

## The Tafsir of Sūrat Al-Isrā' (Chapter - 17)

Which was revealed in Makkah

### The Virtues of Sūrat Al-Isrā'

Imām Al-Hāfiẓ Abu 'Abdullāh Muḥammad bin Ismā'īl Al-Bukhārī recorded that Ibn Mas'ūd رضي الله عنه said concerning Surah Bani Isrā'īl (i.e., Sūrat Al-Isrā'), Al-Kahf and Maryam: "They are among the earliest and most beautiful Sūrahs and they are my treasure."<sup>[1]</sup>

Imām Aḥmad recorded that 'Ā'ishah said: "The Messenger of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم used to fast until we would say, he does not want to break his fast, then he would not fast until we would say, he does not want to fast, and he used to recite Bani Isrā'īl and Az-Zumar every night."<sup>[2]</sup>

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

سُبْحٰنَ الَّذِيْ اَسْرٰى بِعَبْدِهٖ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ اِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْاَقْصَا الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهٗ لِنُرِيْكَ مِنْ اٰيٰتِنَا اِنَّهٗ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيْرُ ﴿١﴾

﴿1. Glorified be He Who took His servant for a Journey by Night from Al-Masjid Al-Harām to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā, the neighborhood whereof We have blessed, in order that We might show him of Our Āyāt. Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.﴾

### The Isrā' (Night Journey)

Allāh glorifies Himself, for His ability to do that which none but He can do, for there is no God but He and no Lord besides Him.

[1] Fath Al-Bāri 8:655.

[2] Aḥmad 6:189.

سُبْحٰنَ الَّذِيْ اَسْرٰى بِعَبْدِهٖ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ اِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْاَقْصَا الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهٗ لِنُرِيْكَ مِنْ اٰيٰتِنَا اِنَّهٗ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيْرُ ﴿١﴾

وَعَاثِنَا مُوسٰى الْكٰتِبَ وَجَعَلْنَاهٗ هُدًى لِّبَنِيْ اِسْرٰءِيْلَ اَلَّا تَتَّخِذُوْا مِنْ دُوْنِيْ وَاٰلِهٖ ذُرِّيَّةً مِّنْ حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ اِنَّهٗ كَانَ عَبْدًا شَكُوْرًا ﴿٢﴾

وَقَضَيْنَا اِلَى بَنِيْ اِسْرٰءِيْلَ فِي الْكَنْبِ لِنُسَيِّدَنَّ فِي الْاَرْضِ مَرَّتَيْنِ وَلَنَعْلَنَّ عَلُوْا كَبِيْرًا ﴿٣﴾

فَاِذَا جَاءَ وَعَدَاوَلَهُمَا بَعَثْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ عِبَادًا لِّنَا اُولٰٓئِيْ بِاَسْسٍ شَدِيْدٍ فَيَجٰسُوْا خِلَالَ الدِّيَارِ وَكَانَ وَعَدًا مَّفْعُوْلًا ﴿٤﴾

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْكُرْسٰى عَلَيْهِمْ وَاَمَدَدْنَا لَكُمْ يٰمُوٰلٍ وَبَنِيْنَ وَجَعَلْنَا كُمُ اَكْثَرَنْفِيْرًا ﴿٥﴾

اِنْ اَحْسَنْتُمْ اَحْسَنْتُمْ لَا نَفْسِيْكُمْ وَاِنْ اَسٰٓءْتُمْ فَلَهَا فَاِذَا جَاءَ وَعَدُ الْاٰخِرَةُ لِيُسْتَوْا وُجُوْهَكُمْ وَلِيَدْخُلُوْا الْمَسْجِدَ كَمَا دَخَلُوْهُ اَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَلِيَبْتَلُوْا مَا عَلُوْا تَنْبِيْرًا ﴿٦﴾

﴿الَّذِي اسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ﴾

﴿Who took His servant for a Journey﴾ refers to Muḥammad صلى الله عليه وسلم

﴿لَيْلًا﴾

﴿by Night﴾ means, in the depths of the night.

﴿مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ﴾

﴿from Al-Masjid Al-Harām﴾ means the Masjid in Makkah.

﴿إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْاَقْصَا﴾

﴿to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā﴾ means the Sacred House which is in Jerusalem, the origin of the Prophets from the time of Ibrāhīm Al-Khalīl. The Prophets all gathered there, and he (Muḥammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) led

them in prayer in their own homeland. This indicates that he is the greatest leader of all, may the peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him and upon them.

﴿الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ﴾

﴿the neighborhood whereof We have blessed﴾ means, its agricultural produce and fruits are blessed

﴿لِنُرِيْكَ﴾

﴿in order that We might show him﴾, i.e., Muḥammad صلى الله عليه وسلم

﴿مِّنْ اٰيٰتِنَا﴾

﴿of Our Āyāt.﴾ i.e., great signs. As Allāh says:

﴿لَقَدْ رَأَى مِنْ آيَاتِ رَبِّهِ الْكُبْرَى﴾

«Indeed he did see of the greatest signs, of his Lord (Allāh).»  
(53:18)

We will mention below what was narrated in the Sunnah concerning this.

﴿إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾

«Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.»

means, He hears all the words of His servants, believers and disbelievers, faithful and infidel, and He sees them and gives each of them what he deserves in this world and the Hereafter.

### Hadiths about Al-Isrā'

#### The Report of Anas bin Mālik

Imām Aḥmad reported from Anas bin Mālik that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«أُنْتَبِطُ بِالْبُرَاقِ وَهُوَ دَابَّةٌ أَيْضُ فَوْقَ الْجَمَارِ وَدُونَ الْبَعْلِ، يَضَعُ حَافِرَهُ عِنْدَ مُنْتَهَى طَرَفِهِ، فَرَكِبْتُهُ فَسَارَ بِي حَتَّى آتَيْتُ بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ، فَرَبَطْتُ الدَّابَّةَ بِالْحَلْقَةِ الَّتِي يَرْبُطُ فِيهَا الْأَنْبِيَاءَ، ثُمَّ دَخَلْتُ فَصَلَّيْتُ فِيهِ رَكْعَتَيْنِ ثُمَّ خَرَجْتُ فَأَتَانِي جِبْرِيلُ بِإِنَاءٍ مِنْ خَمْرٍ وَإِنَاءٍ مِنْ لَبَنٍ، فَأَخْتَرْتُ اللَّبَنَ فَقَالَ جِبْرِيلُ: أَصَبْتَ الْفِطْرَةَ. قَالَ: ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِي إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ لَهُ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ. قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ. قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِأَدَمَ فَرَحَّبَ بِي وَدَعَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ، ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الثَّانِيَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ لَهُ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ. قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ. قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ، فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِابْنَتِي الْخَالَةِ يَحْيَى وَعِيسَى فَرَحَّبَا بِي وَدَعَوَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الثَّالِثَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ لَهُ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ. قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ. قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا، فَإِذَا أَنَا بِيُوشَعَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، وَإِذَا هُوَ قَدْ أُعْطِيَ شَطْرَ الْحُسَيْنِ فَرَحَّبَ بِي وَدَعَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ. ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الرَّابِعَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ. قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ. قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِإِدْرِيسَ فَرَحَّبَ بِي وَدَعَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ، ثُمَّ قَالَ:

يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى:

«Al-Burāq was brought to me, and it was a white animal bigger than a donkey and smaller than a mule. One stride of this creature covered a distance as far as it could see. I rode on it and it took me to Bayt Al-Maqdis (Jerusalem), where I tethered it at the hitching post of the Prophets. Then I entered and prayed two Rak'ahs there, and came out. Jibril brought me a vessel of wine and a vessel of milk, and I chose the milk. Jibril said: 'You have chosen the Fiṭrah (natural instinct).' Then I was taken up to the first heaven and Jibril asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Ādam, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the second heaven and Jibril asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw the two maternal cousins, Yahyā and 'Isā, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the third heaven and Jibril asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Yūsuf, who had been given the beautiful half. He welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the fourth heaven and Jibril asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Idrīs, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. - then (the Prophet ﷺ) said: Allāh says:

﴿وَرَفَعْنَاهُ مَكَانًا عَلِيًّا﴾

«And We raised him to a high station» (19:57).

ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الْخَامِسَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ جِبْرِيلُ قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِهَارُونَ فَرَحَّبَ بِي وَدَعَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ السَّادِسَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ قِيلَ: وَقَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِإِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، وَإِذَا هُوَ مُسْتَبِدٌّ إِلَى الْبَيْتِ الْمَعْمُورِ، وَإِذَا هُوَ يَدْخُلُهُ كُلُّ يَوْمٍ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ مَلَكٍ ثُمَّ لَا يَعُودُونَ إِلَيْهِ، ثُمَّ ذَهَبَ بِي إِلَى سِدْرَةِ الْمُنْتَهَى فَإِذَا وَرَفْهًا كَأَذَانِ الْفَيْلَةِ، وَإِذَا ثَمَرُهَا كَالْفِلَالِ، فَلَمَّا غَشِيَهَا مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ مَا غَشِيَهَا تَغَيَّرَتْ فَمَا أَحَدٌ مِنْ خَلْقِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى يَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ يَصِفَهَا مِنْ حُسْنِهَا.

قَالَ: فَأَوْحَى اللَّهُ إِلَيَّ مَا أَوْحَى، وَقَدْ فَرَضَ عَلَيَّ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً فَتَزَلْتُ حَتَّى انْتَهَيْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى، قَالَ: مَا فَرَضَ رَبُّكَ عَلَيَّ أُمَّتِكَ؟ قُلْتُ: خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ، قَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلْهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ، فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ وَإِنِّي قَدْ بَلَوْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَخَبَّرْتُهُمْ، قَالَ: فَوَجَعْتُ إِلَى رَبِّي فَقُلْتُ أَيُّ رَبِّ خَفَّفَ عَنْ أُمَّتِي فَحَطَّ عَنِّي خَمْسًا، فَتَزَلْتُ حَتَّى انْتَهَيْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: مَا فَعَلْتَ؟ قُلْتُ: قَدْ حَطَّ عَنِّي خَمْسًا فَقَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلْهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ، قَالَ: فَلَمْ أَرْجِعْ بَيْنَ رَبِّي وَبَيْنَ مُوسَى وَرَبِّي حَتَّى عَنِّي خَمْسًا خَمْسًا حَتَّى قَالَ: يَا مُحَمَّدُ هُنَّ خَمْسُ صَلَوَاتٍ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ بِكُلِّ صَلَاةٍ عَشْرٌ، فَبَلَغَتْ خَمْسُونَ صَلَاةً وَمَنْ هَمَّ بِحَسَنَةٍ فَلَمْ يَعْمَلْهَا كُنِبَتْ لَهُ حَسَنَةٌ، فَإِنْ عَمِلَهَا كُنِبَتْ عَشْرًا، وَمَنْ هَمَّ بِسَيِّئَةٍ فَلَمْ يَعْمَلْهَا لَمْ تُكْتَبْ شَيْئًا، فَإِنْ عَمِلَهَا كُنِبَتْ سِتَّةً وَاحِدَةً، فَتَزَلْتُ حَتَّى انْتَهَيْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَأَخْبَرْتُهُ، فَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلْهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ، فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: «لَقَدْ رَجَعْتُ إِلَى رَبِّي حَتَّى اسْتَحْيَيْتُ»

[Then he resumed his narrative:] «Then I was taken up to the fifth heaven and Jibril asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was asked, 'Has his

Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.?' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Hārūn, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the sixth heaven and Jibril asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibril.?' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.?' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Mūsā, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the seventh heaven and Jibril asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Ibrāhīm, who was leaning back against the Much-Frequented House (Al-Bayt Al-Ma'mūr). Every day seventy thousand angels enter it, then they never come back to it again. Then I was taken to Sidrat Al-Muntahā (the Lote tree beyond which none may pass), and its leaves were like the leaves [ears] of elephants and its fruits were like jugs, and when it was veiled with whatever it was veiled with by the command of Allāh, it changed, and none of the creatures of Allāh can describe it because it is so beautiful.

Then Allāh revealed that which He revealed to me. He enjoined on me fifty prayers every day and night. I came down until I reached Mūsā, and he said, 'What did your Lord enjoin on your Ummah?' I said, 'Fifty prayers everyday and night.' He said, 'Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce (the burden) for your Ummah, for your Ummah will not be able to do that. I tested the Children of Israel and found out how they were.' So I went back to my Lord and said, 'O Lord, reduce (the burden) for my Ummah for they will never be able to do that.' So He reduced it by five. I came back down until I met Mūsā and he asked me, 'What did you do?' I said, '(My Lord) reduced (my burden) by five.' He said, 'Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce (the burden) for your Ummah.' I kept going back between my Lord and Mūsā, and (my Lord) reduced it by five each time, until He said, 'O Muhammad, these are five prayers every day and night, and for every prayer there is (the reward of) ten, so they are (like) fifty prayers. Whoever wants to do

something good then does not do it, one good deed will be recorded for him, and if he does it, ten good deeds will be recorded for him. Whoever wants to do something evil and does not do it, no evil deed will be recorded for him, and if he does it, one evil deed will be recorded for him.' I came down until I reached Mūsā, and told him about this. He said: 'Go back to your Lord and ask him to reduce (the burden) for your Ummah, for they will never be able to do that.' I had kept going back to my Lord until I felt too shy.»<sup>[1]</sup> This version was also recorded by Muslim.<sup>[2]</sup>

Imām Aḥmad recorded Anas saying that *Al-Burāq* was brought to the Prophet ﷺ on the Night of the *Isrā'* with his saddle and reins ready for riding. The animal shied, and Jibrīl said to him: "Why are you doing this? By Allāh, no one has ever ridden you who is more honored by Allāh than him." At this, *Al-Burāq* started to sweat. This was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, who said it is *Gharīb*.<sup>[3]</sup>

Aḥmad also recorded that Anas said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«لَمَّا عَرَجَ بِي رَبِّي عَزَّ وَجَلَّ مَرَرْتُ بِقَوْمٍ لَهُمْ أَظْفَارٌ مِنْ نَحَاسٍ يَخْمِشُونَ بِهَا  
وُجُوهُهُمْ وَصُدُورَهُمْ، فَقُلْتُ: مَنْ هَؤُلَاءِ يَا جِبْرِيلُ؟ قَالَ: هَؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ  
لُحُومَ النَّاسِ وَيَقْعُونَ فِي أَعْرَاضِهِمْ»

«When I was taken up to my Lord (during *Al-Mi'rāj*), I passed by people who had nails of copper with which they were scratching their faces and chests. I asked, 'Who are these, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'These are those who ate the flesh of the people [i.e., backbiting] and slandered their honor.'»<sup>[4]</sup>

This was also recorded by Abu Dāwud.<sup>[5]</sup> Anas also said that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

[1] Aḥmad 3:148.

[2] Muslim 1:145.

[3] At-Tirmidhi, no. 3131.

[4] Aḥmad 3:224.

[5] Abu Dāwud 4878.

«مَرَرْتُ لَيْلَةَ أُسْرِي بِي عَلَى مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ قَائِمًا يُصَلِّي فِي قَبْرِهِ»

«On the night when I was taken on my Night Journey (*Al-Isrā'*), I passed by Mūsā, who was standing, praying in his grave.»<sup>[1]</sup> This was also recorded by Muslim.<sup>[2]</sup>

### The Report of Anas bin Mālik from Mālik bin Ṣa'ṣa'ah

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Anas bin Mālik said that Mālik bin Ṣa'ṣa'ah told him that the Prophet of Allāh ﷺ told them about the night in which he was taken on the Night Journey (*Al-Isrā'*). He said:

«بَيْنَمَا أَنَا فِي الْحَظِيمِ - وَرُبَّمَا قَالَ قَتَادَةُ: فِي الْجَحْرِ - مُضْطَجِعًا إِذْ أَتَانِي آتٍ،  
فَجَعَلَ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ الْأَوْسَطِ بَيْنَ الثَّلَاثَةِ - قَالَ - فَأَتَانِي فَقَدْ - سَمِعْتُ قَتَادَةَ  
يَقُولُ: فَشَقَّ - مَا بَيْنَ هَذِهِ إِلَى هَذِهِ»

«While I was lying down in *Al-Ḥaḥīm* (or maybe, *Qatādah* said, in *Al-Ḥijr*) 'someone came to me and said to his companion, 'The one who is in the middle of these three.' He came to me and opened me.»

I [one of the narrators] heard Qatādah say, 'split me - from here to here.' Qatādah said: "I said to *Al-Jārūd*, who was beside me, 'What does that mean?' He said, 'From the top of his chest to below his navel', and I heard him say, 'from his throat to below his navel'. The Prophet ﷺ said:

«فَأَسْتُخْرِجُ قَلْبِي - قَالَ - فَأَتَيْتُ بِطَسْتٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ مَمْلُوءَةٍ إِيمَانًا وَحِكْمَةً فَعَسَلْتُ قَلْبِي  
ثُمَّ حَشَيْتُهُ ثُمَّ أُعِيدَ ثُمَّ أُتِيَتْ بِدَائِيَّةٍ دُونَ الْبَعْلِ وَفَوْقَ الْجِمَارِ أَيْضًا»

«He took out my heart and brought a golden vessel filled with faith and wisdom. He washed my heart then filled it up and put it back, then a white animal was brought to me that was smaller than a mule and larger than a donkey.»

*Al-Jārūd* said, 'Was this *Al-Burāq*, O Abu Hamzah?' He said, 'Yes, and its stride covered a distance as far as it could see.' The Prophet ﷺ said:

[1] Aḥmad 3:120.

[2] Muslim 2375.

«فَحُمِلْتُ عَلَيْهِ فَأَنْطَلَقَ بِي جِبْرِيلُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ حَتَّى آتَى بِي إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا فَاسْتَفْتَحَ، فَقِيلَ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ، قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ، قِيلَ: أَوْ قَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ فَقِيلَ: مَرَحَبًا بِهِ وَلَيَعْمَ الْمَجِيءُ جَاءَ - قَالَ - فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَلَمَّا خَلَصْتُ فَإِذَا فِيهَا آدَمُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، قَالَ: هَذَا أَبِيكَ آدَمُ فَسَلِّمْ عَلَيْهِ، فَسَلَّمْتُ عَلَيْهِ فَرَدَّ السَّلَامَ ثُمَّ قَالَ: مَرَحَبًا بِالْأَبْنِ الصَّالِحِ وَالنَّبِيِّ الصَّالِحِ، قَالَ - فَلَمَّا تَجَاوَزْتُهُ بَكَى قِيلَ لَهُ: مَا يَبْكِيكَ؟ قَالَ: أَبْكِي لِأَنَّ غُلَامًا بُعِثَ بَعْدِي يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي أَكْثَرَ مِمَّا يَدْخُلُهَا مِنْ أُمَّتِي. قَالَ: ثُمَّ صَعِدَ حَتَّى آتَى السَّمَاءَ السَّابِعَةَ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ قِيلَ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ، قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ، قِيلَ: أَوْ قَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ، قِيلَ: مَرَحَبًا بِهِ وَلَيَعْمَ الْمَجِيءُ جَاءَ، قَالَ: فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَلَمَّا خَلَصْتُ فَإِذَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَقَالَ: هَذَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ فَسَلِّمْ عَلَيْهِ قَالَ: فَسَلَّمْتُ عَلَيْهِ فَرَدَّ السَّلَامَ، ثُمَّ قَالَ: مَرَحَبًا بِالْأَبْنِ الصَّالِحِ وَالنَّبِيِّ الصَّالِحِ - قَالَ - ثُمَّ رُفِعْتُ إِلَى سِدْرَةِ الْمُنْتَهَى فَإِذَا تَبَقُّهَا مِثْلُ قِلَالِ هَجَرَ، وَإِذَا وَرَفُّهَا مِثْلُ آذَانِ الْفَيْلَةِ، فَقَالَ: هَذِهِ سِدْرَةُ الْمُنْتَهَى، قَالَ: وَإِذَا أَرْبَعَةُ أَنْهَارٍ: نَهْرَانِ بَاطِنَانِ وَنَهْرَانِ ظَاهِرَانِ، فَقُلْتُ: مَا هَذَا يَا جِبْرِيلُ؟ قَالَ: أَمَّا الْبَاطِنَانِ فَنَهْرَانِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ، وَأَمَّا الظَّاهِرَانِ فَالنَّيْلُ وَالْفُرَاتُ - قَالَ - ثُمَّ رُفِعَ إِلَيَّ الْبَيْتُ الْمَعْمُورُ»

«I was mounted upon it and Jibril brought me to the first heaven, and asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was said, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'Yes.' It was said, 'Welcome to him, blessed is the one who comes.' So it was opened for us and when I entered, I saw Adam. (Jibril) said, 'This is your father Adam, greet him.' So I greeted him, and he returned the greeting then said, 'Welcome to the righteous son and righteous Prophet.' Then I was taken up to the fifth heaven, and (Jibril) asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was said, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'Yes.' It was said, 'Welcome to him, blessed is the one who comes.' So it was opened for us and when I entered, I saw Hārūn. (Jibril) said, 'This is Hārūn, greet him.' So I greeted him, and he returned the greeting then said, 'Welcome to the righteous brother and righteous Prophet.'

Then I was taken up to the sixth heaven, and (Jibril) asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was said, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'Yes.' It was said, 'Welcome to him, blessed is the one who comes.' So it was opened for us and when I entered, I saw Mūsā. (Jibril) said, 'This is Mūsā, greet him.' So I greeted him, and he returned the greeting then said, 'Welcome to the righteous brother and righteous Prophet.' When I passed by him, he wept, and it was said to him, 'Why are you weeping?' He said, 'I am weeping because a young man was sent after me and more people from his Ummah than from mine will enter Paradise.' Then I was taken up to the seventh heaven, and (Jibril) asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was said, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'Yes.' It was said, 'Welcome to him, blessed is the one who comes.' So it was opened for us and when I entered, I saw Ibrāhīm. (Jibril) said, 'This is Ibrāhīm, greet him.' So I greeted him, and he returned the greeting then said, 'Welcome to the righteous son and righteous Prophet.' Then I was taken up to Sidrat Al-Muntahā, whose fruits like the clay jugs of Hajar (a region in Arabia) and its leaves were like the ears of elephants. (Jibril) said: 'This is Sidrat Al-Muntahā.' And there were four rivers, two hidden and two visible. I said, 'What is this, O Jibril?' He said, 'The two hidden rivers are rivers in Paradise, and the two visible rivers are the Nile and the Euphrates.' Then I was shown Al-Bayt Al-Ma'mūr.»

Qatādah said: Al-Ḥasan told us narrating from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet ﷺ saw Al-Bayt Al-Ma'mūr. Each day seventy thousand angels enter it, then they never return from it. Then he continued to narrate the Ḥadīth of Anas;

«ثُمَّ أُتِيتُ بِإِنَاءٍ مِنْ خَمْرٍ وَإِنَاءٍ مِنْ لَبَنٍ وَإِنَاءٍ مِنْ عَسَلٍ. - قَالَ - فَأَخَذْتُ اللَّبَنَ قَالَ: هَذِهِ الْفُطْرَةُ أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمَا وَأُمَّتُكَ - قَالَ - ثُمَّ فَرَضْتُ عَلَيَّ الصَّلَاةَ خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ - قَالَ - فَتَرَلْتُ حَتَّى أُتِيتُ مُوسَى، فَقَالَ: مَا فَرَضَ رَبُّكَ عَلَيَّ أُمَّتِكَ؟ قَالَ: فَرَضْتُ عَلَيْكَ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ، وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ

إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ عَنِّي عَشْرًا - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمِ أَمْرْتِ؟ قُلْتُ: بِأَرْبَعِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ أَرْبَعِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ عَنِّي عَشْرًا أُخْرَى، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمِ أَمْرْتِ؟ قُلْتُ: بِثَلَاثِينَ صَلَاةً، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ ثَلَاثِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ عَنِّي عَشْرًا أُخْرَى، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمِ أَمْرْتِ؟ قُلْتُ: بِعِشْرِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ عِشْرِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ عَنِّي عَشْرًا أُخْرَى، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمِ أَمْرْتِ؟ قُلْتُ: بِعَشْرِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ لِعَشْرِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَأَمْرْتُ بِخَمْسِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمِ أَمْرْتِ؟ قُلْتُ: أَمْرْتُ بِخَمْسِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ لِحَمْسِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - قُلْتُ: قَدْ سَأَلْتُ رَبِّي حَتَّى اسْتَحْيَيْتُ، وَلَكِنْ أَرْضَى وَأَسْلَمُ، فَفَنَدْتُ فَنَادَى مُنَادٍ: قَدْ أَمْضَيْتُ فَرِيضَتِي وَخَفَّفْتُ عَنْ عِبَادِي»

«Then I was brought a vessel of wine, a vessel of milk and a vessel of honey. I chose the milk, and he [Jibril] said, 'This is the Fitrah (natural instinct) on which you and your Ummah will be.' Then the prayer was enjoined upon me, fifty prayers each day. I came down until I reached Mūsā, who said, 'What did your Lord enjoin upon your Ummah?' I said, 'Fifty prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do fifty prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your

Ummah.' So I went back, and the number was reduced by ten. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'Forty prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do forty prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' So I went back, and the number was reduced by ten. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'I was commanded to do thirty prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do thirty prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' So I went back, and the number was reduced by ten. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'Twenty prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do twenty prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' So I went back, and the number was reduced by ten more. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'Ten prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do ten prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' So I went back, and I was commanded to do five prayers every day. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'Five prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do five prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' I said, 'I have asked my Lord until I feel too shy. I accept this and submit to Him.' Then a voice called out: 'My order has been decreed and I have reduced the burden on My servants.'<sup>[1]</sup> Similar narrations were recorded in the

[1] Aḥmad 4:208.

Two Ṣaḥīḥs.<sup>[1]</sup>

### The Report of Anas from Abu Dharr

Al-Bukhārī recorded that Anas bin Mālīk said: Abu Dharr used to tell us that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«فُرِحَ عَنْ سَفَفِ بَيْتِي وَأَنَا بِمَكَّةَ، فَنَزَلَ جِبْرِيلُ فَفَرَّجَ صَدْرِي ثُمَّ غَسَلَهُ بِمَاءِ زَمْزَمَ، ثُمَّ جَاءَ بِطَبَسْتٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ مُمْتَلِيءٍ حِكْمَةً وَإِيمَانًا، فَأَفْرَعُهُ فِي صَدْرِي، ثُمَّ أَطْبَقَهُ ثُمَّ أَخَذَ بِيَدِي فَعَرَّجَ بِي إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا، فَلَمَّا جِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ قَالَ جِبْرِيلُ لِخَازِنِ السَّمَاءِ: افْتَحْ قَالَ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ، قَالَ: هَلْ مَعَكَ أَحَدٌ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ مَعِيَ مُحَمَّدٌ ﷺ، فَقَالَ: أُرْسِلْ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ فَلَمَّا فَتَحَ عَلَوْنَا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا فَإِذَا رَجُلٌ قَاعِدٌ عَلَى يَمِينِهِ أَسْوَدَةٌ وَعَلَى يَسَارِهِ أَسْوَدَةٌ، إِذَا نَظَرَ قَبَلَ يَمِينِهِ ضَحَكَ وَإِذَا نَظَرَ قَبَلَ شِمَالِهِ بَكَى، فَقَالَ: مَرْحَبًا بِالنَّبِيِّ الصَّالِحِ وَالْأَبْنِ الصَّالِحِ - قَالَ - قُلْتُ لِجِبْرِيلَ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: هَذَا آدَمُ وَهَذِهِ الْأَسْوَدَةُ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ وَعَنْ شِمَالِهِ نَسَمُ بَنِيهِ، فَأَهْلُ الْيَوْمِ مِنْهُمْ أَهْلُ الْجَنَّةِ، وَالْأَسْوَدَةُ الَّتِي عَنْ شِمَالِهِ أَهْلُ النَّارِ، فَإِذَا نَظَرَ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ ضَحِكَ، وَإِذَا نَظَرَ عَنْ شِمَالِهِ بَكَى، ثُمَّ عَرَّجَ بِي إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الثَّانِيَةِ» فذكر الحديث قال: «ثُمَّ مَرَرْتُ بِإِبْرَاهِيمَ فَقَالَ: مَرْحَبًا بِالنَّبِيِّ الصَّالِحِ وَالْأَبْنِ الصَّالِحِ، قُلْتُ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: هَذَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ»

«The roof of my house was opened while I was in Makkah, and Jibrīl came down and opened my chest, then he washed it with Zamzam water. Then he brought a vessel of gold filled with wisdom and faith, and poured it into my chest, then he closed it up. Then he took me by the hand and took me up to the lowest heaven. When we came to the lowest heaven, Jibrīl said to its keeper, 'Open up!' He said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'Jibrīl.' He said, 'Is there anyone with you?' He said, 'Yes, Muḥammad is with me.' He said, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'Yes.' When it was opened, we went up into the first heaven, where I saw a man sitting with a multitude to his right and another to his left. When he looked to his right he smiled, and when he looked to his left, he wept. He said, 'Welcome to the righteous Prophet and the righteous son.' I said to Jibrīl, 'Who is this?' He

[1] Faṭḥ Al-Bārī 6:348, Muslim 1:151.

said, 'This is Ādam, and these multitudes to his right and left are the souls of his descendants. The people on his right include the people of Paradise, and the people on his left include the people of Hell, so when he looks to his right he smiles, and when he looks to his left he weeps.' Then he took me up to the second heaven... Then we passed by Ibrāhīm, who said, 'Welcome to the righteous Prophet and the righteous son.' I said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'This is Ibrāhīm.'

Az-Zuhri said: Ibn Ḥazm told me that Ibn 'Abbās and Abu Ḥabbah Al-Anṣārī used to say: the Prophet ﷺ narrated here -

«ثُمَّ عَرَّجَ بِي حَتَّى ظَهَرْتُ لِمُسْتَوَى أَسْمَعُ فِيهِ صَرِيْفَ الْأَقْلَامِ»

«Then I was taken up until I reached a level where I could hear the sound of the pens.»

Ibn Ḥazm and Anas bin Mālīk said: the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«فَفَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَلَى أُمَّتِي خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً، فَرَجَعْتُ بِذَلِكَ حَتَّى مَرَرْتُ عَلَى مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، فَقَالَ: مَا فَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَلَى أُمَّتِكَ؟ قُلْتُ: فَرَضَ خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً، قَالَ مُوسَى: فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ، فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعُ شَطْرَهَا، فَوَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى، قُلْتُ: وَضَعُ شَطْرَهَا، فَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ، فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ، فَوَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعُ شَطْرَهَا، فَوَجَعْتُ إِلَيْهِ فَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ، فَارْجَعْتُهُ فَقَالَ: هِيَ خَمْسٌ وَهِيَ خَمْسُونَ لَا يُبَدِّلُ الْقَوْلُ لَدَيَّ، فَوَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ، قُلْتُ: قَدْ اسْتَحْيَيْتُ مِنْ رَبِّي، ثُمَّ انْطَلَقَ بِي حَتَّى أَنْتَهَى إِلَى سِدْرَةِ الْمُتَنَهَى فَعَشِيهَا أَلْوَانَ لَا أُدْرِي مَا هِيَ، ثُمَّ أُذْخِلْتُ الْجَنَّةَ، فَإِذَا فِيهَا حَبَائِلُ اللَّؤْلُؤِ، وَإِذَا تُرَابُهَا الْمِسْكُ»

«Allāh enjoined upon my Ummah fifty prayers. I came back with this (message) until I passed by Mūsā, who said, 'What did your Lord enjoin upon your Ummah?' I said, 'He enjoined fifty prayers.' Mūsā said, 'Go back to your Lord, for your Ummah will not be able to do that.' So I went back, and He reduced it by half. Then I came back to Mūsā and said, 'It has been reduced by half.' He said, 'Go back to your Lord, for your Ummah will not be able to do that.' So I went back, and it was reduced by half. I came back to him, and he said, 'Go back to

your Lord, for your Ummah will not be able to do that.' So I went back, and He said: 'They are five but equal in reward to fifty, for My word does not change.' I came back to Mūsā and he said, 'Go back to your Lord.' I said, 'I feel too shy before my Lord.' Then I was taken up until I reached Sidrat Al-Muntahā, which was veiled in indescribable colors. Then I entered Paradise, in which I saw nets of pearls and its soil of musk.»

This version was recorded by Al-Bukhāri in the Book of Prayer. He also reported in the Book of Tafsīr, under the discussion of Bani Isrā'īl (i.e., Sūrat Al-Isrā'), the Book of Ḥajj and the Stories of the Prophets, via different chains of narration from Yūnus. Muslim recorded similar Ḥadīths in his *Ṣaḥīḥ* in the Book of Faith.<sup>[1]</sup>

Imām Aḥmad recorded that 'Abdullāh bin Shaqīq said: I said to Abu Dharr, "If I had seen the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, I would have asked him." He said, "What would you have asked him?" He said, "I would have asked him, if he saw his Lord?" He said, "I did ask him that, and he said,

«قَدْ رَأَيْتُهُ نُورًا، أَنَّى أَرَاهُ»

«I saw it as light, how could I see Him?»

This is how it was narrated in the report of Imām Aḥmad.<sup>[2]</sup> Muslim recorded that 'Abdullāh bin Shaqīq said that Abu Dharr said: "I asked the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, 'Did you see your Lord?' He said,

«نُورٌ أَنَّى أَرَاهُ»

«(I saw) a light, how could I see Him?»<sup>[3]</sup>

'Abdullāh bin Shaqīq said: I said to Abu Dharr, "If I had seen the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, I would have asked him." He said, "What would you have asked him?" He said, "I would have asked him, 'Did you see your Lord?'" Abu Dharr said, "I asked him that, and he said,

«رَأَيْتُ نُورًا»

[1] *Fath Al-Bāri* 1:547, 3:576, 6:431, Muslim 1:148.

[2] Aḥmad 5:147.

[3] Muslim 1:161.

«I saw light.»<sup>[1]</sup>

### The Report of Jābir bin 'Abdullāh

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Jābir bin 'Abdullāh said that he heard the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ say:

«لَمَّا كَذَّبْتَنِي قُرَيْشٌ حِينَ أُسْرِيَ بِي إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ، قُمْتُ فِي الْجِجْرِ فَجَلَى اللَّهُ لِي بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ، فَطَفِقْتُ أُخْبِرُهُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهِ وَأَنَا أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ»

«When Quraysh did not believe that I had been taken on the Night Journey to Bayt Al-Maqdis, I stood up in Al-Hijr and Allāh displayed Bayt Al-Maqdis before me, so I told them about its features while I was looking at it.»<sup>[2]</sup>

This was also reported in the Two *Ṣaḥīḥs* with different chains of narration.<sup>[3]</sup> According to Al-Bayhaqi, Ibn Shihāb said: Abu Salamah bin 'Abdur-Raḥmān said: Some people from Quraish went to Abu Bakr and said, "Have you heard what your companion is saying? He is claiming that he went to Bayt Al-Maqdis and came back to Makkah in one night!" Abu Bakr said, "Did he say that?" They said, "Yes." Abu Bakr said, "Then I bear witness that if he said that, he is speaking the truth." They said, "You believe that he went to Ash-Shām [Greater Syria] in one night and came back to Makkah before morning?" He said, "Yes, I believe him with regard to something even more than that. I believe him with regard to the revelation that comes to him from heaven." Abu Salamah said, from then on Abu Bakr was known as Aṣ-Ṣiddīq (the true believer).<sup>[4]</sup>

### The Report of 'Abdullāh bin 'Abbās

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Ibn 'Abbās said:

«On the night when the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ was taken on his Night Journey, he entered Paradise, in some part of which he heard a sound. He said, 'O Jibrīl, what is this?' He said,

[1] Muslim 1:161.

[2] Aḥmad 3:377.

[3] Al-Bukhāri no. 4710, Muslim no. 170

[4] *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah* 2:359



This is Bilāl, the *Mu'adhdhin*.' When the Prophet ﷺ came back to the people, he said,

«قَدْ أَفْلَحَ بِلَالٌ، رَأَيْتُ لَهُ كَذَا وَكَذَا»

«Bilāl has succeeded, I saw that he will have such and such.»

He [the Prophet ﷺ] was met by Mūsā, who welcomed him and said, 'Welcome to the Unlettered Prophet.' He was a tall, dark man with lank hair coming down to his ears or above his ears. He said, 'Who is this, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'This is Mūsā.' Then he went on and met a venerable, distinguished old man, who welcomed him and greeted him with *Salām*, and all of them were greeting him. He said, 'Who is this, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'This is your father Ibrāhīm.' Then he looked into Hell and saw some people eating rotten meat. He said, 'Who are these people, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'They are those who used to eat the flesh of the people [i.e., backbiting].' He saw a man who was very red and dark blue, and said, 'Who is this, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'This is the one who slaughtered the she-camel (of Sālih).' When the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ came to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā, he stood up to pray, and all the Prophets gathered and prayed with him. When he finished, he was brought two cups, one on his right and one on his left, one containing milk and one containing honey. He took the milk and drank it, and the one who was carrying the cup said, 'You have chosen the *Fiṭrah* (natural instinct).'<sup>[1]</sup>

The chain of narrators is *Ṣaḥīh*, although they (Al-Bukhārī and Muslim) did not record it.

Imām Aḥmad reported that Ibn 'Abbās said:

"The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ was taken on the Night Journey to Bayt Al-Maqdis, then he came back and told them about his journey and the features of Bayt Al-Maqdis and the caravan (of Quraysh). Some people said, 'We do not believe what Muḥammad is saying,' and they left Islam and became disbelievers. Allāh destroyed them when He destroyed Abu Jahl. Abu Jahl said: 'Muḥammad is trying to scare us with the tree of *Zaqqūm*; bring some dates and butter and let us have some *Zaqqūm*!' The Prophet ﷺ also saw the Dajjāl in his true form, in real life, not in a dream, and he saw 'Īsā, Mūsā and

[1] Aḥmad 1:257.

Ibrāhīm. The Prophet ﷺ was asked about the Dajjāl, and he said:

«رَأَيْتُهُ فَيَلْمَانِيَا أَفَمَرَّ هَجَانًا، إِحْدَى عَيْنَيْهِ قَائِمَةٌ كَأَنَّهَا كَوَكَبٌ دُرِّيٌّ، كَانَ شَعْرَ رَأْسِهِ أَغْصَانُ شَجَرَةٍ، وَرَأَيْتُ عَيْسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ [شَابًا] أَيْضًا، جَعَدَ الرَّأْسِ حَدِيدَ الْبَصْرِ، وَمُبْطَنَ الْخَلْقِ، وَرَأَيْتُ مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ أَسْحَمَ آدَمَ، كَثِيرَ الشَّعْرِ، شَدِيدَ الْخَلْقِ، وَنَظَرْتُ إِلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَلَمْ أَنْظُرْ إِلَى إِرْبٍ مِنْهُ إِلَّا نَظَرْتُ إِلَيْهِ مِنِّي حَتَّى كَأَنَّهُ صَاحِبُكُمْ، قَالَ جِبْرِيلُ: سَلِّمْ عَلَى أَبِيكَ، فَتَلَّمْتُ عَلَيْهِ»

«I saw him as a tall and huge man, with a whitish complexion. One of his eyes stood out like a shining star. The hair on his head looked like the branches of a tree. And I saw 'Īsā, white with curly hair and an intense gaze, of average build. I saw Mūsā, dark-skinned, with a lot of hair and a strong build. I looked at Ibrāhīm and did not see anything in him that I do not see in myself; it is as if he were your companion [meaning himself]. Jibrīl said: 'Greet your father with *Salām*,' so I greeted him with *Salām*.»

This was also recorded by An-Nasā'ī from the *Ḥadīth* of Abu Zayd Thābit bin Yazīd from Hilāl, who is Ibn Khabbāb,<sup>[1]</sup> and it is a *Ṣaḥīh* chain of narrators.

Al-Bayhaqī recorded that Abu Al-'Āliyah said: "The cousin of your Prophet ﷺ, Ibn 'Abbās narrated to us from the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, he said: Allah's Messenger ﷺ said,

«رَأَيْتُ لَيْلَةَ أُسْرِي بِي مُوسَى بْنَ عِمْرَانَ رَجُلًا طَوَالًا جَعْدًا، كَأَنَّهُ مِنْ رِجَالِ شَنْوَةَ، وَرَأَيْتُ عَيْسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ مَرْبُوعَ الْخَلْقِ إِلَى الْحُمْرَةِ وَالْبَيَاضِ سَبْطَ الرَّأْسِ»

«On the night when I was taken on the Night Journey, I saw Mūsā bin 'Imrān, a tall, curly-haired man, as if he was from the tribe of Shanū'ah. And I saw 'Īsā bin Maryam, of medium stature, white with a reddish complexion, with straight hair.»

And he was shown Mālik, the keeper of Hell, and the Dajjāl, with the signs that Allāh revealed to him.' He said,

«فَلَا تَكُنْ فِي مَرْيَمَ وَمِنْ لِقَائِهِ»

[1] Aḥmad 1:384, An-Nasā'ī in *Al-Kubrā* 11484.

﴿So be not you in doubt of meeting him.﴾ [32:33]

Qatadah used to interpret this to mean that the Prophet of Allāh ﷺ met Mūsā.

﴿وَجَعَلْنَاهُ هُدًى لِّبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ﴾

﴿And We made it [or him] a guide to the Children of Israel﴾  
[32:33]

Qatadah said: "(This means) Allāh made Mūsā a guide for the Children of Israel."<sup>[1]</sup> Muslim reported this in his *Ṣaḥīh*, and Al-Bukhārī and Muslim recorded a shorter version from Qatadah.<sup>[2]</sup>

Imām Aḥmad also recorded that Ibn 'Abbās said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

﴿لَمَّا كَانَ لَيْلَةَ أُسْرِي بِي، فَأَضْبَحْتُ بِمَكَّةَ فَظَعْتُ وَعَرَفْتُ أَنَّ النَّاسَ مُكْذِبِي﴾

«On the night when I was taken on the Night Journey, I woke up in Makkah the next morning having anxiety that, I knew that the people would not believe me.»

He kept away from people, feeling anxious and sad, then the enemy of Allāh Abu Jahl passed by him and came to sit with him, saying mockingly, 'Is there anything new?' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said,

﴿نَعَمْ﴾

«Yes». He said, 'What is it?' He said,

﴿إِنِّي أُسْرِي بِي اللَّيْلَةَ﴾

«I was taken on a Journey last night.» He said, 'Where to?' He said,

﴿إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ﴾

«To Bayt Al-Maqdis.» He said, 'Then this morning you were among us?' He said,

﴿نَعَمْ﴾

<sup>[1]</sup> *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah* 2:386. [i.e., Qatadah understood the pronoun to refer to Mūsā, not to the Tawrah].

<sup>[2]</sup> Al-Bukhārī 3239, Muslim 165.

«Yes». Abu Jahl did not want to say to his face that he was lying, lest he deny saying it when he called other people to hear him, so he said: 'Do you think that if I call your people, you will tell them about what happened?' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said,

﴿نَعَمْ﴾

«Yes.» Abu Jahl said, 'O people of Bani Ka'b bin Lu'ayl! People got up from where they were sitting and came to join them. Abu Jahl said, 'Tell your people what you told me.' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

﴿إِنِّي أُسْرِي بِي اللَّيْلَةَ﴾

«I was taken on a Journey last night.» They said, 'Where to?' He said,

﴿إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ﴾

«To Bayt Al-Maqdis.» They said, 'Then this morning you were among us?' He said,

﴿نَعَمْ﴾

«Yes». They began to clap their hands together and put their hands on their heads in astonishment at this "lie" - as they claimed it to be. They said, 'Can you describe the sanctuary to us?' Among them were some who had travelled to that land and seen the sanctuary, so the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said,

﴿فَمَا زِلْتُ أَنْعْتُ حَتَّى التَّبَسَ عَلَيَّ بَعْضُ النَّعْتِ - قَالَ - فَجِئْتُ بِالْمَسْجِدِ وَأَنَا أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ حَتَّى وُضِعَ دُونَ دَارِ عُقَيْلٍ - أَوْ عَقَالٍ - فَتَعَتُّهُ وَأَنَا أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ - قَالَ - وَكَانَ مَعَ هَذَا نَعْتُ لَمْ أَحْفَظْهُ - قَالَ - فَقَالَ الْقَوْمُ: أَمَّا النَّعْتُ فَوَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ أَصَابَ فِيهِ﴾

«I started to describe it, until I reached a point where I was not sure about some of the details, but then the sanctuary was brought close and placed near the house of 'Uqayl - or 'Iqāl - so I could look at it and describe the details.»

I could not remember those description. The people said, 'As for the description, by Allāh he has got it right.'<sup>[1]</sup> This was recorded by An-Nasā'i and Al-Bayhaqi.<sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Aḥmad 1:309.

<sup>[2]</sup> An-Nasā'i in *Al-Kubrā* : 11285, *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah* 2:363.

### The Report of 'Abdullāh bin Mas'ūd

Al-Hāfiẓ Abu Bakr Al-Bayhaqī reported that 'Abdullāh bin Mas'ūd said: "When the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ was taken on the Night Journey, he went as far as *Sidrat Al-Muntahā*, which is in the sixth heaven. Everything that ascends stops there, until it is taken from that point, and everything that comes down stops there, until it is taken from there.

﴿إِذْ يَغْشَى السِّدْرَةَ مَا يَغْشَى﴾

«When that covered As-Sidrat Al-Muntahā which did cover it!»  
[53:16]

Ibn Mas'ūd said: "It is covered with gold butterflies. The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ was given the five prayers and the final *Āyāt* of *Sūrat Al-Baqarah*, and forgiveness was granted for major sins to those who do not associate anything in worship with Allāh." This was recorded by Muslim in his *Ṣaḥīḥ*.

### The Report of Abu Hurayrah

Al-Bukhārī and Muslim reported in their *Ṣaḥīḥs* that Abu Hurayrah said: the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«حِينَ أُسْرِيَ بِي، لَقِيتُ مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ - فَتَعَتُهُ، فَإِذَا رَجُلٌ حَسْبَتُهُ قَالَ - مُضْطَرِبٌ رَجُلُ الرَّأْسِ كَأَنَّهُ مِنْ رِجَالِ شَنْوَةَ، قَالَ: وَلَقِيتُ عِيسَى - فَتَعَتُهُ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ قَالَ - رَبْعَةٌ أَحْمَرٌ كَأَنَّهَا خَرَجَ مِنْ دِيمَاسٍ - يَعْنِي حَمَامًا، قَالَ - وَلَقِيتُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَأَنَا أَشْبَهُ وَلَدِهِ بِهِ، قَالَ: وَأَنْتِ بِنَاءَيْنِ فِي أَحَدِهِمَا لَبَنٌ وَفِي الْآخَرِ خَمْرٌ، قِيلَ لِي: خُذْ أَيُّهُمَا شِئْتَ، فَأَخَذْتُ اللَّبَنَ فَشَرِبْتُ، فَقِيلَ لِي: هَدَيْتَ الْفِطْرَةَ - أَوْ أَصَبْتَ الْفِطْرَةَ - أَمَا إِنَّكَ لَوْ أَخَذْتَ الْخَمْرَ عَوَتْ أُمَّتُكَ»

«When I was taken on the Night Journey, I met Mūsā.» He described him as a man - I think he said - a curly-haired man, as if he were from the tribe of Shanū'ah. «And I met 'Īsā.» And the Prophet ﷺ described him as being of average height, with a reddish complexion, as if he had just come out of the bath. «And I met Ibrāhīm, and I am the one who resembles him most among his children. I was brought two vessels, one containing milk and the other containing wine. It was said to me, 'Take whichever one you want.' So I took the

milk and drank it, and it was said to me, 'You have been guided to the Fitrah - or - You have chosen the Fitrah. If you had chosen the wine, your Ummah would have gone astray.'»<sup>[1]</sup>

They also recorded it with another chain of narrators. Muslim recorded that Abu Hurayrah said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«لَقَدْ رَأَيْتَنِي فِي الْحِجْرِ وَفَرَيْتَنِي تَسْأَلُنِي عَنْ مَسْرَائِي، فَسَأَلُونِي عَنْ أَشْيَاءَ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ لَمْ أَتَيْنَهَا، فَكُرْبَتْ [كُرْبَةً] مَا كُرْبَتْ مِثْلَهُ قَطُّ، فَرَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيَّ أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ مَا سَأَلُونِي عَنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا أَتَيْتُهُمْ بِهِ، وَقَدْ رَأَيْتَنِي فِي جَمَاعَةٍ مِنَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَإِذَا مُوسَى قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي، وَإِذَا هُوَ رَجُلٌ جَعْدٌ كَأَنَّهُ مِنْ رِجَالِ شَنْوَةَ، وَإِذَا عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي أَقْرَبَ النَّاسِ شَبَهَا بِهِ عَرُودُ بْنُ مَسْعُودٍ التَّقْفِي، وَإِذَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي أَقْرَبَ النَّاسِ شَبَهَا بِهِ صَاحِبُكُمْ - يَعْنِي نَفْسَهُ - فَحَانَتْ الصَّلَاةُ فَأَمَمْتُهُمْ، فَلَمَّا فَرَغْتُ قَالَ قَائِلٌ: يَا مُحَمَّدُ هَذَا مَالِكُ خَازِنِ جَهَنَّمَ، [فَسَلَّمْ عَلَيْهِ] فَالْتَقْتُ إِلَيْهِ فَبَدَأَنِي بِالسَّلَامِ»

«I remember being in Al-Hijr, and the Quraysh were asking me about my Night Journey. They asked me things about Bayt Al-Maqdis that I was not sure of, and I felt more anxious and stressed then than I have ever felt. Then Allāh raised up Bayt Al-Maqdis for me to see, and there was nothing they asked me about but I told them about it. And I remember being in a gathering of the Prophets. Mūsā was standing there praying, and he was a man with curly hair, as if he were one of the men of Shanū'ah. I saw 'Īsā bin Maryam standing there praying, and the one who most resembles him is 'Urwah bin Mas'ūd Ath-Thaqafi. And I saw Ibrāhīm standing there praying, and the one who most resembles him is your companion (meaning himself). Then the time for prayer came, and I led them in prayer. When I finished, a voice said, 'O Muḥammad, this is Mālik, the keeper of Hell,' so I turned to him, and he greeted me first.»<sup>[2]</sup>

[1] *Faḥ Al-Bārī* 6:493, Muslim 1:154.

[2] Muslim 1:156.

**The Time that *Isrā'* took place, and the Fact that it included both Body and Soul, when the Prophet ﷺ was awake, not in a Dream**

Mūsā bin 'Uqbah said, narrating from Az-Zuhri: "The *Isrā'* happened one year before the *Hijrah*."<sup>[1]</sup> This was also the opinion of 'Urwah.<sup>[2]</sup> As-Suddi said: "It happened sixteen months before the *Hijrah*."<sup>[3]</sup>

The truth is that the Prophet ﷺ was taken on the Night Journey when he was awake, not in a dream, and he went from Makkah to Bayt Al-Maqdis riding on *Al-Burāq*. When he reached the door of the sanctuary, he tied up his animal by the door and entered, where he prayed two *Rak'ahs* to 'greet the *Masjid*'. Then the *Mi'rāj* was brought to him, which is a ladder with steps which one climbs up. So he went up on it to the first heaven, then he went up to the rest of the seven heavens. In each heaven he was welcomed by the most pious of its inhabitants, and he greeted the Prophets who were in the various heavens according to their positions and status. He passed by Mūsā, the one who spoke with Allāh, in the sixth heaven, and Ibrāhīm, the close friend (*Khalīl*) of Allāh in the seventh heaven. Then he surpassed them and all the Prophets in status and reached a level where he could hear the creaking of the pens, i.e., the pens of destiny which write down what is decreed to happen. He saw *Sidrat Al-Muntahā*, covered by the command of Allāh, and its greatness, its butterflies of gold and various colours, surrounded by the angels. There he saw Jibrīl in his real form, with six hundred wings. He saw green cushions blocking the horizon. He saw *Al-Bayt Al-Ma'mūr*, and Ibrāhīm Al-Khalīl, the builder of the earthly *Ka'bah*, leaning back against it, the heavenly *Ka'bah*; every day, seventy thousand angels enter and worship therein, then they do not return to it until the Day of Resurrection. He saw Paradise and Hell, and Allāh enjoined upon him fifty prayers, then reduced it to five, as an act of mercy and kindness towards His servants. In this is a strong indication of the greatness and virtue of the prayers.

[1] *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah* 2:355.

[2] *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah* 2:354.

[3] *Al-Qurtubi*, 10:210.

Then he came back down to Bayt Al-Maqdis, and the Prophets came down with him and he led them in prayer there when the time for prayer came. It may have been the dawn prayer of that day. Some people claim that he led them in prayer in heaven, but the reports seem to say that it was in Bayt Al-Maqdis. In some reports it says that it happened when he first entered (i.e., before ascending into the heavens), but it is more likely that it was after he came back, because when he passed by them in the places in the heavens, he asked Jibrīl about them, one by one, and Jibrīl told him about them. This is more appropriate, because he was first required to come before the Divine Presence, so that what Allāh willed could be enjoined upon him and his *Ummah*. When the matter for which he was required had been dealt with, he and his brother-Prophets gathered, and his virtue and high position in relation to them became apparent when he was asked to come forward to lead them, which was when Jibrīl indicated to him that he should do so.

Then he came out of Bayt Al-Maqdis and rode on *Al-Burāq* back to Makkah in the darkness of the night. And Allāh knows best. As for his being presented with the vessels containing milk and honey, or milk and wine, or milk and water, or all of these, some reports say that this happened in Bayt Al-Maqdis, and others say that it happened in the heavens. It is possible that it happened in both places, because it is like offering food or drink to a guest when he arrives, and Allāh knows best.

The Prophet ﷺ was taken on the Night Journey with body and soul, he was awake, not asleep. The evidence for this is the *Āyah*:

﴿سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ﴾

﴿Glorified (and Exalted) be He (Allāh) Who took His servant for a Journey by Night from Al-Masjid Al-Harām to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā, the neighborhood whereof We have blessed,﴾

The words "*Subhān Allāh*" (Glorified and exalted be Allāh) are spoken in the case of serious matters. If it had been a dream, it would have been a significant matter and would not have

been so astounding; the disbelievers of the Quraysh would not have hastened to label him a liar and the group of people who had become Muslims would not have deserted the faith. The word 'Abd (servant) refers to both soul and body. Allāh says:

﴿أَسْرَىٰ بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا﴾

﴿took His servant for a Journey by Night﴾ and:

﴿وَمَا جَعَلْنَا الرُّؤْيَا الَّتِي أَرَيْنَاكَ إِلَّا فِتْنَةً لِلنَّاسِ﴾

﴿And We made not the vision which we showed you but a trial for mankind﴾ [17:60]

Ibn 'Abbās said: "This is the vision that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ saw with his own eyes during the Journey by Night, and the cursed tree is the tree of *Zaqqūm*." This was recorded by Al-Bukhāri.<sup>[1]</sup> Allāh said:

﴿مَا نَظَّ الْبَصَرُ وَمَا طَفَى﴾

﴿The sight (of Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ) turned not aside (right or left), nor it transgressed beyond the limit (ordained for it)﴾(53:17)

Sight (*Al-Baṣr*) is a physical faculty, not a spiritual one, and he was carried on *Al-Burāq*, a shining white animal. This too indicates a physical journey, because the soul does not need a means of transportation of this nature. And Allāh knows best.

### An Interesting Story

In his book *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah*, Al-Hāfiẓ Abu Nu'aym Al-Iṣbahāni recorded via Muḥammad bin 'Umar Al-Wāqidi who said: Mālik bin Abi Ar-Rijjāl told me from 'Amr bin 'Abdullāh that Muḥammad bin Ka'b Al-Quraẓi said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ sent Dihyah bin Khalīfah to Caesar." He mentioned how he came to him, and described an incident that showed how wise Caesar was. He sent for the Arab merchants who were in Syria and Abu Sufyān Sakhr bin Harb and his companions were brought to him. He asked them the well-known questions that were recorded by Al-Bukhāri and Muslim, as we shall discuss below, and Abu Sufyān tried hard to give the impression that this was an insignificant issue. [The

[1] *Faṭḥ Al-Bāri* 8 :250.

narrator] said that Abu Sufyān [later] said: "By Allāh, nothing stopped me from saying something to Heraclius to make him despise [Muḥammad] but the fact that I did not want to tell a lie that would later be found out, and he would never believe me again after that. Then I told him about the night on which he was taken on the Night Journey. I said: 'O King, shall I not tell you of something from which you will know that he is lying?' He said, 'What is it?' I said: 'He claims that he went out of our land, the land of *Al-Ḥaram*, in one night, and came to your sanctuary in Jerusalem, then came back to us the same night, before morning came.' The Patriarch of Jerusalem was there, standing next to Caesar. The Patriarch of Jerusalem said: 'I know that night.' Caesar looked at him and said, 'How do you know about this?' He said, 'I never used to sleep at night until I closed the doors of the sanctuary. On that night I closed all the doors except for one, which I could not manage to close. I asked my workers and others who were with me to help me deal with it, but we could not move it. It was like trying to move a mountain. So I called the carpenters, and they looked at it and said: The lintel and some part of the structure has fallen onto it. We cannot move it until morning, when we will be able to see what the problem is. So I went back and left those two doors open. The next morning I went back, and saw that the stone at the corner of the sanctuary had a hole in it, and there were traces of an animal having been tethered there. I said to my companions: This door has not been closed last night except for a Prophet, who prayed last night in our sanctuary.'" And he mentioned the rest of the *Ḥadīth*.

In his book *At-Tanwīr fī Mawlid As-Sirāj Al-Munīr*, Al-Hāfiẓ Abu Al-Khaṭṭāb 'Umar bin Dihyah mentioned the *Ḥadīth* of the *Isrā'* narrated from Anas, and spoke well about it, then he said: "The reports of the *Ḥadīth* of the *Isrā'* reach the level of *Mutawātir*. They were narrated from 'Umar bin Al-Khaṭṭāb, 'Ali, Ibn Mas'ūd, Abu Dharr, Mālik bin Sa'sa'ah, Abu Hurayrah, Abu Sa'īd, Ibn 'Abbās, Shaddād bin Aws, Ubayy bin Ka'b, 'Abdur-Raḥmān bin Qaraṭ, Abu Ḥabbah Al-Anṣārī, Abu Laylā Al-Anṣārī, 'Abdullāh bin 'Amr, Jābir, Ḥudhayfah, Buraydah, Abu Ayyūb, Abu Umāmah, Samurah bin Jundub, Abu Al-Ḥamrā', Ṣuhayb Ar-Rūmi, Umm Hāni', and 'Ā'ishah and 'Asmā', the daughters of Abu Bakr Aṣ-Ṣiddīq, may Allāh be

pleased with them all. Some of them narrated the incident at length, and others narrated it more briefly, as was reported in the *Musnad* collections. Even though some reports do not fulfill the conditions of *Sahih*, nevertheless the Muslims agreed unanimously on the fact that the *Isrā'* happened, and it was rejected only by the heretics and apostates.

﴿يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ مُنِمْ نُورِهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

﴿They intend to put out the Light of Allāh with their mouths. But Allāh will bring His Light to perfection even though the disbelievers hate (it).﴾ (61:8).

﴿وَأَتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ هُدًى لِّبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَلَّا تَتَّخِذُوا مِن دُونِي وَكِبَالًا﴾

﴿ذُرِّيَّةَ مَن حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَبْدًا شَكُورًا﴾

﴿2. And We gave Mūsā the Scripture and made it a guidance for the Children of Israel (saying): "Take none other than Me as (your) Wakīl."﴾

﴿3. "O offspring of those whom We carried (in the ship) with Nūh! Verily, he was a grateful servant."﴾

### Mūsā and how He was given the Tawrah

When Allāh mentions how He took His servant Muḥammad ﷺ, on the Journey by Night, He follows it by mentioning Mūsā, His servant and Messenger who also spoke with Him. Allāh often mentions Muḥammad and Mūsā together, may the peace and blessings of Allāh be upon them both, and he mentions the Tawrah and the Qur'ān together. So after mentioning the *Isrā'*, He says:

﴿وَأَتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ﴾

﴿And We gave Mūsā the Scripture﴾, meaning the Tawrah.

﴿وَجَعَلْنَاهُ﴾

﴿and made it﴾, meaning the Scripture,

﴿هُدًى﴾

﴿a guidance﴾, meaning a guide,

﴿لِّبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَلَّا تَتَّخِذُوا﴾

﴿for the Children of Israel (saying): "Take none..."﴾ means, lest they should take,

﴿مِن دُونِي وَكِبَالًا﴾

﴿"... other than Me as (your) Wakīl"﴾

means, 'you have no protector, supporter or god besides Me,' because Allāh revealed to every Prophet that he should worship Him alone with no partner or associate. Then Allāh says:

﴿ذُرِّيَّةَ مَن حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ﴾

﴿O offspring of those whom We carried (in the ship) with Nūh﴾

by addressing the descendants of those who were carried in the ship with Nūh there is a reminder of the blessings, as if Allāh is saying: 'O descendants of those whom We saved and carried in the ship with Nūh, follow in the footsteps of your father,

﴿إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَبْدًا شَكُورًا﴾

﴿Verily, he was a grateful servant﴾. 'Remember the blessing I have granted you by sending Muḥammad.'

Imām Aḥmad reported that Anas bin Mālik said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَيَرْضَى عَنِ الْعَبْدِ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ الْأَكْلَةَ أَوْ يَشْرَبَ الشَّرْبَةَ فَيَحْمَدَ اللَّهَ عَلَيْهَا﴾

﴿Allāh will be pleased with His servant if, when he eats something or drinks something, he praises Allāh for it.﴾"

This was also recorded by Muslim, At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasā'i.<sup>[1]</sup>

Mālik said about Zayd bin Aslam: "He used to praise Allāh in all circumstances." In this context, Al-Bukhārī mentioned the *Hadīth* of Abu Zar'ah narrating from Abu Hurayrah, who said that the Prophet ﷺ said:

﴿أَنَا سَيِّدُ وَلَدِ آدَمَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ﴾

﴿I will be the leader of the sons of Ādam on the Day of Resurrection...﴾

[1] Muslim 4:2095, *Tuhfat Al-Aḥwadhī* 5:536, An-Nasā'i in *Al-Kubrā* 4:202.

He quoted the *Ḥadīth* at length, and in the *Ḥadīth*, the Prophet ﷺ said:

«فَيَأْتُونَ نُوحًا فَيَقُولُونَ: يَا نُوحُ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ أَوَّلُ الرُّسُلِ إِلَى أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ، وَقَدْ سَمَّاكَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا شَكُورًا، فَاشْفَعْ لَنَا إِلَى رَبِّكَ»

«They will come to Nūḥ and will say, 'O Nūḥ, you were the first of the Messengers sent to the people of earth, and Allāh called you grateful servant, so intercede for us with your Lord.'»<sup>[1]</sup>

And he quoted the *Ḥadīth* in full.

﴿وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ فِي الْكِتَابِ لُفْسِدُنَّ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَّتَيْنِ وَلَعْنُنَ عُلُوًّا كَبِيرًا ﴿٤﴾  
فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ أُولَاهُمَا بَعَثْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ عِبَادًا لَنَا أُولَىٰ بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ فَجَاسُوا خِلَالَ الدِّيَارِ وَكَاتَ وَعْدًا مَّفْعُولًا ﴿٥﴾ ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْكُرَّةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَمْدَدْنَاكُمْ بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنَاتٍ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ أَكْثَرَ نَفِيرًا ﴿٦﴾ إِنَّ أَحْسَنَ مَا أَحْسَنْتُمْ لِأَنْفُسِكُمْ وَإِنْ أَسَأْتُمْ فَلَهَا فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ لِيَسْتَوْفُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَلِيُتَبِّرُوا مَا عَلَوْا تَتْبِيرًا ﴿٧﴾ عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يَرْحَمَكُمْ وَإِنْ عُدتُّمْ عُدْنَا وَجَعَلْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ حَصِيرًا ﴿٨﴾﴾

﴿4. And We decreed for the Children of Israel in the Scripture: "Indeed you would do mischief in the land twice and you will become tyrants and extremely arrogant!"﴾

﴿5. So, when the promise came for the first of the two, We sent against you servants of Ours given to terrible warfare. They entered the very innermost parts of your homes. And it was a promise (completely) fulfilled.﴾

﴿6. Then We gave you a return of victory over them. And We helped you with wealth and children and made you more numerous in manpower.﴾

﴿7. (And We said): "If you do good, you do good for your own selves, and if you do evil (you do it) against yourselves." Then, when the second promise came to pass, (We permitted your enemies) to disgrace your faces and to enter the Masjid as they had entered it before, and to destroy with utter destruction all that fell in their hands.﴾

﴿8. It may be that your Lord may show mercy unto you, but if

[1] *Faṭḥ Al-Bāri* 6:431.

you return (to sins), We shall return (to Our punishment).  
And We have made Hell a prison for the disbelievers.﴾

### It was mentioned in the Tawrah that the Jews would spread Mischief twice

Allāh tells us that He made a declaration to the Children of Israel in the Scripture, meaning that He had already told them in the Book which He revealed to them, that they would cause mischief on the earth twice, and would become tyrants and extremely arrogant, meaning they would become shameless oppressors of people, Allāh says:

﴿وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَىٰ ذَاكَ الْأَمْرِ أَنْ دَايِرَ هَؤُلَاءِ مَقْطُوعٌ مُّصْبِحِينَ ﴿٦٦﴾﴾

﴿And We made known this decree to him, that the root of those (sinners) was to be cut off in the early morning.﴾ (15:66),

meaning, We already told him about that and informed him of it.

### The First Episode of Mischief caused by the Jews, and their Punishment for it

﴿فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ أُولَاهُمَا﴾

﴿So, when the promise came for the first of the two﴾ meaning the first of the two episodes of mischief.

﴿بَعَثْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ عِبَادًا لَنَا أُولَىٰ بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ﴾

﴿We sent against you servants of Ours given to terrible warfare.﴾

means, 'We unleashed soldiers against you from among Our creatures who were given to terrible warfare,' i.e., they had great strength and weapons and power. They entered the very innermost parts of your homes, meaning they took possession of your land and invaded the very innermost parts of your homes, going between and through your houses, coming and going freely with no fear of anyone. This was the promise (completely) fulfilled.

The earlier and later commentators differed over the identity of these invaders. Many *Isrā'īliyyāt* (reports from Jewish sources) were narrated about this, but I did not want to make

this book too long by mentioning them, because some of them are fabricated, concocted by their heretics, and others may be true, but we have no need of them, praise be to Allāh. What Allāh has told us in His Book (the Qur'ān) is sufficient and we have no need of what is in the other books that came before. Neither Allāh nor His Messenger required us to refer to them. Allāh told His Messenger ﷺ that when (the Jews) committed transgression and aggression, Allāh gave their enemies power over them to destroy their country and enter the innermost parts of their homes. Their humiliation and subjugation was a befitting punishment, and your Lord is never unfair or unjust to His servants. They had rebelled and killed many of the Prophets and scholars. Ibn Jarīr recorded that Yahyā bin Sa'īd said: "I heard Sa'īd bin Al-Mūsāyiyib saying: 'Nebuchadnezzar conquered Ash-Shām (Greater Syria, including Palestine), destroying Jerusalem and killing them, then he came to Damascus and found blood boiling in a censer. He asked them: What is this blood? They said: We found our forefathers doing this. Because of that blood, he killed seventy thousand of the believers and others, then the blood stopped boiling.'"<sup>[1]</sup>

This report is *Ṣaḥīḥ* from Sa'īd bin Al-Mūsāyiyib, and this event is well-known, as he (Nebuchadnezzar) killed their nobles and scholars, and did not leave alive anyone who knew the Tawrah by heart. He took many prisoners from the sons of the Prophets and others, and did many other things that would take too long to mention here. If we had found anything that was correct or close enough, we could have written it and reported it here. And Allāh knows best.

Then Allāh says:

﴿إِنْ أَحْسَنْتُمْ أَحْسَنْتُمْ لِأَنْفُسِكُمْ وَإِنْ أَسَأْتُمْ فَلَهَا﴾

﴿(And We said): "If you do good, you do good for your own selves, and if you do evil (you do it) against yourselves."﴾

As Allāh says elsewhere:

﴿مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ أَسَاءَ فَعَلَيْهَا﴾

﴿Whosoever does a righteous good deed, it is for (the benefit of) himself; and whosoever does evil, it is against himself.﴾ [45:15]

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:369.

### The Second Episode of Mischief

Then Allāh says:

﴿فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ﴾

﴿Then, when the second promise came to pass,﴾ meaning, the second episode of mischief, when your enemies came again,

﴿لِيَسْتَوُوا وَجُوهَكُمْ﴾

﴿(We permitted your enemies) to disgrace your faces﴾ meaning, to humiliate you and subdue you,

﴿وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ﴾

﴿and to enter the Masjid﴾ meaning, Bayt Al-Maqdis (Jerusalem).

﴿كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ﴾

﴿as they had entered it before,﴾ when they entered the very innermost parts of your homes.

﴿وَلِيُتَبِّرُوا﴾

﴿and to destroy﴾ wrecking and inflicting ruin upon it.

﴿مَا عَلَوْا﴾

﴿all that fell in their hands.﴾ everything they could get their hands on.

﴿تَلْبِيًّا ﴿٧﴾ عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يَرْحَمَكُم﴾

﴿with utter destruction. It may be that your Lord may show mercy unto you﴾ meaning that He may rid you of them.

﴿وَإِنْ عُدْتُمْ عَدْنَا﴾

﴿but if you return (to sins), We shall return (to Our punishment).﴾ meaning, if you return to causing mischief,

﴿عَدْنَا﴾

﴿We shall return﴾ means, We 'will once again punish you in this world, along with the punishment and torment We save for you in the Hereafter.'

﴿وَوَحَلْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ حَصِيرًا﴾



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يَرْحَمَكُمْ وَإِنْ عُدْتُمْ عَدَاوَةً جَعَلْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ حَصِيرًا ﴿٨﴾ إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا ﴿٩﴾ وَأَنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ أَتَيْنَاهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿١٠﴾ وَيَدْعُ الْإِنْسَانَ بِالْشَّرِّ دُعَاءَهُ بِالْخَيْرِ وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ عَجُولًا ﴿١١﴾ وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ آيَاتٍ لِّمَنْ حَمَلْنَا آيَةَ الْكِتَابِ وَجَعَلْنَا آيَةَ النَّهَارِ مُبْصِرَةً لِّمَنْ يَتَّبِعُوا فَضْلًا مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَلَتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِينَ وَالْحِسَابِ وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ فَضْلَانَهُ تَقْصِيلًا ﴿١٢﴾ وَكُلَّ إِنْسَانٍ أَلْزَمْنَاهُ طَبْعَهُ فِي عُنُقِهِ وَنُخْرِجُ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ كِتَابًا يَلْقَاهُ مَنْشُورًا ﴿١٣﴾ أَقْرَأَ كِتَابَكَ كَفَىٰ بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَسِيبًا ﴿١٤﴾ مَنْ أَهْتَدَىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا وَلَا نُزِرُ وَأَنْزِرُ وَزُرَّا آخِرِينَ وَمَا كُنَّا مُعَذِّبِينَ حَتَّىٰ نَبْعَثَ رَسُولًا ﴿١٥﴾ وَإِذَا أَرَدْنَا أَنْ نُهْلِكَ قَرْيَةً أَمَرْنَا مُتْرَفِيهَا فَفَسَقُوا فِيهَا فَحَقَّ عَلَيْهَا الْقَوْلُ فَدَمَّرْنَاهَا تَدْمِيرًا ﴿١٦﴾ وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ الْقُرُونِ مِنْ بَعْدِ نُوحٍ وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ بِذُنُوبِ عِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا بَصِيرًا ﴿١٧﴾

﴿إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا﴾ ﴿٩﴾ وَأَنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ أَتَيْنَاهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿١٠﴾

﴿9. Verily, this Qur'an guides to that which is most just and right and gives good news to those who believe, those who do righteous deeds, that they will have a great reward (Paradise).﴾

﴿10. And that those who do not believe in the Hereafter, for

[1] At-Ṭabari 17:390.

[2] At-Ṭabari 17:390.

[3] At-Ṭabari 17:390.

[4] *Jizyah*: a tax levied from People of the Book (Jews and Christians) who are under the protection of a Muslim government.

[5] At-Ṭabari 17:389.

﴿And We have made Hell a prison [Ḥaṣīr] for the disbelievers.﴾

meaning, a place of permanent detention, a prison which cannot be avoided or escaped.

Ibn 'Abbās said, "Ḥaṣīr here means a jail."<sup>[1]</sup>

Mujāhid said, "They will be detained in it."<sup>[2]</sup> Others said likewise. Al-Ḥasan said, "Ḥaṣīr means a bed of Fire."<sup>[3]</sup> Qatādah said:

"The Children of Israel returned to aggression, so Allāh sent this group against them, Muḥammad ﷺ and his companions, who made them pay the *Jizyah*,<sup>[4]</sup> with willing submission, and feeling themselves subdued."<sup>[5]</sup>

them We have prepared a painful torment (Hell).﴾

### Praising the Qur'an

Allāh praises His noble Book, the Qur'an, which He revealed to His Messenger Muḥammad ﷺ. It directs people to the best and clearest of ways.

﴿وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ﴾

﴿gives good news to those who believe,﴾ in it a

﴿الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ﴾

﴿those who do righteous deeds,﴾ in accordance with it, telling them

﴿أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا﴾

﴿that they will have a great reward,﴾ i.e., on the Day of Resurrection. And He tells

﴿وَأَنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ﴾

﴿those who do not believe in the Hereafter,﴾ that

﴿لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ﴾

﴿for them is a painful torment,﴾ i.e. on the Day of Resurrection. As Allāh says:

﴿فَبَشِّرْهُمْ بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ﴾ ﴿٢٤﴾

﴿... then announce to them a painful torment.﴾ [84:24]

﴿وَيَدْعُ الْإِنْسَانَ بِالْشَّرِّ دُعَاءَهُ بِالْخَيْرِ وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ عَجُولًا﴾ ﴿١١﴾

﴿11. And man invokes (Allāh) for evil as he invokes (Allāh) for good and man is ever hasty.﴾

### Man's Haste and Prayers against Himself

Allāh tells us about man's haste and how he sometimes prays against himself or his children or his wealth, praying for something bad to happen for them, or for them to die or be destroyed, invoking curses, etc. If Allāh were to answer his prayer, he would be destroyed because of it, as Allāh says:

﴿وَلَوْ يَعْجَلُ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ الشَّرَّ﴾