

## Fundamentals about “*Miraj-un-Nabi*”

*Miraj-un-Nabi*<sup>1</sup> is not a fairytale, but a very important factual milestone in the history of Islam, and that milestone bridges the connectivity, between Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as the final prophet<sup>2</sup> and all the past prophets before him. The historically unique event of *Miraj-un-Nabi* was factually a spiritual and a visionary extraterrestrial journey by Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). On the contrary, this spiritual journey has been most emphatically described by some Muslims as an actual corporeal journey. The Holy Qur’an<sup>3</sup> quotes the event of *Miraj-un-Nabi* in following words: “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.” *Miraj-un-Nabi* was not a meaningless trip for Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) but a Mission!

Various Muslim sects<sup>4</sup> in both mainstream Divisions of Islam describe the event and its significance to humanity somewhat differently. Some Muslim sects take the event as an actual corporeal Ascension of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): from earth to the seven stages of Heaven, and after leading a prayer session for a congregation of previous prophets, Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) came back to earth still in human form. Other Muslim sects view the issue as purposeful spiritual visitation only.

All mentions of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) spiritually riding the symbolic horse “*Buraq*” were indeed spiritual, but most essentially symbolic. During the lifetime (b.571-d.632AD) of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the fastest means of transport known was horse; camels were long-range but rather slow. Hence, Allah in His infinite wisdom used the *Buraq* as symbolic of fast transport for the spirit of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The entire *Miraj-un-Nabi* episodes happened between *Isha* prayer that night and *Fajr* prayer the next morning. We know from various Hadith, that Archangel Gabriel (*Jibreel*) escorted Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) from his bed in Mecca, when they both spiritually mounted the *Buraq* and spiritually departed for a detailed journey on earth first, before that spiritual journey was extended to the seven stages of Heaven. The narrative detailed below is what Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) spiritually experienced in year 621AD (age 50) and reported them to his Qureish community. Some Qureishi accepted and some ridiculed Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Their first stop was at Medina with an essential prayer (2 *rakats Salat* each time) by both of them. The second stop was at Mount Sinai, again with essential prayer (*Salat*), at the spot where Prophet Moses (as) spoke to Allah. The third stop was at a spot in Bethlehem, where Jesus Christ (as) was born and again there was prayer (*Salat*). The fourth stop was at Masjid al-Aqasa at Jerusalem, where again prayer (*Salat*) was performed. The fifth stop was a series of elevations through the first six stages of

---

<sup>1</sup> The *Miraj-un-Nabi* was actually a spiritual journey by Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), in which his spiritual senses saw spiritually, the prophecy of the future greatness to the spread of Islam; and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) spiritually meeting up with all past prophets who had already died; and then the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) leading the prayers as the Imam, whilst all the past prophets formed the congregation as spirits but not as material bodies. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the only prophet alive at the time, whereas all the other past prophets had died and their presence was in their spirit only. Spirits cannot be seen with material human eyes. Spirits can only be seen by other spirits. Archangel Gabriel was as spirit and the Holy Prophet (pbuh) was also in spirit and was able to see each other spiritually. Hence the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) materially slept in his bed, whereas his spirit was given the special journey to see the future greatness of Islam. This was in 621AD before the death of Hazrat Abu Talib. Some people spell the event as “*Meraj-un-Nabi*.”

<sup>2</sup> Holy Qur’an 33:40 states: “*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.*” There will never be any Nabi and Rasul after the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

<sup>3</sup> English translation of the Holy Qur’an by Maulana Muhammad Ali, was first published in 1917, at Lahore (then India). Currently published by Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam (Lahore) Ohio, USA, was referenced for extracts of above quotes.

<sup>4</sup> There are 72 different Muslim sects from the two mainstream Muslim Divisions of Sunnis and Shiites. The Sunnis are in the majority.

Heaven; and this is where Archangel Gabriel (*Jibreel*) stopped and advised the spirit of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) that the spirit of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) must proceed past that point alone, because even Archangel Gabriel (*Jibreel*) did not have the permit to enter that final seventh stage of *Sidrat-ul Muntaha*. The spirit of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) entered that stage alone and there he found spirits of all the past prophets in readiness to commence prayer (*Salat*). After leading the prayer as their Imam, the spirit of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) returned lower to the sixth stage, where he rejoined with Archangel Gabriel (*Jibreel*) and they both returned back spiritually, with exactly the same routing taken initially, and then back to his bed in Mecca. The spirit was not affected by environments.

The Holy Qur'an makes it clear that Allah has the Superlative capacity of drawing out a person's soul but without causing death to that person at 39:42: *"Allah takes (men's) souls at the time of their death, and those that die not, during their sleep. Then He withholds those on whom He has passed the decree of death and sends the others back till an appointed term. Surely there are signs in this for a people who reflect."* It must be noted from the quotation, that Allah exercises His right to temporarily draw out a person's soul during that person's sleep. However, those persons whom Allah causes to permanently and materially die, do not go through this interim curve of drawing out of the soul, but have a definite parting of the soul from the body, and a special barrier is cast between the body and soul as a point of no-return back to the body. The Holy Qur'an makes this point clearly at 23: 99-100: *"99. Until when death overtakes one of them, he says: My Lord, send me back, 100. That I may do good in that which I have left. By no means! It is but a word that he speaks. And before them is a barrier, until the day they are raised."*

The author states stressfully that the event of *Miraj-un-Nabi* experienced by Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was an extraordinary situation, when Allah temporarily drew out the spirit of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) for a special assignment. It is very important to understand the terms of reference of this assignment. The whole purpose of the *Miraj-un-Nabi* was to roll back Islam as the choice religion of Allah, roll back to all his previous *Nabi* and *Rasul*, all inclusively, who served their term on earth prior to the arrivals of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Islam, and these previous *Nabi* and *Rasul* have all become aligned to one common fundamental Faith of Islam, and with the Holy Qur'an as the final revealed scripture, which was authored by Allah with pure Truth.

The author to this article views the event of *Miraj-un-Nabi* 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 constituents, earthly gravity, food and fluids, and ambient body temperature. Spirits are inert.

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 starting with Prophet Moses (as) and 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 of names of prophets in each community in the world exceeded 124,000<sup>5</sup> since creation.

There is a massive "gap" between the two lineages of prophets. The gap constitutes 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 authenticated by Allah in the Holy Qur'an at 33:40.

---

<sup>5</sup> Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) statement in Hadith No 21257 in *Musnad Ibn Hanbal* that there were over 124,000 prophets since creation; and that there is not a nation, which was denied the privilege of having a Messenger sent to them as a Warner: This will be a charge against all peoples on the Great Day of Judgement: Allah had sent prophets to each nation warning them and those peoples' ignorance or their non-acceptance of the prophets shall not be mitigating factors acceptable to Allah.

*Mirage-un-Nabi* hence becomes a “spiritual bridging” of that gap. Bridging of that gap comprised of common leadership under an Imam<sup>6</sup>, who led and recited as prayers of the Holy Qur’an; and the rest of the congregation of *Nabi* and *Rasul* listened and followed in silence, but with collective utterances of “Ameen” at appropriate moments throughout the prayer. This special prayer session united that congregation to the Imam. Hence all past *Nabi* and *Rasul*, regardless of their ethnicity and era, became collectively as all Muslims in retrospect under the leadership (as Imam) of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The most important point, which must be remembered at all times, was the commonality of the spiritual gathering. All past *Nabi* and *Rasul* were gathered as spirits<sup>7</sup> and none in the gathering (including Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)) was materially in human body form.

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 Ayesha (ra). This concludes that Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not leave his bed on earth but his trip to *Sidrat-ul Muntaha*, after going through first six stages under guidance of Angel Gabriel, and the last stage all by himself, was a spiritual journey only and not corporeal. 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. *Mirage-un-Nabi* qualified and updated all previous prophets to Islam and a place in Heaven.

In summary, in the final stage Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) took a spiritual meeting with all previous prophets and then led prayers, reciting from the Holy Qur’an. The previous 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, the previous prophets 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 (from Islam) Divinely-sealed event.

That 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, prior to their final assembly before Allah, on the Great Day of Judgement. 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 the gravity of their misdeeds.

The events outlined above also adds positive credibility to the seal and finality of prophethood, that all previous Israelite prophets<sup>8</sup> 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 forever. Henceforth, any claim of a new Prophet or a new Scripture becomes null and void and the claimant shall indeed face the wrath of Allah.

– End of Document –

Fiji

---

<sup>6</sup> The Imam there, was our Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), not as a corporeal body but in his spiritual presence only.

<sup>7</sup> According to Hadith, the names of prophets which Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) explained to his Qureish community upon their questioning him were including as: Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Ezekiel, David, Solomon, Elias, Elisha, Jonah, Zakariyya, John the Baptist, and Jesus Christ. That concludes that all these prophets had died and none is still alive in human body form. That is why they were all assembled in spirit only. They all accepted our Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), as the *Final Nabi* and *Rasul*, accepted the Holy Qur’an as final scripture and Islam as the chosen religion of Allah.

<sup>8</sup> Israelite prophets started with Prophet Moses (as) and finally ended with Prophet Jesus Christ (as).