
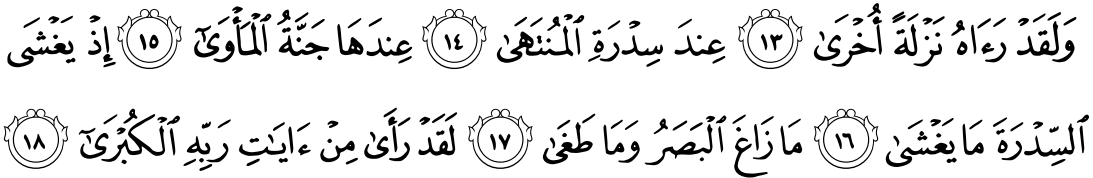




1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BEING RESPECTFUL IN THE HOUSE OF ALLAH</b> 7 April 2017AD / 10 Rejab 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُرْشِدًا.</p>
3	<p>أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،</p>
4	<p>اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
5	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُقْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿١﴾</p>
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Let us foster our conviction in Allah SWT by performing all that He has commanded and avoid all that would invite His wrath. May such efforts of ours be rewarded with blessings in our life and an honorable position in the estimation of Allah SWT, in this world and in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>The <i>khatib</i> today would like to invite the congregation to reflect upon the sermon entitled: <b>“A Gift Through Isra’ And Mi’raj”</b></p>
9	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p>



	<i>Isra'</i> and <i>Mi'raj</i> are two important events in the Islamic history. <i>Isra'</i> is the night journey of Rasulullah SAW from the Masjidil Haram in Makkah to the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Palestine.
10	Allah SWT recorded these events through the first verse of Surah Al-Isra' which was read at the beginning of this sermon, and carries the following meaning: <i>"Glory to (Allah SWT) Who did take His servant (Muhammad) for a Journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to Al-Aqsa Mosque, whose precincts We did bless,- in order that We might show him some of Our Signs: for He is the One Who hears and sees (all things)."</i>
11	While <i>Mi'raj</i> was Rasulullah SAW's journey upwards, or ascension, to Heaven from the first level of Heaven until <i>Sidratul Muntaha</i> , as described by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Najm verses 13 to 18: 
12	<b>Which means:</b> <i>"For indeed he saw him at a second descent, Near the Lote-tree beyond which none may pass: Near it is the Garden of Abode. Behold, the Lote-tree was shrouded (in mystery unspeakable!). (His) sight never swerved, nor did it go wrong! For truly did he see, of the Signs of his Lord, the Greatest!"</i>
13	Imagine! The one-way journey by land today between Masjidil Haram in Makkah and the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Palestine takes up to nineteen (19) hours, at a distance of one thousand nine hundred (1,900) kilometres, and a journey to the nearest star takes about four years of travelling.
14	The events of <i>Isra'</i> and <i>M'iraj</i> , which Rasulullah SAW experienced, occurred within the same evening. It was an impossible feat at the time, and even now. Therefore, it is not surprising that almost all the people of Makkah doubted and questioned the truth of such events.



15	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>The great events are not merely a story. It demands understanding and reflection so that it enables us to increase our faith in Allah SWT and our love for Rasulullah SAW. For example, during Rasulullah SAW's journey to Heaven and Hell, as described in books that record his life, he witnessed the torments of Hell received by persons who live off unjustified interests in the lending of money (<i>riba</i>).</p>
16	<p>Rasulullah SAW also witnessed the torture inflicted upon those who wrongfully live off the wealth or possessions of orphans, who committed adultery, and many others. All those images were displayed to remind us to be cautious in pursuing this life and avoid sin which could invite the wrath of Allah SWT.</p>
17	<p>In addition, the event was a great significance for Muslims as it was during this time the practice of performing the five daily <i>solat</i> was prescribed. The psychological and physical experience by Rasulullah SAW during the ascension to receive the orders to perform the <i>solat</i> reflected the enormity of the order, as it must be accepted directly by Rasulullah SAW without the usual revelations received through the Angel Jibril AS.</p>
18	<p>Unfortunately, there are still a handful of people today who often take fulfilling the obligations of performing the <i>solat</i> lightly. They would prefer to be on the sports arena, spending time at the mall, attending a concert, watching television for hours rather than fulfil this demand of our religion which only takes a few minutes each time to perform.</p>
19	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p><i>Solat</i> can be viewed as a comprehensive and a continuous process of development in all aspects of an individual's life, and also provides a strong structure in life for Muslims. The philosophies behind the <i>solat</i> are numerous, among them:</p> <p><b>First: Solat is a proof of faith</b></p> <p>Performing <i>solat</i> reflects our exaltations of the religious creed prescribed upon us, and is proof of the power of faith in our hearts.</p>



20	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah Al-Hajj, verse 32:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ذٰلِكَ وَمَنْ يُعِظِمِ شَعْبِرَ اللّٰهِ فَاِنَّهَا مِنْ تَقْوٰى الْقُلُوْبِ ﴿٣٢﴾</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> “Such (is his state): and whoever holds in honour the symbols of Allah, (in the sacrifice of animals), such (honour) should come truly from piety of heart.”</p>
21	<p><b>Second:</b> The key to overcoming stress in our life</p> <p>Pain is a test from Allah SWT. As human beings, we will certainly be tested with predicaments such as fear, stress, and other shortcomings. There is no other way to have peace in life but to return to Allah SWT. Therefore, when we are tested with predicaments, do not neglect our <i>solat</i> because at such moment we have to strengthen our relationship with Allah SWT and <i>solat</i> can help us in remembering Him.</p>
22	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah Ar-Ra'd, verse 28:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوْبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللّٰهِ اِلَّا يَذِكُرِ اللّٰهُ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوْبُ ﴿٢٨﴾</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> "Those who believe, and whose hearts find satisfaction in the remembrance of Allah: for without doubt in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find satisfaction."</p>
23	<p><b>Third:</b> Solat is the key to success</p> <p>History has proven that the triumph of Muslims began with prayers and the safeguarding of it. Allah SWT has rewarded those who perform the <i>solat</i> with many advantages, successes and security, as well as the protection from the torments of Hell.</p>
24	<p>Allah SWT decreed in Surah Al Mu'minun, verses 1 and 2:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">قَدْ اَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُوْنَ ﴿١﴾ الَّذِيْنَ وَالَّذِيْنَ صَلَوٰتِهِمْ ﴿٨﴾ هُمْ فِيْ صَلٰتِهِمْ خٰشِعُوْنَ ﴿٢﴾</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> “The believers must (eventually) win through - Those who humble themselves in their prayers;”</p>



25	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>There are a lot of wisdom and lessons that can be learnt from the <i>Isra'</i> and <i>Mi'raj</i> event and applied to our life - especially in matters of worship, morals and reminders which serve to guide Muslims. May the event strengthen our faith and conviction in Allah SWT.</p>
26	<p>To end the sermon today, the <i>mimbar</i> would like to invite everyone here to reflect upon some of the takeaways, as guidance and advice:</p> <p><b>First:</b> The events of <i>Isra'</i> and <i>Mi'raj</i> are proof of Rasulullah SAW's prophethood and serve as Muslims' test of faith.</p> <p><b>Secondly:</b> <i>Solat</i> is the pillar of our religion. People who observe and preserve it will succeed in this world and in the Hereafter.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> The events of <i>Isra'</i> and <i>Mi'raj</i> is a miracle bestowed upon Rasulullah SAW. Such events demand reflection deep within our hearts and soul, in order for them to always become part of the way of life for all Muslims.</p>
27	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah al-Ankabut, verse 45:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>أَتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنِ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ ﴿٤٥﴾</p>
28	<p><b>Which means:</b> "Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to you, and establish regular Prayer: for Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds; and remembrance of Allah is the greatest (thing in life) without doubt. And Allah knows the (deeds) that you do."</p>
29	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ</p>



<p>اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمِ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>
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