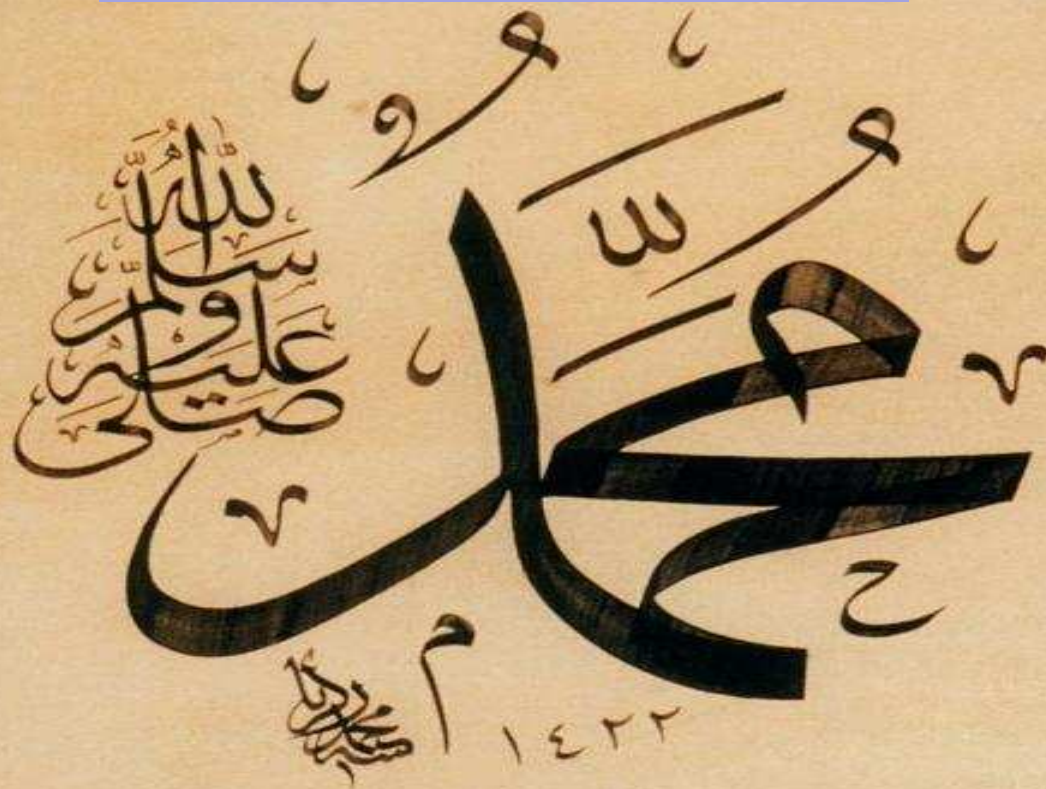


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The life of our beloved Holy Prophet
(peace be upon him)



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One of the core objectives of Deen Foundation is to spread knowledge and educate the world on different religious, social and professional matters by publishing books, articles, video presentations and holding conferences.

Night journey to heavens

- On the 27th night of Rajab [Islamic month], Holy Prophet was resting near that Ka'abah that angel Gabriel came to him and woke him up.
- He informed the Holy Prophet regarding the journey to the heavens to meet Allah Almighty.
- Angel Gabriel also had brought a horse-like animal for the Holy Prophet to ride on.
- This animal is called Buraq and it was brought from heavens.
- This animal travelled with lightening speed.

Night journey to heavens

- First, Holy Prophet travelled to Jerusalem on Buraq, with angel Gabriel.
- On the way, angel Gabriel stopped in an area full of palm trees. He informed Holy Prophet that that area was going to be the place of his migration.
- Holy Prophet offered two rakah prayer there.
- Similarly, angel Gabriel stopped near the places of prophet Moses and prophet Jesus and Holy Prophet offered two rakah prayer at those places.

Night journey to heavens

- Through this journey, Allah Almighty showed many different signs to the Holy Prophet.
- For instance, he saw an old woman calling and seeking Holy Prophet's attention, but the Holy Prophet ignored her and continued with the journey.
- Angel Gabriel said: 'O Prophet, that was the dunya [worldly things] trying to seek your attention. If you had answered her, then your Ummah would have preferred the life of the world over the life of the Hereafter.'

Night journey to heavens

- Holy Prophet passed near the grave of prophet Moses and saw him praying in his resting place.
- During this journey, Allah Almighty showed to the Holy Prophet the punishments people would receive for not obeying Allah's commandments.
- He passed through a group of people who were eating human flesh. Holy Prophet asked angel Gabriel what these people were doing. Angel Gabriel said these are those people who used to backbite.

Night journey to heavens

- He passed a nation whose heads were being crushed with heavy stones. Angel Gabriel informed Holy Prophet that these people did not pray the obligatory prayers.
- He saw a group of people eating stones and thrones. Angel Gabriel informed that these people did not give Zakah and thus they are receiving the punishment of Allah.

Night journey to heavens

- He also saw a group of people who had long tongues and their tongues were being cut with scissors.
- Angel Gabriel informed that these people were the preachers in the world.
- But they did not practise what they preached to others.
- They advised others to do good, but they did not do good themselves.
- Allah is giving them punishment by cutting their tongues.

Night journey to heavens

- When Holy Prophet reached Masjid Aqsa, all the earlier prophets were already waiting for him.
- Holy Prophet was made the imam and all the prophets prayed behind him.
- By offering the prayer behind the Holy Prophet, all the previous prophets acknowledged him as their leader and imam.

Night journey to heavens

- When they had finished praying, angel Gabriel brought three cups, filled with alcohol, water and milk.
- Holy Prophet took the bowl with milk and drank it.
- Angel Gabriel acknowledge that Holy Prophet had chosen the best option.
- His action indicate to us that given some options, we must select the option that is the most useful and beneficial.

Night journey to heavens

- After the prayer had finished, a heavenly ladder was brought down from the heaven and it took Holy Prophet up to the heavens.
- When they reached the first heaven, angel Gabriel asked the guarding angel to open the door of the first heaven.
- The angel asked: 'Who is with you?'
- Angel Gabriel replied: 'Its Prophet Muhammad.'

Night journey to heavens

- Again the guarding angel asked: 'Has he been asked to come to the heavens?'
- Angel Gabriel replied: 'Yes.' Then the guarding angel opened the door of the first heaven.
- Likewise, on each seven heavens the doors of the heavens were opened for Holy Prophet.

Night journey to heavens

- In each heaven, Holy Prophet met different prophets.
- On first heaven, he met prophet Adam.
- Prophet Muhammad observed that when prophet Adam looks towards his right, he feels happy and joyous;
- and when he looks towards his left, he becomes sad and distressed.

Night journey to heavens

- Angel Gabriel informed Holy Prophet that when prophet Adam looks on his right, he sees people who obey Allah and do good actions and he becomes happy to see that Allah Almighty has bestowed his bounties onto them.
- But when he see on his left, he sees those people who have not obeyed Allah and have committed wrong in this world and thus he becomes distressed to see that Allah has punished them.

Night journey to heavens

- Then Holy Prophet moved to the second heaven. Here, he met prophet Jesus.
- On the third heaven he met prophet Yusuf.
- On the fourth he met prophet Idris.
- On the fifth he met prophet Haroon.
- On the sixth he met prophet Moses.
- Finally, on the seventh heaven he met prophet Ibrahim.

Night journey to heavens

- After meeting up with the prophets, Holy Prophet was shown the paradise.
- He saw the examples of happiness to be enjoyed by those who do good and obey the commandments of Allah in this world.
- Holy Prophet was delighted to see the bounties of Allah in the paradise and expressed his wish that all his followers would be able to enjoy such enjoyments.

Night journey to heavens

- Holy Prophet went beyond the seven heavens.
- He kept on rising above the heavens and drawing nearer and closer to Allah Almighty.
- He kept on rising and reached a point where even the angel Gabriel refused to go beyond that point.
- Angel Gabriel is the chief of all the angels. But even he refused to go beyond that certain point.
- He informed Holy Prophet that only he could go beyond that location.

Night journey to heavens

- Holy Prophet continued ascending the heavens and thus reached in the presence of Allah Almighty.
- Holy Prophet saw the light of Allah with his own eyes.
- This is a blessing that no other creation of Allah has been bestowed.
- No other prophet or angels have seen the light of Allah with their physical eyes.

Night journey to heavens

- It is a blessing that has been reserved only for our beloved Prophet Muhammad.
- It is a joyous occasion to know that we belong to the nation of that prophet who has been given the opportunity to witness the glory of Allah with his physical eyes.

Night journey to heavens

- In one of the Hadith of the Holy Prophet says that when he reached in the presence of Allah Almighty, Allah said to him:
 - ‘O Muhammad, I have made you my most beloved prophet.
 - I have sent you to the people as a warner and giver of good news.
 - I have raised your remembrance. Whenever people remember me, they will remember you.
 - I have made your Ummah the best of the nations and a nation that prefers the middle way.
 - And I have made you the first and the last prophet.’

Gifts given to the Holy Prophet

- Holy Prophet did not return empty handed from this journey.
- Allah Almighty granted him three gifts for his Ummah.
- The first gift is the five obligatory daily prayers.
- Initially, Allah had granted fifty obligatory daily prayers for us.
- When Holy Prophet was returning from his journey, he met prophet Moses again.

1st Gift – 5 daily prayers

- Prophet Moses asked him if he had received any commandments from Allah for his people.
- Prophet Muhammad said he had received fifty compulsory prayers.
- Prophet Moses said: 'It will be extremely difficult for your people to pray fifty times a day. Go back to Allah and request to reduce the number of daily prayers.'
- Holy Prophet returned to Allah and requested that the number of daily prayers to be reduced.
- The daily prayers were reduced from 50 to 45.

Gifts given to the Holy Prophet

- When Holy Prophet was returning, he met prophet Moses again.
- He asked about the prayers again. When he heard that the prayers were reduced to 45, he said that it was still too much.
- He asked Holy Prophet to return to Allah to reduce the number of daily prayers further. Holy Prophet returned back and the prayers were reduced by 5 again.

Gifts given to the Holy Prophet

- But prophet Moses kept urging Holy Prophet to request to Allah to keep reducing the number of prayers until the daily obligatory prayers reached 5.
- Prophet Moses urged Holy Prophet to ask Allah to reduce the prayers even further.
- But the Holy Prophet replied that he feels embarrassed to ask Allah to reduce the daily prayers. He had requested to Allah enough times and Allah had always fulfilled his requests.

Gifts given to the Holy Prophet

- Prophet Moses was trying to reduce the compulsory prayers since he knew there would be people in the Muslim Ummah who would find it difficult to pray 5 times, let alone 50 times a day.
- And thus he was trying to reduce the compulsory prayers so that even if a Muslim misses his 5 prayer, he would not be punished as much as for missing 50 prayers.

Gifts given to the Holy Prophet

- Allah's mercy is such that even though He has decreased the number of daily prayers on the requests of His beloved prophet, He has not diminished the thawab [reward] for the prayers.
- Allah says that He has reduced the obligatory prayers from 50 to 5, but the Muslims will still receive the reward as if they have performed 50 prayers.

2nd Gift – Last verses of Surah al-Baqarah

- The second gift given to the Holy Prophet in this journey, were the last 2 verses of Surah al-Baqarah

2nd Gift – Last verses of Surah al-Baqarah

ءَامَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ ۚ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلٌّ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ ۖ وَكُتُبِهِ ۖ
وَرُسُلِهِ ۖ لَا يُفَرِّقُونَ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْ رُّسُلِهِ ۚ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا ۖ غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ
الْمَصِيرُ ﴿٢٨٥﴾ لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا ۚ لَهَا مَا كَسَبَتْ وَعَلَيْهَا مَا اكْتَسَبَتْ ۗ رَبَّنَا لَا
تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِن نَّسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا ۗ رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا إِصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ ۚ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن
قَبْلِنَا ۗ رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ ۗ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَارْحَمْنَا ۗ أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا
فَاَنْصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٢٨٦﴾

2nd Gift – Last verses of Surah al-Baqarah

- 285. The Messenger (Muhammad) believes in what has been sent down to Him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers. each one believes In Allâh, his angels, his Books, and his Messengers. they say, "We make no distinction between one another of his Messengers" - and they say, "We hear, and we obey. (We seek) Your Forgiveness, Our Lord, and to You is the return (of all)."

2nd Gift – Last verses of Surah al-Baqarah

- 286. Allah does not burden a person beyond his scope. He gets reward for that (good) which He has earned, and He is punished for that (evil) which He has earned. "Our Lord! Punish us not if we forget or fall into error, Our Lord! Lay not on us a burden like that which You did Lay on those before us (Jews and Christians); Our Lord! put not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Pardon us and grant us Forgiveness. have Mercy on us. You are Our Mawla (Patron, Supporter and Protector, etc.) and give us victory over the disbelieving people."

Gifts given to the Holy Prophet

- In these verses of the Holy Quran, Allah Almighty confirms that Islam is the only true religion.
- Allah also shows his pleasure for the Muslims who say that they believe in Allah, his messengers, books and his angels; and they ask Allah for His forgiveness.
- In these verses Allah comforts Holy Prophet by pointing out that Allah does not burden anyone more than what he is capable of bearing; and that Muslims will be given victory over unbelievers.

Gifts given to the Holy Prophet

- At the time of this journey, Muslims were facing a difficult time in Makkah.
- They were being persecuted by the Makkans for accepting and spreading Islam.
- The unbelievers of Makkah did not spare Holy Prophet from their persecution either.
- Therefore, the last two verses are particularly important as they confirm to the Holy Prophet that he and his followers will be successful in this world and in the Hereafter; and that Islam will be given victory over the unbelieving Makkans.

3rd Gift – Admission into Paradise

- The third gift that Allah Almighty granted to the Holy Prophet was the good news that eventually, Allah will admit all the Muslims into paradise.
- Those Muslims who may have committed wrong in this world, may receive Allah's punishments but after receiving their punishments, they will be entered into paradise.
- However, a person who did not believe in Allah and His messenger, will never be allowed into paradise.

Returning from Heavens

- Holy Prophet returned to Masjid Aqsa from heavens. Then he came back to Makkah on the Buraq.
- In the morning, he informed the Makkans that during last night, within a short span of time, he had travelled to Jerusalem, met with previous prophets and then ascended to the heavens.
- As he was narrating his journey, the unbelievers started laughing and making jokes about his night journey.
- As imagined, no one believed him and accused him of lying.

Returning from Heavens

- One of the Makkan chiefs, Mat'am bin 'Adi said:
 - 'Till now what you have been saying was understandable.
 - But your claim of this journey is incomprehensible.
 - You claim to have travelled a distance in one night what we cover in 40 days on fast camels.
 - We simply do not believe your story.'

Hadrat Abu Bakar's belief

- Hadrat Abu Bakr was sitting next to the Holy Prophet. At this moment he stood up and declared he believed each and every word of the Holy Prophet.
- People were taken aback to hear his declaration.
- They started arguing how he could believe in such an impossible claim.

Hadrat Abu Bakar's belief

- Hadrat Abu Bakr said:
 - ‘I even believe in greater claim than this.
 - Holy Prophet says that he receives Allah's angels and His revelations day and night.
 - If I can believe him on receiving the revelation, then I have no difficulty in believing that he can travel to Jerusalem and the heavens.’
- Hadrat Abu Bakr gave a very firm reply to the unbelievers.
- Holy Prophet was so pleased with his affirmative answer that he gave him the title of ‘al-Siddiq’ – the truthful one.

Makkans ask question regarding the journey to Masjid Aqsa

- Those Makkans who had been to Jerusalem started testing the Holy Prophet regarding the description of Masjid Aqsa.
- They knew Holy Prophet had never been to Masjid Aqsa prior that trip and therefore, he would not be able to answer their questions regarding Masjid Aqsa.
- They asked him regarding the doors of the Masjid, how many windows it had and how its roof was constructed.

Makkans ask question regarding the journey to Masjid Aqsa

- In order to answer the questions, Allah Almighty brought the scenes of the Masjid before the eyes of the Holy Prophet.
- For each question, Holy Prophet could see different parts of the Masjid Aqsa and then answer the questions.
- Holy Prophet answered each question correctly and precisely.
- It clearly made obvious to the unbelievers that Holy Prophet had visited Masjid Aqsa during the night, yet they still refused to believe in him.

Makkan Caravans

- The Makkan unbelievers enquired about their caravans that were travelling to Jerusalem.
- They said to Holy Prophet that if you have travelled to Jerusalem, you must have seen them on your way.
- Holy Prophet replied that he had seen the caravans.
- He also informed them that one of the caravans would reach Makkah on a certain day.
- This was a surprising news for the Makkans. They all started waiting for the caravan.

Makkans ask question regarding the journey to Masjid Aqsa

- On the day when the caravan was due to reach Makkah according to the Holy Prophet, all the Makkans came out to see if the caravan reaches the city.
- They waited for a long time without any signs of the caravan.
- As time passed by, the Makkans became happier. They thought that if the caravan did not arrive on that day, they will have an ample opportunity to ridicule and disregard the Holy Prophet.
- They will have an opportunity to accuse Holy Prophet of lying.

Makkans ask question regarding the journey to Masjid Aqsa

- The day was drawing to an end but still the caravan had not arrived.
- The caravan was delayed and it was going to reach Makkah after the sunset.
- However, as Allah's messenger had declared that caravan would arrive before the sunset, Allah ordered the sun not to set.
- The Makkans kept waiting for the sun to set so they could say that the caravan did not arrive on that day.

Makkans ask question regarding the journey to Masjid Aqsa

- But Allah had ordered the sun to set only after the arrival of the caravan.
- As soon as the caravan arrived at Makkah, the sun also drew to an end.
- Likewise, Holy Prophet gave many proofs of his night journey, but the stubborn Makkans refused to open their eyes and their hearts for the message of Islam.

Night journey and the Roman Emperor

- Some years after this event, Holy Prophet wrote a letter to the Roman emperor in Jerusalem, inviting him to Islam.
- When he received the letter, he asked his courtiers if anyone from Makkah was present in the city.
- At the time, Abu Sufyan had come to Jerusalem on a business trip. He was brought to the king.
- Roman emperor asked Abu Sufyan different questions regarding Holy Prophet. During the conversation, Abu Sufyan mentioned Holy Prophet's claim of his night journey to Jerusalem.

Night journey and the Roman Emperor

- Abu Sufyan said: ‘Muhammad claims that he travelled to Jerusalem and came back to Makkah within a night.’
- Abu Sufyan thought that the others would laugh on hearing this.
- But one Christian priest stood up and said: ‘I know of that night when this event took place. I was responsible for locking all the doors of the Masjid Aqsa at night. But on that night, I could not close one of the doors. Others also tried to close the door, the door would not move.’
- We decided to repair the door in the morning.

Night journey and the Roman Emperor

- In the morning when I went to the door, I saw some fresh footprints of an animal near the door.
- When I tried to shut the door, it closed without any difficulty.
- I had read that the last prophet of Allah would ascend to heaven from Masjid Aqsa and I thought that was the night when he ascended.'