH



Let us increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala by performing all of His Commands and abstaining from all of His prohibitions, so that we will attain great rewards in the Hereafter.

As we know, Muslims will commemorate the incident of al-Israa' and Mi'raaj in this month, a very extraordinary and historical night. In that night, Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam had undertaken a daunting journey,

from Makkah to Bayt al-Maqdis in Palestine. Then, from there onwards, he sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam ascended to the heavens known as Mi'raaj, beginning from the first to the seventh level.

After that, Nabi Muhammad sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam ascended to Sidratul Muntaha, to a place called Mustawa. The journey of the physical body and soul occurred in a very short amount of time.

According to the jumhoor (majority of scholars), this event took place on the 27th of Rajab, a year before he sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam made hijrah to Madeenah.

This extraordinary event is a great miracle for the Messenger sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam because none had undertaken such experience prior to him. Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala has mentioned this very event in al-Qur'an:

"Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haraam to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing."

(al-Israa' 17:1)

The incident of al-Israa' and al-Mi'raaj has a relationship with the ordainment of salaah. This 'ibaadah was commanded by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala by inviting the Messenger sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam to ascend to Him in al-'Arsh,

instead of sending Jibreel down to earth to convey the command, as it was done for the ordainment of fasting (of Ramadaan), zakaah, and hajj.

The status of salaah in the Sight of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala is of utmost importance in 'ibaadah. With salaah established, the religion is held upright, but when salaah is abandoned, then the religion is destroyed.

On the authority of 'Umar bin al-Khattaab radiyAllaahu 'anh that Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"Salaah is a pillar of the religion.

Whoever establishes it has established the religion. Whoever neglects it has destroyed the religion."

(al-Bayhaqi: da 'eef but meaning is sound)

The 'ibaadah of salaah was initially ordained to be 50 times daily, day and night. Then Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam went to Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala several times asking Him to reduce it.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala then answered his request by reducing it down to five obligatory prayers daily. In a hadeeth narrated by Anas ibn Maalik radiyAllaahu 'anh, Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala

"There are five prayers every day and night. O Muhammad, each being credited as ten, so that makes fifty prayers..."

(Muslim & Ahmad)

This manifests the great status of salaah, how great was the method of ordainment to Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam, and also how great the way it is to be performed.

Allah judges each Muslim as whether to being good or bad, based on their establishment of salaah. The first thing that will be held accountable in the Hereafter is salaah. Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam mentioned:

"The first matter that the slave will be brought to account for on the Day of Judgment is the prayer. If it is sound,

then the rest of his deeds will be sound. And if it is bad, then the rest of his deeds will be bad."

(Ahmad, Abu Dawood, ibn Maajah, and at-Tabaraani: *saheeh*)

This hadeeth teaches us that however much a person may fast in Ramadaan, pay his zakaah, performing hajj, giving sadaqah to the poor, or

rendering great service to the people and nation, they would all become meaningless with the deeds rejected by Allah if the salaah is neglected or abandoned.

Salaah is an 'ibaadah that is performed with physical (bodily) and spiritual movements. The tongue utters beautiful words, mentioning praises, exaltation, glorification,

and high hopes that are all attributed to Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. When every movements and recitations are performed with ikhlaas, completeness, consciousness, and khushoo',

then it all would have reverberating effect on the self, physical body, soul, mind, and akhlaaq, until the salaah would truly prevent one from committing disobedience and munkar acts.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala mentions in alQur'an:

"Recite, [O Muhammad], what has been revealed to you of the Book and establish prayer.

Indeed, prayer prohibits immorality and wrongdoing, and the remembrance of Allah is greater. And Allah knows that which you do."

(al-'Ankaboot 29:45)

On the other hand, salaah that is performed with heedlessness, just so that others will notice without fully internalizing the 'ibaadah, it not only lose out on the Pleasure Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala,

furthermore earns the Wrath of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala. Such salaah will not have any impact and change one's akhlaaq.

The philosophy and virtues of *salaah* are many, among them:

1- Salaatul jamaa 'ah (congregational prayer). Before the salaah begins, the imam must ensure that the

saff (row) is straight and the musalleen (those praying) are close to each other, for these are from the completeness of salaatul jamaa 'ah. This teaches us the importance

of unity that is comprehensive, thorough, and disciplined so that it will not be easily penetrated by the enemy.

2- The direction faced during salaah, must all be the same everywhere, which is the direction of the Ka'bah. Wherever salaah is being established, it cannot deviate from that direction.

This means, wherever we are, in whatever situation, do not even by a slight bit deviate from the path that has been determined by Islam.

That is to unite in strictly adhering to the teachings of al-Qur'an and the sunnah of Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam.

3- Salaah, as the mi 'raj of the believers, must be performed in a state of purity, free from any impurities, whether on the body, clothing, or dwelling. This is to say that Muslims

are always purifying their 'ageedah from shirk and khurafaat (superstition), ridding their deeds off riyaa' (ostentation) and hasad (envy) that can destroy their own honor and dignity as human

It is unfortunate that there are among Muslims that brazenly dispute the obligation of salaah. They state that it is sufficient for salaah to be made with only intention, without the standing, bowing, and prostrating.

There are also those that opined that salaah can be combined (jamaa') throughout their entire lives, performed three times daily (throughout the day and night).

They stated that we are living in this world as a musaafir (traveler), meaning we are granted the concession to combine our salawaat (prayers). Even further are those deviated in stating that salaah is not waajib,

and can be replaced with any type of good deeds, na 'udhubillaahi min dhaalik. These misconstrued teachings and understanding are quietly influencing some of the Muslims within our

community who are not wellgrounded in their Islamic knowledge. Such teachings have been officially declared as deviant through a fatwa issued by the members of the Fatwa Committee of Selangor.

During Israa' and Mi'raaj, Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam was shown people that had their heads smashed with large rocks. When smashed, the heads would shatter into pieces.

Then the heads would return back to its original shape, and after that they would be smashed again. This cycle then would repeat non-stop.

Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam then asked Jibreel 'alayhissalam regarding what he sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam saw. Upon that, Jibreel 'alayhissalam answered

"They are those that were always lazy in performing their fard salawaat." Such is the severe torment for those that are heedless and abandoned their salawaat.

Therefore, it is truly meaningless in having imaan in al-Israa' and al-Mi'raaj if it is not manifested and translated into actions by fulfilling the command of

Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala ordained to Prophet Muhammad sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam during that event, which is the obligation of salaah.

Let us become repentant and maintain istigaamah in performing our salawaat. Let us not become those that are negligent and heedless. It is not befitting to only pray once a week, that is the Friday prayer,

while neglecting the five daily salawaat. Islam has ordained us to always ensure that our family members also have fulfilled their salaah obligation,

including our spouses and children. Hence, we are commanded to train and ensure that our children establish their salaah by the age of seven, and to beat them at the age of 10 for not praying.

"And enjoin prayer upon your family [and people] and be steadfast therein. We ask you not for provision; We provide for you, and the [best] outcome is for [those of righteousness."

(Ta-Ha 20:132)

Conclusion:

1- Salaah was commanded by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala to the human through al-Israa' and al-Mi 'raaj.

2- The status of salaah in the Sight of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala is of utmost importance in 'ibaadah. With salaah established, the religion is held upright, but when salaah is abandoned, then the religion is destroyed.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِبَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَبَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِر الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأُحياءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالأُمُواتُ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيْمُ

O Allah, You are the Almighty Lord, we are grateful unto You for having bestowed upon us Mercy and Blessings, nourishing us to strive to continue in strengthening the Muslim nation especially the state of Selangor, as an advanced, progressive, peaceful, and benevolent state.

We beseech and beg You, Ya Allah, to strengthen our imaan, increase our good deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our provision, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, nourish our soul with beautiful akhlaag, guide us to the Path that is Pleasing to You,

protect us from Your severe tribulations such as the long drought, severe flooding, disease outbreak, violence and instability, poverty, and others, so that our land will become more peaceful and blessed.

Oh Allah, we ask You to open up the hearts of the Muslim ummah especially in Selangor, to fulfill their zakaat obligation as You had decreed in al-Qur'an. Bless the lives of those who have fulfilled their zakaat obligation, loving and caring for the poor and needy.

Purify their wealth and soul so that they will live according to that which pleases You. Protect the poor and needy from disbelief and everlasting poverty. Allaahummaa ameen



BAHAGIAN KHUTBAH,
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:

UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR