



## THE GIFT OF ME'RAJ

On the the twenty seventh of *Rajab* the *Musjids* will be full. People will gather to listen to talks being delivered regarding the great incident of *Me'raj*. After the talks are over, by and large we return home with the miracle of *Me'raj* and its message forgotten until the following year.

Unlike us, the *Sahaaba* (R.A.) and *Tabi'een* (those who came after the *Sahaaba*) never set aside any particular day for the discussion of the incident of *Me'raj*. Hence even the *Fuqaha* (jurists) of the first century differed with regard to the actual date when *Me'raj* occurred (see *Fathul Bari*-vol.7, pg.203 and *Ruhul Ma'ani*-vol.15, pg.6). The *Sahaaba* (R.A.) and the *Tabi'een* (R.A.) had no need to set aside any particular day for this discussion. They regularly and frequently discussed the *Ahadith* with regard to all aspects of the life of *Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam). They lived the message of *Me'raj* every day of their lives.

### PARTING ADVICE

While there are many aspects that are related to *Me'raj*, the most important thing that pertains to us daily is the gift that was granted to *Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) on the occasion of *Me'raj*. When *Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) proceeded to the seven heavens and beyond and met His *Rabb*, *Allah Ta'ala*, he was granted the gift of *Salaah*. Such was the importance of *Salaah* that its injunction was not revealed while *Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) walked on the earth. Rather it was saved for this special occasion beyond the seven heavens. *Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) also greatly explained its importance throughout his life - to the extent that his parting advice when he left this world was with regard to upholding the injunction of *Salaah*.

### TAKE STOCK

When we gather to discuss the occasion of *Me'raj*, we should take stock of our *Salaah* - the gift of *Me'raj*. Firstly, are we performing our five *Salaah* daily? *Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said: "The one who misses one *Salaah*, it is as if he has lost all his family and property." Thus, do I commence my day with missing *Fajar*? Do I remember the gift of *Me'raj* at the time of *Fajar*? At the time of *Fajar* do I remember the impassioned plea of

*Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) as he parted from this world with regard to upholding the injunction of *Salaah*?

The same should be considered with regard to *Zuhar* and *Asr* - when the tills are ringing and with regard to *Maghrib* and *Esha* when other distractions are in the way.

### HAPHAZARDLY?

Furthermore how do I perform my *Salaah*? Is it in the manner that *Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) performed it or is it performed haphazardly and in extreme haste? Have I gained concentration in *Salaah*? Also, do I perform it with *Jamaat* (which is *wajib* for adult males) in the *Musjid*? *Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said: "By that Being who has control over my life, I intend gathering some firewood. I would then instruct somebody to call out the *Azaan* and perform the *Salaah* while I go and set fire to the homes of those people who perform their *Salaah* in their houses without any proper excuse" (*Bukhari*).

Hazrath Ibne Mas'ood (R.A.) says: "The one who wishes to meet *Allah Ta'ala* as a Muslim on the Day of Judgement should be punctual in the performance of his *Salaah* on hearing the *Azaan*. *Allah Ta'ala* has prescribed the clear ways of guidance for His *Rasul* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam). These *Salaah* too are among those ways of guidance. If you too will adopt the way of those who perform their *Salaah* at their homes, you will be abandoning the way of *Rasul* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam), hence you would be led astray. The one who performs *wudhu* and leaves for the *Musjid*, for every step he takes he gets one reward, one of his sins are forgiven and his stages are elevated in *Jannah*. In the time of *Rasulullah* (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) only an open hypocrite would not join the *Jamaat*. Even a sick person would be carried by two people and brought to the *Musjid* to perform his *Salaah* with *Jamaat*" (*Ibid*).

### INSIDE...

Allah's Creation .....	page 2
Is your child Gambling?.....	page 3
Taraweeh Imaam.....	page 3
Correct your Sajdah.....	page 4

# ME'RAJ

(FROM PAGE ONE)

*Salaah* is not only an injunction of *Allah Ta'ala* and a responsibility and duty upon His servants, it is also a means of acquiring one's worldly needs. It is a means of averting calamities and hardships. It is reported in a *Hadith* that whenever any matter perturbed *Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam)* he immediately resorted to *Salaah*. The *Sahaaba (R.A.)* sought the solution to any problem by first resorting to *Salaah*. When discussing *Me'raj*, we need to take stock of how much we resort to the gift of *Me'raj* to solve our problems and difficulties.

## SUMMITS AND SEMINARS

While there are many reasons for the present pitiful condition of the *Ummah* throughout the world, one of the main reasons is the neglect of this fundamental injunction of *Deen*. While our conferences, summits, workshops and seminars may come up with many worthy resolutions, it is of prior importance that an all out effort is made to bring the entire *Ummah* onto the punctual performance of the five daily *Salaah* (in the correct manner with all its etiquette being observed). Without this it will be wishful thinking to expect the degradation of the *Ummah* to change for the better. With the proper fulfilment of *Salaah* and all the other injunctions of *Deen*, the help of *Allah Ta'ala* will be with us. Then minimal effort will make us victorious and gain us the best of both worlds.

# ALLAH TA'ALA'S FASCINATING CREATION THE CATERPILLAR

**W**hat would you do if you had 450-500 eggs that you had to keep outside? It would no doubt be wisest to take the necessary precautions that will prevent them from being scattered and strewn with the effects of natural causes like wind. Hence, the silkworm which is among the animals that lay the highest number of eggs (450-500) at once, apply very wise methods to preserve its eggs. The silkworm prevents its eggs from being scattered or strewed by attaching them to each other with an adhesive material (string) it secretes.

The caterpillars that leave their eggs will find an appropriate branch for themselves and will stick to that branch with the same string. Then they begin to build a cocoon with the string they secrete to get developed in it. It will take 3-4 days of non-stop working for the new born caterpillar to finish this process. During this period the caterpillar would turn around thousands of times and secrete approximately 900-1500 m. long strings. With the end of this process, the caterpillar, without any break, will begin the metamorphosis process which will turn itself into a beautiful, charming butterfly.

Neither the precautions that the mother silkworm takes in order to preserve its young, nor the attitude of the little caterpillar, unaware of anything and which does not have any experience or knowledge can be explained by evolution. First of all, the string secreted by the mother silkworm to protect its young has a miraculous structure on its own. The baby caterpillar that builds a cocoon appropriate to its surroundings, and the metamorphosis process that begins all of a sudden and ends without any problem is beyond the limits of human understanding. Under these circumstances we can definitely say that every caterpillar is born knowing what to do; this means every one of them is "taught" to do what they do.

## MIRACLE

Let us clarify this miracle with another example: What would you think if you see a new born human baby, standing up just one or two hours after his birth and beginning to gather the materials needed to prepare a bed (quilt, pillow, cushion, etc.), and what would you think if you see this new born baby succeeding in making his own bed?

After you throw off your bewilderment, the most logical result that you can reach is that the baby is "trained" to do these somehow in his mothers womb in an extraordinary way. The case of the caterpillars are in fact no different from the above mentioned baby.

This would again take us to the same result: all these living beings are born, behave and live just as the way their Creator, *Allah Ta'ala* created and designed them. *Qur'an* announces that *Allah* had revealed to the honeybee and had commanded the honeybee to produce honey (*Sura Nahl*, 68-69). This announces an example of a giant secret of life. This secret states the fact that, all living creatures are submitted to *Allah's* will and follow the faith designated by *Allah*. The honeybee produces honey and the silkworm produces silk for this very reason... (HARUN YAHYA)

# IS YOUR CHILD GAMBLING?

**G**ambling is a social evil which the *Qur'an* has clearly forbidden. While for a Muslim this is sufficient, even the kuffaar have realised the harm of gambling. The suffering of the millions of losers is easily understood. However, even the winners suffer greatly. Western surveys have found that those who have won much money in national lotteries, their lives suddenly turned into turmoil for various

(Continued on page 4)

# Questions

## IMAAM OF TARAWEEH



*We have commenced with the selection process for Huffaaz to perform Taraweeh in our Masjid. Some differences have arisen in this regard with some people wanting to appoint a particular Hafiz since he recites the Qur'an Shareef beautifully while others are objecting to his appointment due to the fact that he trims his beard and allows his trousers to flow below his ankles. The issue has become quite contentious. Kindly guide us in this matter.*



*Salaah* is among the greatest forms of *Ibaadat*. It is a means of communicating with Allah Ta'ala. When performing *Salaah* one should consider himself as standing in the Court of Allah Ta'ala. When the *Salaah* is being performed in *Jamaat*, the *Imaam* is the representative of the congregation in his communication with Allah Ta'ala. It is therefore necessary that such a person be appointed as the *Imaam* who has the basic qualities of an *Imaam*. Among these qualities are:

1. He must be upright and pious
2. He must be able to recite the *Qur'an* correctly
3. He must know the basic *masaa'il* of *Deen* pertaining to *Taharah*, *Salaah*, etc.
4. He must be one who knows the *Sunnah* and practices upon it.
5. He must not be one who openly commits sins
6. He must at all times be humble

### NOT "JUST A SUNNAH"

The *Fuqaha* (jurists) have unanimously regarded the shaving or trimming of the beard to less than a fist length as an open sin. The beard is not "just a Sunnat" (such a statement is extremely dangerous for one's Imaan as it trivialises the sunnah). According to all the four *Imaams* of *fiqh* it is *waajib* to keep a beard to the extent of one fist length. This compulsion of keeping a beard has been derived from various *Ahadith* wherein Rasulullah (*sallallahu alaihi wasallam*) has given the imperative command of lengthening the beard.

### DISLIKED

It is reported in a *Hadith* that Rasulullah (*sallallahu alaihi wasallam*) DISLIKED looking at the emissaries that came from the court of Kisra (the Persian emperor) because they had shaven off their beards (*Al Bidaya wan Nihaya*). Take note that Rasulullah (*sallallahu alaihi wasallam*) DISLIKED looking at the emissaries BECAUSE they had shaven off their beards. Rasulullah (*sallallahu alaihi wasallam*) is also reported to have said: "My Rabb has commanded me to lengthen the beard and shorten the moustache" (Hayatus Sahaaba). The gravity of this matter is apparent from these *Ahadith*.

### COLLECTIVE BURDEN

When this is the injunction for ordinary Muslims, it becomes even more important and significant for an *Imaam*. Hence due to the great stress in the *Ahadith* on having a lengthened beard, the *Fuqaha* have stated that it is *makrooh tahrimi* to appoint such a person as the *Imaam* who shaves off his beard or trims it to less than one fist length. *Makrooh tahrimi* is a category that is next to *Haraam*, therefore a *makrooh tahrimi* action is also forbidden. If one who shaves his beard is nevertheless appointed as the *Imaam*, the *Salaah* of the *muqtadies* (followers) will be *makrooh*. However, the burden of the deficiency in the *Salaah* of the entire congregation will be upon the *Imaam* and upon those who appointed him to lead the *Salaah*.

Let alone the one who continues to shave or trim his beard, it is also *makrooh* to appoint such a person as the *Imaam* who has since repented from this sin until such a time that his beard once again grows to the required length (*Fatawa Mahmoodia*-vol.7, pg.43).

### PANTS BELOW THE ANKLES

Likewise it is also *makrooh tahrimi* to allow one's pants to flow below the ankles at any time, whether in *Salaah* or outside it. Rasulullah (*sallallahu alaihi wasallam*) is reported to have said: "Beware of lowering your pants below your ankles for verily that is due to pride. And Allah Ta'ala does not love pride" (Abu Dawood). The *Salaah* that is performed by a person whose pants are below his ankles is *makrooh*.

Therefore the *Hafiz* described in your question should not be appointed to lead the *Taraweeh Salaah* eventhough he may be able to recite the *Qur'an* excellently. In fact the *Hafiz* in question should take pity upon himself and refrain from becoming the *Imaam* since if he does lead the congregation he will be taking upon himself the burden of the deficiency in the *salaah* of the entire congregation. Nobody can afford to do this — especially in the month of *Ramadh*aan. (For a more detailed discussion on this aspect, refer to the booklet "Dear Hafiz" which is available from the Madrasah @R4.00 including postage and



## FAQIHUL UMMAH

The sterling advice of Faqihul Ummah Hazrath Mufti Mahmood Saheb (*Rahmatullahi Alaihi*) has helped thousands of people to overcome many problems and difficulties — especially in the line of *Islahun Nafs* (inner-self reformation). Hereunder is a reply to a letter seeking guidance.

### PROTECTING THE GAZE

#### SUMMARY OF LETTER:

Respected Mufti Saheb

I am entrapped in the disease of casting lustful glances at women. Kindly give me some advice to remedy this situation.

#### SUMMARY OF REPLY:

Respected Brother

If the glance falls unintentionally, no sin has been incurred. However, to continue looking and derive pleasure from that glance is an illness which requires treatment. The treatment is to immediately close the shutters that Allah Ta'ala has created above and below the eyes. Furthermore, sit in solitude, close your eyes and meditate: "If my Ustaad or Sheikh was present will I cast any lustful glance? Never! How then can I cast lustful glances in the presence of Allah Ta'ala - that Being who knows the deception of the eyes and what the hearts conceal." Also keep in mind the warning that has been mentioned in the *Hadith* for casting lustful glances. It is reported that molten lead will be poured into the eyes of such people.

One pious person states: "While making *tawaaf* of the *Haram Shareef*, I saw a person who had only one eye. He was continuously making the following *dua*: "O Allah I seek refuge in You from Yourself." I asked him the reason for this strange *dua*. He replied: "For the past twelve years I had been in *I'tikaaf* in the *Haram Shareef*. One day my glance fell upon a woman who was making *tawaaf*. I became enchanted by her beauty and looked at her again. From the unseen a hand appeared and slapped me in such a manner that my one eye fell off. When I screamed in pain, a voice said to me: "This is the retribution for one glance. If you had continued further, we too would have taken further action." Hence from that day I continuously make this *dua*: "O Allah, I seek refuge in You from Yourself." (*Tarbiyatut*

## GAMBLING

(FROM PAGE TWO)

reasons. It is for this very reason that the organisers of the South African lottery offer free "counselling" for the *winners*! The losers can cry alone.

Gambling starts at a very young age in seemingly innocent ways. Presently the craze is some little plastic discs which come in packets of chips. Besides the hideous pictures on the disc which is sure to keep the angels away and to even give the children nightmares, children are **gambling** with these discs. They are used in a "game" where the winner takes away the disc of the loser. This is indeed gambling (*refer Durre Manthur 3:564*). The same applies to similar games that children play with marbles. Let us not fall into the trap of Shaitaan and follow the kuffaar headlong in every silly thing they do. Let us also educate our children and save them from gambling — as well as from becoming victims of the cheap money making gimmicks of the kuffaar.

## CORRECT YOUR SAJDAH

The following are some important points to keep in mind with regard to the performance of *sajdah*:

➤ Whilst going into *sajdah* from *qaumah* (the standing posture before *sajdah*), do not bend the chest forward. Keep it straight. Only the knees should be bent while going down. Some people bend the upper half of the body forward from the moment that they start going down for *sajdah*. Due to this an extra *ruku* is created. This is forbidden. Until the knees have not been placed on the ground, avoid bending the top half of the body as far as possible .

➤ Whilst going into *sajdah*, first place the palms on the knees, then place the knees on the ground. Thereafter, place the hand and finally place the forehead. The nose should also touch the ground with the forehead.

➤ In *sajdah*, the fingers of both hands should be kept close together. There should be no space between the fingers.

➤ Another *sunnat* of *sajdah* is that **the heels should be kept together**. Both feet should be kept close together and the heels and ankles should be joined. Both feet should be kept upright with the toes facing the *Qibla*.

➤ The tips of all the fingers should face *Qibla*, including the thumb. Special care should be taken regarding this.

➤ The forearms should not be placed on the ground. Only the palms should touch the ground.

➤ Place the head between the hands in such a way that the tip of the thumbs are in line with the earlobe.

**NB:** For a more detailed discussion refer to the booklet "SALAAH-IS YOURS CORRECT?" by Hazrath Moulana Fazlur Rahman Aazmi Saheb. Available

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

**R10.00 for 6 issues.**

Write to AL-HAADI ☒ 26393 Isipingo Beach 4115 South Africa

(All foreign countries US\$10)

**SUBSCRIBERS NOTE:** Please quote your subscription no. which appears on the address label when corresponding with AL-HAADI. Also promptly inform us of any change of

**PREPARED AND PUBLISHED BY:**  
Madrasah Taaleemuddeen 4 Third Ave.  
Isipingo Beach ☒26393 Isipingo Beach  
4115 South Africa ☎ (031) 9029818 FAX:  
9023753 e-mail:darulum@eastcoast.co.za