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Fruits for the Week

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7th Floor, 40 Oi Kwan Road, Man Cha, Hong Kong

E-mail: iuhk@netvigator.com

Tel: 2575 2218

Fax: 2834 5409

Website: <http://home.netvigator.com/~iuhk/>

ISRA' AND MI'RAJ

Allah (SWT) says: *“Glorified be He who carried His servant by night from the Inviolable Place of Worship to the Far Distant Place of Worship, the neighbourhood whereof We have blessed, in order that We might show him some of our signs. Verily, He is the Hearer, the Seer.”* (Al-Isra':1)

When we talk about *Isra'*, it means, in general, a night journey while, specifically, it means the night journey of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) from Mecca to Jerusalem and back to Mecca in the same night. When we talk about *Mi'raj*, it means the ascension of the Prophet (SAW) from the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem to the Upper Heavens and his descent back to the earth in the same night.

Historically this miraculous event took place in the tenth year from the start of the mission of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He sacrificed everything for the love of Allah (SWT). He was persecuted, tortured, threatened, jeered at, slandered and taunted. The year of *Isra' and Mi'raj* was called the 'Year of Sorrows' to the Prophet (SAW). In that year his uncle Abu Talib and his wife Khadijah died. Also in that year, when he went to Taif to preach, the people there not only rejected him, but also forced him to leave their town and even threw stones at him. At the end of that year, Allah (SWT) granted the Prophet (SAW) a miracle, i.e., a night journey and an ascension to the

Upper Heavens and back to his house in one night.

The event was both physical and spiritual in nature. It was not a dream. If it had been a dream, it would have been unnecessary to mention it in the Qur'an with glorification to Allah Himself (SWT). Through the event of *Isra'* and *Mi'raj* a bridge was established between the finite world of ours and the Upper Heavens of the Infinite Universe.

During the occasion, the five daily prayers were prescribed. The Prophet (SAW) met all the Prophets of Allah and led the prayers with all of them behind. In celebrating *Isra'* and *Mi'raj*, Muslims are to be reminded of a miraculous event that took place regarding Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The occasion is a reminder of our pledge and commitment to fulfill our responsibility towards Allah (SWT). It is also a reminder that the establishment of the five daily prayers as well as all other responsibilities are a must on every Muslim. Let us try our best to utilize this occasion to purify our hearts, to enlighten our minds, to educate ourselves and to work hard for the love and pleasure of Allah (SWT). If we do so, remember that Allah (SWT) will be with us; He will make us successful in this world and also make us dwellers of paradise in the hereafter. Wallahu A'lam.

Prepared by Br. Muhaemin Karim