

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى
الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ
السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَوَّلُ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ الصَّلَاةَ.

SALAH: MI'RAJ OF THE MUSLIMS

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, “**Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing.**”¹

Dear Believers!

Insha Allah, we will welcome the Lailat al-Mi'raj on the night of next Sunday. Endless thanks and praise be to Allah the Almighty (swt), Who has enabled us to reach this blessed night; salat and salam be to our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), for being a member of whose ummah we are honored. I wish you all a blessed Lailat al-Mi'raj.

Dear Muslims!

The Almighty Allah (swt) granted our beloved Prophet (saw), whom He (swt) welcome on the night of Mi'raj, with three great blessings.² One of them is that people who are members of his ummah and do not attribute partners to Allah (swt) will eventually go to paradise. The other is what we know as “Amanar-Rasul”, the last two verses of the Surah al-Baqarah, which tells us about faith, worship, the Day of Judgment, and how to supplicate to Allah (swt). And the other glad tiding is salah (ritual prayer), which is the meeting of us, servants, with our Lord (swt).

Dear Believers!

As in Suleyman Celebi's following words in his Mawlid al-Sharif, “You, o Prophet, supplicated to Allah during Your mi'raj, salah became Your ummah's mi'raj”, salah is the mi'raj of believers.

Salah is the pillar of our religion, the light of our eyes, and the peace of our hearts. Salah is the best form of remembering Allah (swt), and the most virtuous among acts of worship. As stated by our Prophet (saw), “**The first thing the slave (of Allah) will be reckoned for on the Day of Judgment is the salah.**”³

Salah is a spiritual shield protecting believers. Salah performed in awe prevents believers from shamelessness and evil.⁴ Salah is a means for being forgiven and pardoned. Grave sins excluded, the salah performed five times a day and the Friday prayer expiate minor sins.⁵

Dear Muslims!

Believers' revival is possible only through salah. Believers attain peace through salah. Believers strengthen their connection with their Lord (swt) through salah. Our nafs is purified by salah, and our souls reach perfection through salah. Our lives that become too coarse get blessed by salah. Through salah are opened the gates of paradise for us.⁶

Dear Believers!

Let us strive to make salah, a gift for us from the Mi'raj, to be an opportunity to earn the pleasure of our Lord Almighty (swt). Let us make sure that our ritual prayers are not performed in vain. Let us perform salah sincerely and duly. Let us make salah a shield that protects us against evil. Let us enable our family members and our children, who are the light of our eyes, to enjoy the peaceful climate of salah.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following verse:

وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا لَا تَسْأَلَك رِزْقًا نَحْنُ
نَرْزُقُكَ وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلتَّقْوَى

“**Enjoin prayer upon your family [and people] and be steadfast therein. We ask you not to provide sustenance. We provide for you. And the [best] outcome is for [those of] righteousness.**”⁷

¹ Isra, 17/1

² Muslim, Iman, 279.

³ Nasa'i, Muharaba, 2.

⁴ Ankabut, 29/45.

⁵ Muslim, Taharah, 14.

⁶ Tirmidhi, Taharah, 1.

⁷ Ta-Ha, 20/132.