

Keywords:
Isra' Mi'raj
Time
Value
Blessing



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Friday Sermon

16 January 2026 / 26 Rejab 1447H

Isra' and Mi'raj – Reflections on the Nature of Time

أَحْمَدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسَوَّى، وَقَدَّرَ فَهَدَى، وَأَسْعَدَ وَأَشْقَى، وَأَصْلَ بِحُكْمَتِهِ
وَهَدَى. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْأَعْلَى، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ الْمُصْطَفَى. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ
وَمَنْ اهْتَدَى. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ، وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا
وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Have taqwa and fear **Allah s.w.t.** Obey all His commands and avoid all that He has forbidden. Let us open our hearts to the signs of His greatness. May our *iman* remain deeply anchored in our hearts until the end of our lives. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Blessed congregation,

The sermon last week reflected on the importance of learning the *sirah* of Rasulullah s.a.w. As an extension, today's sermon invites us to reflect on the remarkable event of **Isra' and Mi'raj** –

a miraculous journey which happened in the life of Rasulullah s.a.w.

Allah s.w.t. describes this event in the opening verse of Surah Al-Isra':

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا
الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ وَمِنَ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿١﴾

Which means: *“Glory be to Him who made His servant travel by night from Masjid al-Haram to Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, in order to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.”*

Respected congregation, the miracle that occurred during this journey was beyond ordinary human comprehension. It was so extraordinary that some people at the **time** rejected it entirely.

A land journey exceeding 1,500 kilometres was completed within a single night. Thereafter, Rasulullah s.a.w. was taken up to Sidratul Muntaha, passing through the seven heavens, meeting the prophets of the past, receiving the obligation of the five daily prayers directly from Allah, and then returning to Makkah – all within the same night.

Honoured congregation,

One of the reasons why this event was difficult for some to accept – apart from the vast distance – was the element of **time**.

Yet, while such a journey appears impossible according to human logic, it is never impossible for Allah *‘azza wa jalla*.

This is the true nature of *mukjizat* or miracles: they reveal the limitations of human reason while displaying the absolute power and majesty of Allah s.w.t. For this reason, the verse begins with the word “*Subhana*” – declaring the absolute glory and greatness of Allah.

Dear congregation,

Among the profound lessons of **Isra’ and Mi’raj** is the **value of time**. For others, that night just was like any other – a **time** for rest and sleep. For Rasulullah s.a.w., it was an extraordinary night, unlike any other – a night that carried countless meanings and endless guidance for the entire ummah.

As we commemorate **Isra’ and Mi’raj**, the sermon calls us to reflect on two reminders regarding the **value of time**:

First: Every person is granted the same amount of time, but its value depends on how it is used.

Islam places great emphasis on **time**. Allah swears by **time** in many forms in the Qur’an. For example, *Wal-‘Asr*, *Wal-Fajr*, *Wad-Dhuha*, *Wal-Lail*, and many others. This is to remind us that **time** is a priceless **blessing**.

Yet how often do we say, “**Time flies!**” or “*Ramadan is already approaching!*” Moments that are still fresh in our memories, yet it turns out that many years or even decades may have passed.

Indeed, every human being is **blessed** with the same 24 hours each day, yet its **value** differs from one person to another, depending on how it is managed.

For example, as we are preparing for Ramadan, do we make **time** to revise our Quran memorisation or improve our recitation? Or do we delay by telling ourselves, “*I’ll do it later.*”

When we perform each activity with full awareness of the **value** of **time**, it can lead to significant change over the long term.

Second: Do not dwell on the past, but use the time that remains wisely.

Time that has passed will never return. But the **time** that remains is an opportunity not to repeat yesterday’s mistakes. Let us organise our **time** carefully, for **time** is a **blessing** and a resource that is beneficial only to those who manage it wisely.

Reflect also on how we spend our **time** online. Today, much of our **time** is spent on social media. Ask ourselves: Does it add real **value** to my faith and to my life? Or does it merely provide us entertainment, yet causes our souls to feel empty?

Beloved congregation,

In Surah Ibrahim, verses 24 and 25, Allah s.w.t. presents a powerful parable, which means: Every good deed is like a strong tree that bears fruits at all **times**. Each act of goodness that we plant today, no matter how small, can continue to yield benefit throughout **time**.

May Allah s.w.t. make us among His servants who **value time**, so that we may attain success in this world and the Hereafter. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَى عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

Dear blessed congregation,

Without us realising it, nearly three years have passed with our brothers and sisters in Gaza suffering under severe oppression. Although distance separates us, we are still able to support them through our prayers and our collective efforts.

Recently, the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation launched the “Aid for Gaza” campaign to assist the community there. This campaign, which will continue until 31st March this year, aims to set up basic facilities such as shelters, health clinics, and community kitchens.

Let us extend our help according to our ability as a sign of mercy (rahmah) and compassion (ihsan). May Allah lift every hardship and restore peace for all. Amin, ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا

صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارِضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهَدِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ
وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُمْ
وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ
وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالْمِحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا
وَمَا بَطَّنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ
انصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي عَزَّةٍ وَفِي فِلِسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا
أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا
رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتُبِ السَّلَامَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالْأَمْنَ وَالْأَمَانَ لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ
وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ
النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذُكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.

